



**HSPM 727**

# **COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION ACT**

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# ICEBREAKER

## IN THE CHAT:

- State what city you went to high school in.
- Describe your high school sex education in 5 words or less.



# HISTORY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION ACT

- Passed in 1988
- South Carolina schools are required to teach sex education
- Not required to be comprehensive

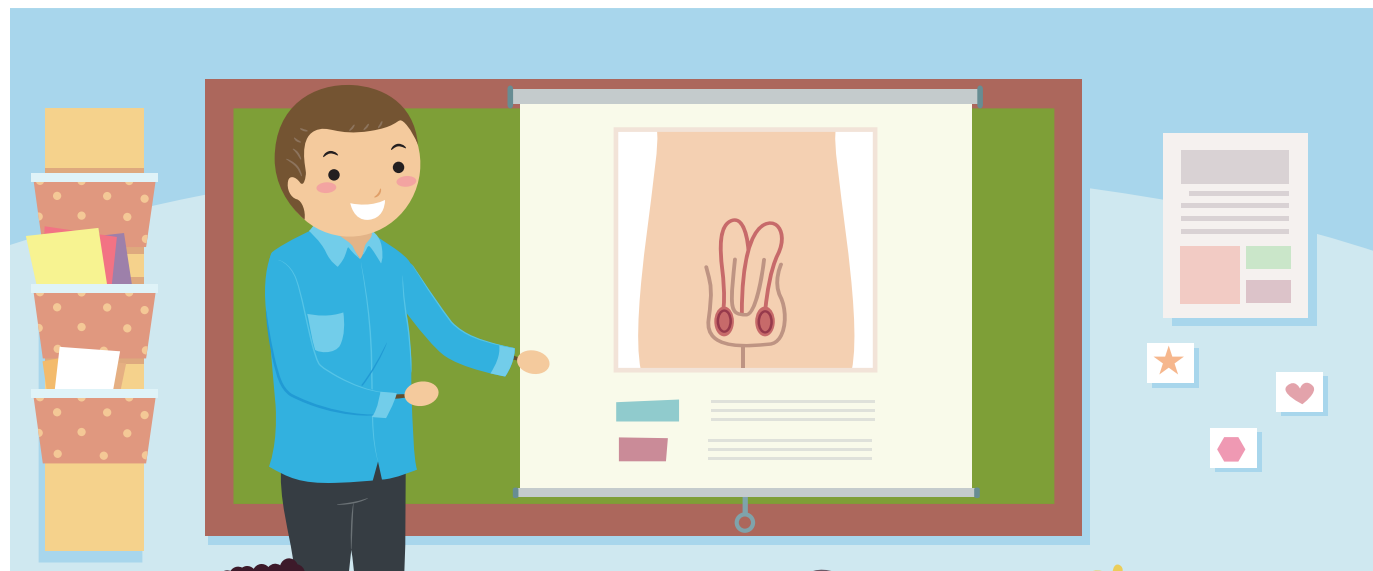
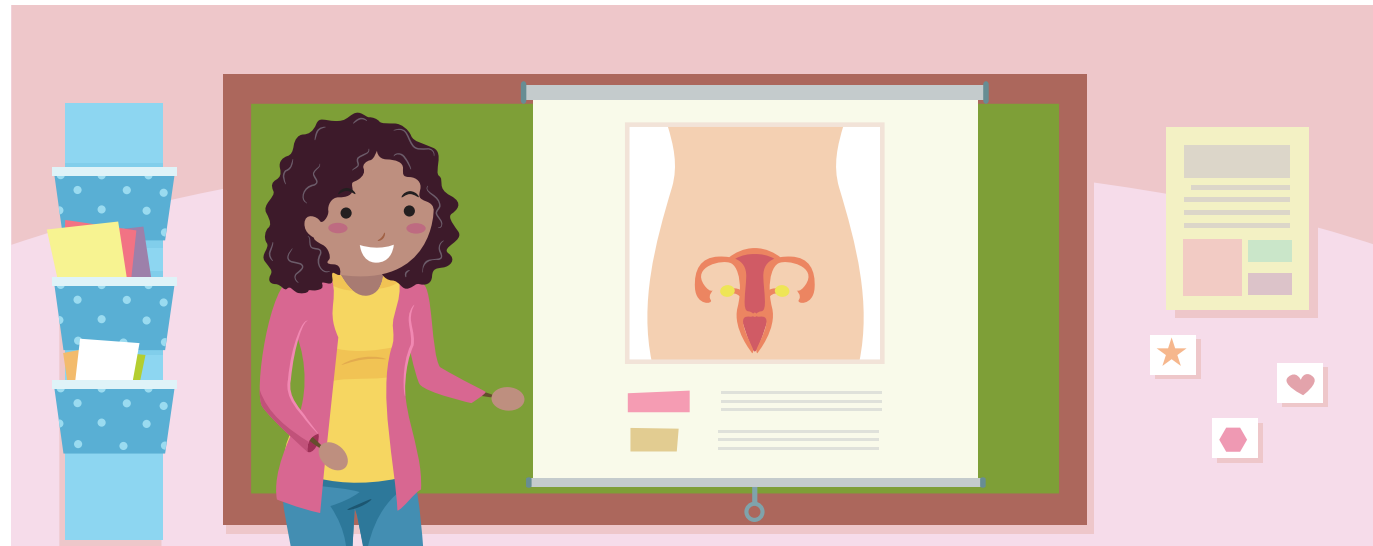


