

THE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

SEX EDUCATION IN AMERICA:

A View From Inside the Nation's Classrooms

A SERIES OF NATIONAL SURVEYS OF STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS , AND PRINCIPALS

**Embargoed For Release Until:
9:30 a.m. ET, September 26, 2000**

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation's study, *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, is based on a series of national surveys with students and their parents (1,501 pairs); sex education teachers (1,001); and principals (313). The survey was designed and analyzed by staff at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Princeton Survey Research Associates (PSRA). Field work was conducted by PSRA between February 2 and May 23, 1999.

The principal and teacher samples were designed to represent all public middle, junior, and senior high schools enrolling grades 7 through 12 in the continental U.S. Schools were randomly and proportionally selected from a national database of public schools by type of school (middle, junior, and senior high). The student–parent survey was conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) to reach a representative sample of public school students in the 7th through 12th grade. The overall *margins of error* for the three surveys are $\pm 6\%$ for principals and $\pm 3\%$ for teachers, students and parents.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, is a nonprofit, independent national health care philanthropy and is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.

Chart 1

THE SAMPLE

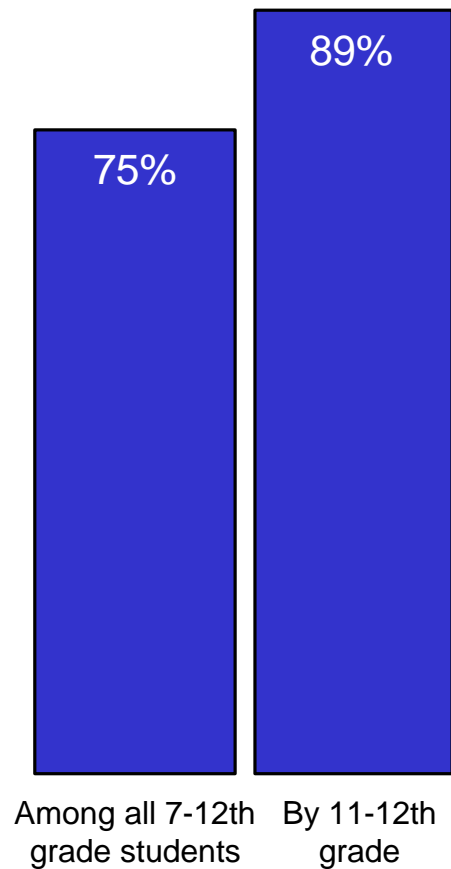
Interviews were conducted by telephone between February and May 1999 with nationally-representative samples of...

- 1,501 pairs of public school students in 7th-12th grade and their parents
- 1,001 public school teachers of 7th -12th grade sex education
- 313 public secondary (7th-12th grade) school principals

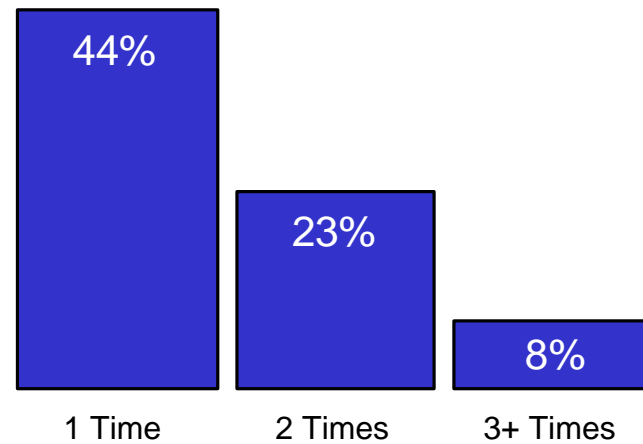
Chart 2

WHO HAS SEX EDUCATION?

Percent of students who had sex education between 7-12th grades



Number of times had sex education between 7-12th grades



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 3

WHEN SHOULD SEX ED START AND, WHAT SHOULD BE TAUGHT?

