



What Parents in St. Louis Think About Sex Ed.

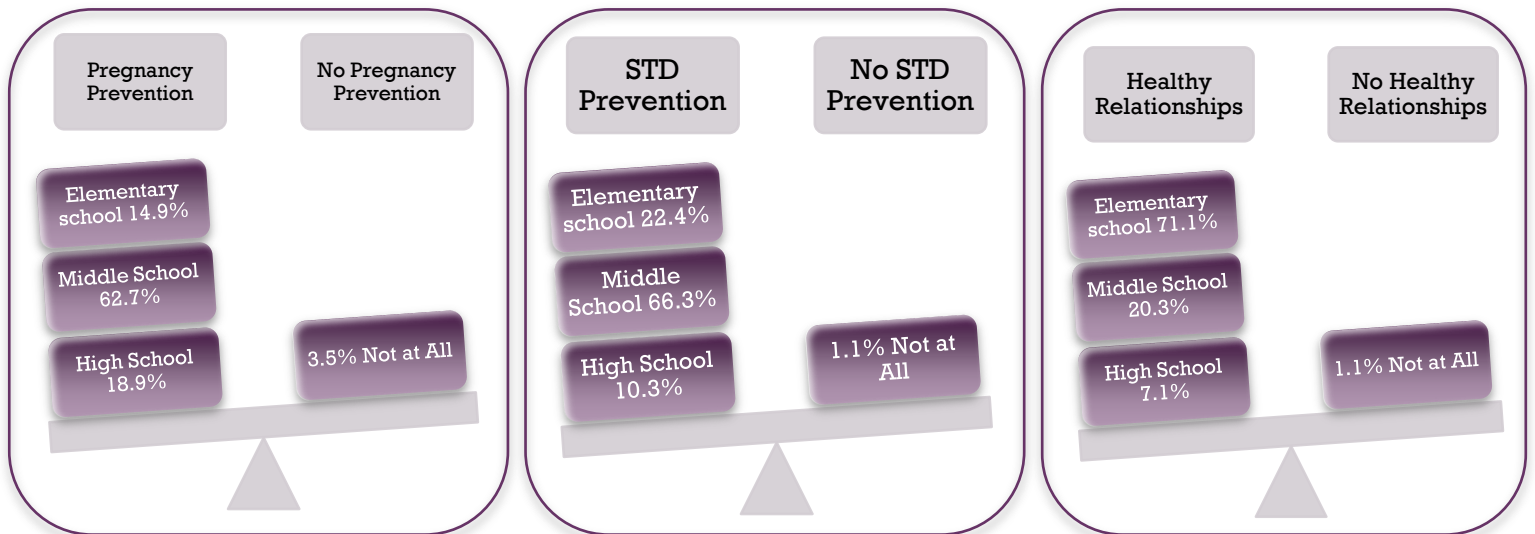


According to the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey,

43%

of Missouri high school students have engaged in sexual intercourse. ⁽¹⁾

Parents were asked, "In which grade should children first learn about the following sexual health topics?"



The scales tip in favor of sex ed.

Parents want what is best for their children. A majority of parents in The Teen Pregnancy & Prevention Partnership's survey thought that children should learn about key sexual health topics before leaving high school. Medically accurate sexual health education (MASHE) has been shown to delay initiation of sex and reduce risky sexual behavior. However, some Missouri schools have stopped teaching key sexual health topics. Others use abstinence-only curricula which may, or may not, cover these topics. When we join together to advocate for MASHE, we are helping schools meet parents' expectations.

The survey was conducted with **382 parents** of school-aged children in the St. Louis area.

The margin of error for the survey is

+/- 5%.

The Teen Pregnancy & Prevention Partnership promotes adolescent sexual health and teen pregnancy prevention by uniting Missouri through advocacy, collaboration, training, and public awareness.

To learn more, visit

www.teenpregnancy-mo.org



The parent survey was conducted in 2014 by The University of Missouri - St. Louis with grant funding from The Deaconess Foundation.



Meeting Parent Expectations:

A Closer Look

Missouri School Health Profiles

According to the 2014 School Health Profiles provided by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the percentage of secondary schools in which teachers taught the following topics in a required course in any of grades 6 through 12 dropped significantly between 2008 and 2014. ⁽²⁾

	2008	2014
Human Sexuality	82.8	71.3
STD prevention	91.7	85.5
Pregnancy prevention	83.0	76.3
HIV prevention	93.1	86.5

Sources:

(1) Health Risk Behaviors among Missouri Middle and High School Students: Results from the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the 2013 Youth Tobacco Survey. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. September, 2013.

(2) 2014 Missouri School Health Profiles Key Findings Report. Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Jefferson City, MO. November 2014.