## According to the law:

“Reproductive health education” means instruction in human physiology, conception, prenatal care and development, childbirth, and postnatal care, but does not include instruction concerning sexual practices outside marriage or practices unrelated to reproduction except within the context of the risk of disease. **Abstinence** and the risks associated with sexual activity outside of marriage **must be strongly emphasized.**



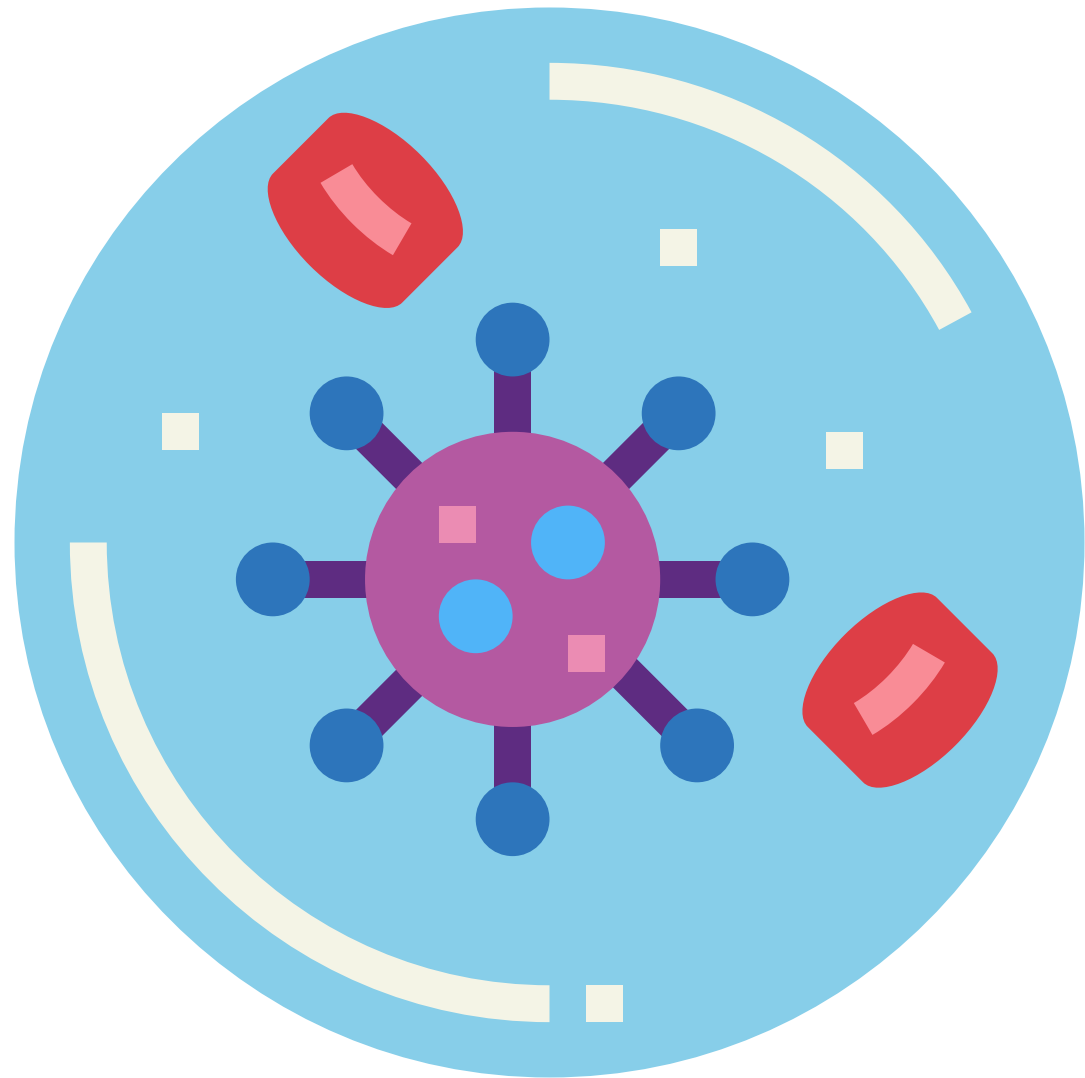
# WHAT IS TAUGHT



- 750 minutes of reproductive health & pregnancy prevention education
- STD education
- Contraception (in the context of use during marriage)
- Abortion (in the context of the complications)



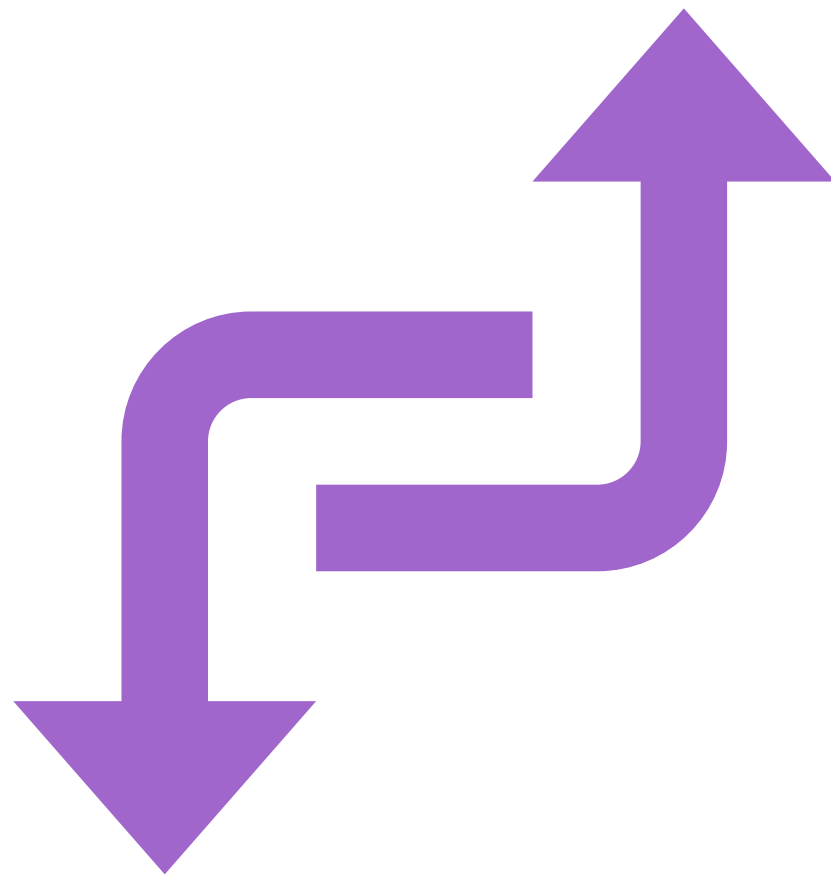
# WHAT IS NOT TAUGHT



- ***Not*** required to teach HIV/AIDS
- The state does not require or suggest a ***specific curriculum***
- Curriculum is not required to include instruction on consent.



# PROPOSED CHANGES



## **House Bill 3467 (pending):**

Aims to require seventh and ninth-grade students to receive one unit of instruction in mental health and wellness within comprehensive health education.

## **House Bill 3890 (pending):**

Aims to **remove the requirement to stress abstinence** within sex education instruction or only discuss sexual practices in the context of marriage. Requires curriculum to include **nonjudgmental instruction** on the barrier and hormonal methods of contraception and include instruction on consent education and the **recognition and prevention of sexual assault and abuse**.





# CRITICAL STATISTICS: PREGNANCY

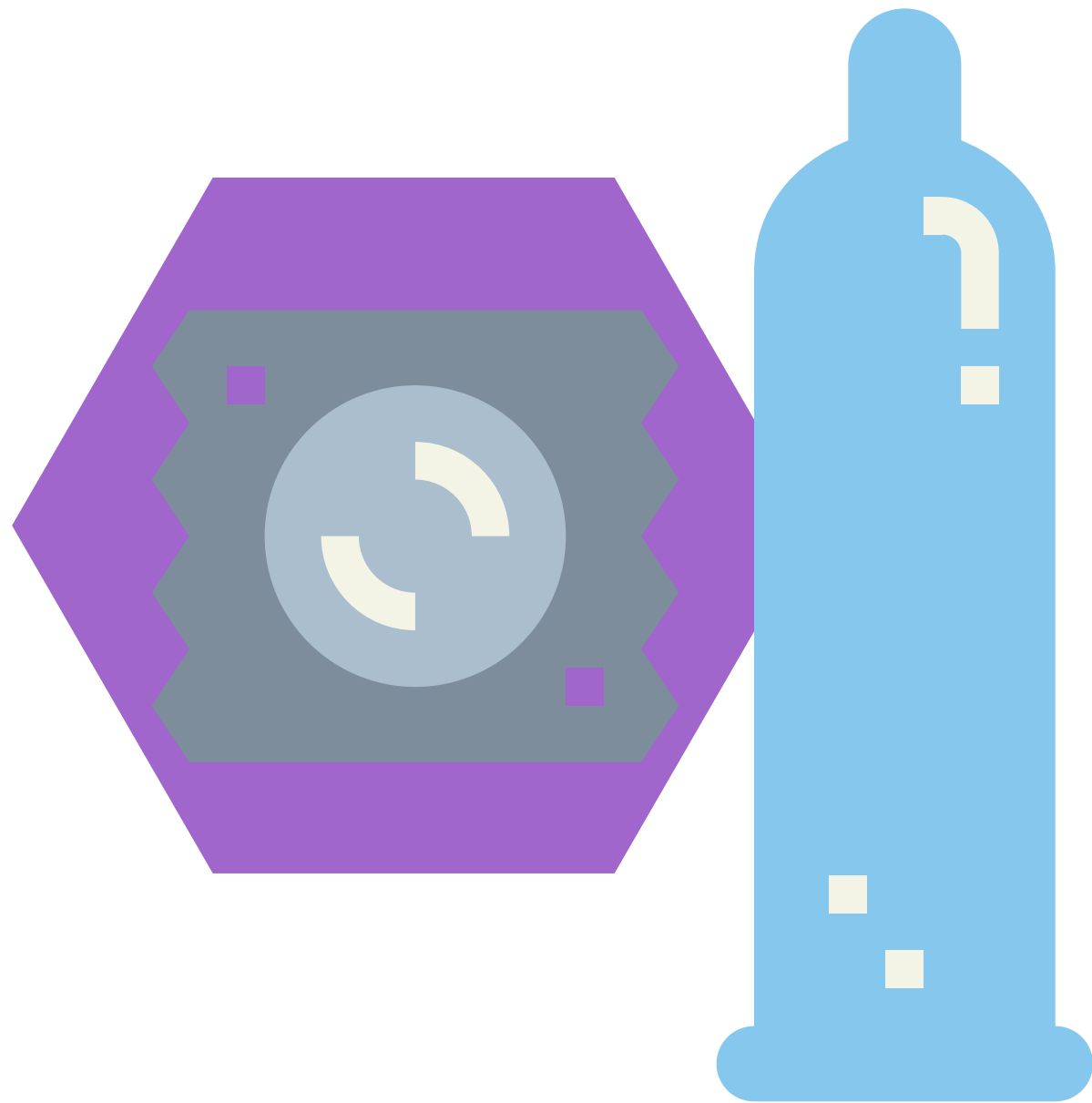


## Teen Pregnancy in South Carolina

- 11th highest teen birth rate in the United States
- Teen birth rate: 21.6
- Infant mortality rate: 7.0
- Between 2018 and 2019:
  - SC teen birth rate decreased by nearly 2%.
- 18-19 years old drive the overall teen birth rate, accounting for 77 percent of all teen births in 2019
- Overall teen birth rate is decreasing, Black teens (15- 19) experienced a 1.8 percent increase from 2018-2019



# CRITICAL STATISTICS: STIs



## STIs in South Carolina

### In the United States:

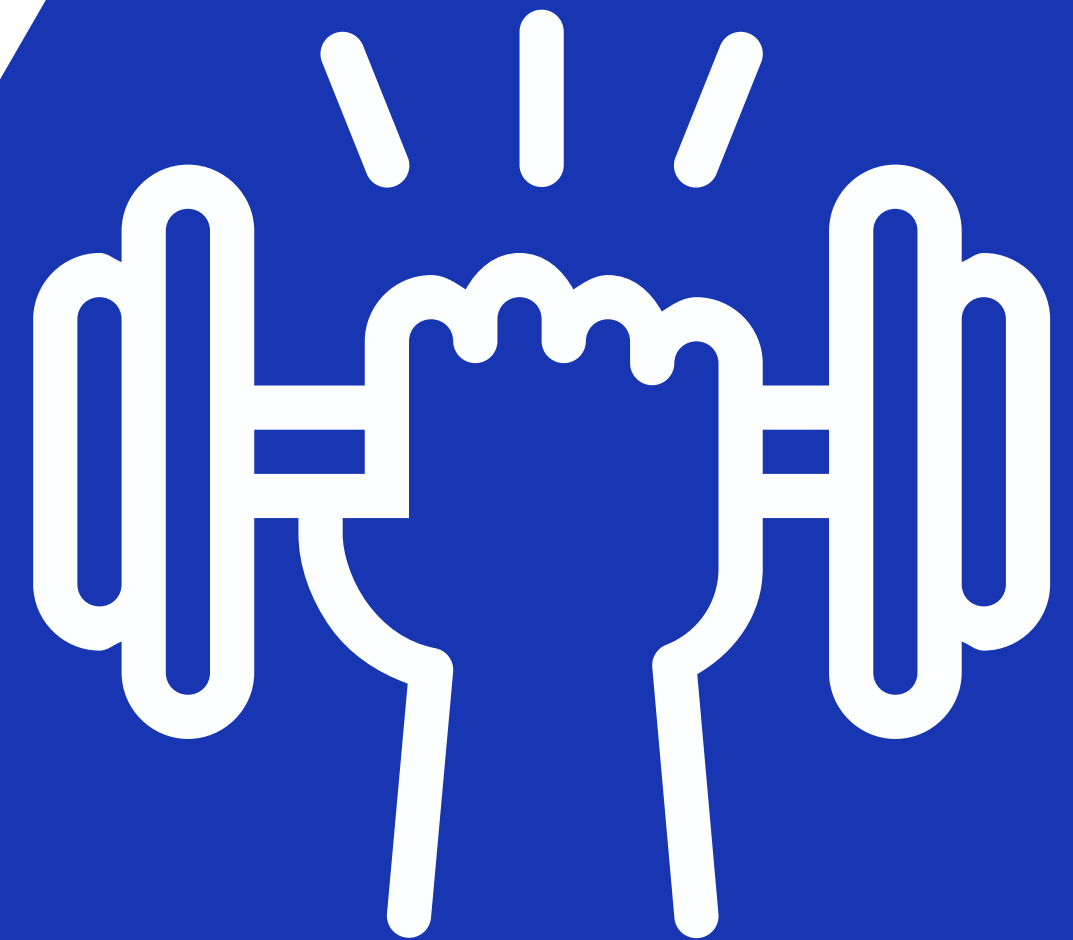
- 4th highest for Chlamydia
- 3rd highest for Gonorrhea
  - Adolescents (ages 15-24) accounted for 67 percent of chlamydia cases and **53 percent** of all reported gonorrhea diagnoses
- 51% of sexually active South Carolina high school students reported **NOT using a condom** the last time they had sex



# POLICY ANALYSIS

## Strengths:

- Current legislature in place
- STI education
- Sexuality education
- Peer pressure education



# POLICY ANALYSIS

## Limitations

- Lack of education about STIs, HIV, and pregnancy prevention
- No clear separation between church and state



# POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE



## Sex Education in Politics

- Historically a debated issue
- Risk reduction vs. risk avoidance
- Public views vs. political votes
- Importance of advocacy and education



# QUESTIONS

**Did you get sex education throughout your years at school?**

- **What was done well and what was missing?**

**How do you think the enforcement of this policy should go?**

- **How should this be measured?**

# Resource Page

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021). South Carolina. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved October 9, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/southcarolina/sc.htm>.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021). Stats of the state - teen birth rates. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved October 9, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/teen-births/teenbirths.htm>.
3. Fact Forward. (2021). *Sex Ed in SC*. Retrieved from <https://www.factforward.org/resources/parents/sex-ed-sc>.
4. SCDHEC. Ending the Epidemics SC / Ending the HIV Epidemic. (n.d.). Retrieved October 9, 2021, from <https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/hiv-std-viral-hepatitis/ending-epidemics-sc-ending-hiv-epidemic>.
5. South Carolina Siecus. *State Profile*. (2020). Retrieved from <https://siecus.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SOUTH-CAROLINA09.pdf>.
6. South Carolina General Assembly. 2021-2022 Bill 3467: Comprehensive health education act - south carolina legislature online. (n.d.). Retrieved October 12, 2021, from [https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124\\_2021-2022/bills/3467.htm](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/3467.htm).
7. South Carolina General Assembly. 2021-2022 Bill 3890: Education: Revise comprehensive health education act 2021 - south carolina legislature online. (n.d.). Retrieved October 12, 2021, from [https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124\\_2021-2022/bills/3890.htm](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/3890.htm).