Percent of parents who say when sex education should be taught,
and what it should cover

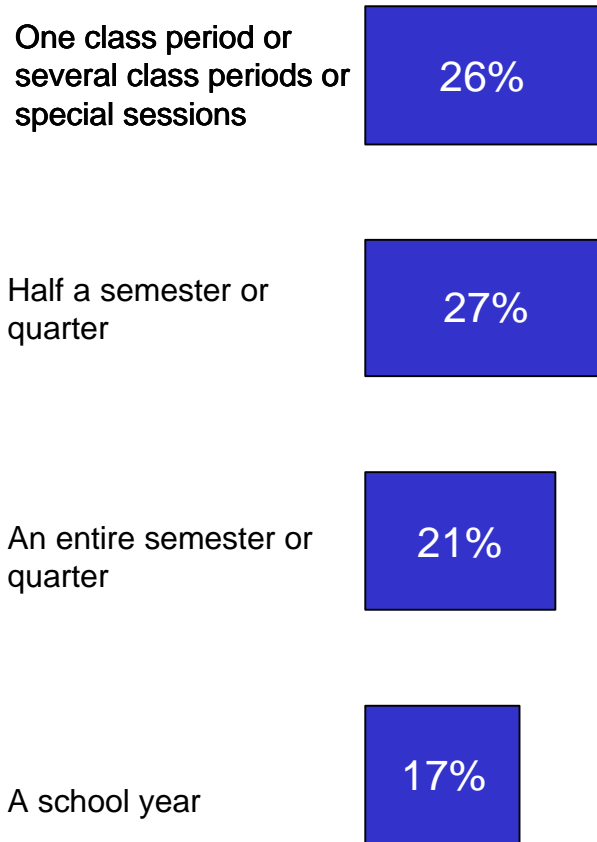


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

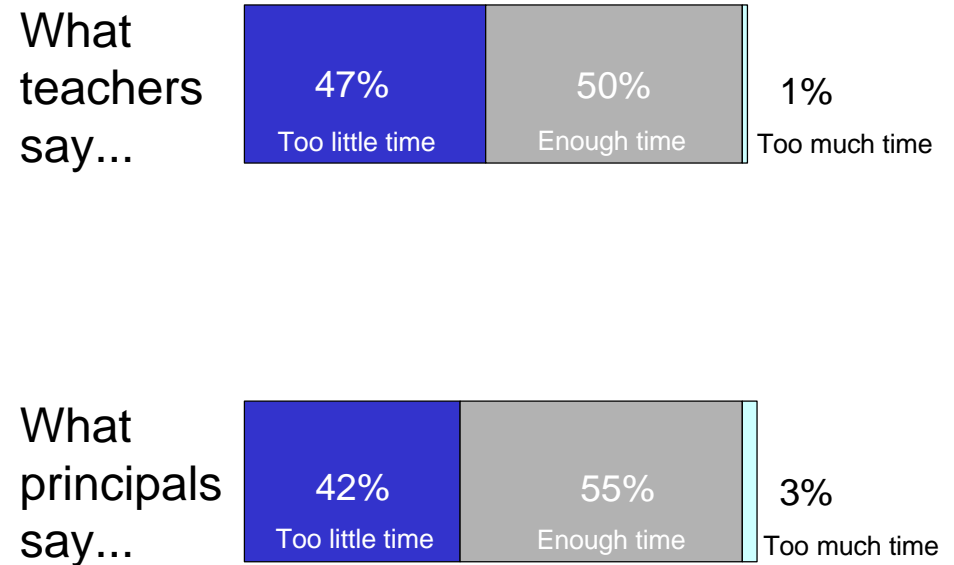
Chart 4

HOW LONG SHOULD SEX ED LAST AND, IS ENOUGH TIME DEVOTED NOW?

Percent of parents who say secondary school sex education should last...



Is enough time devoted to sex ed now?

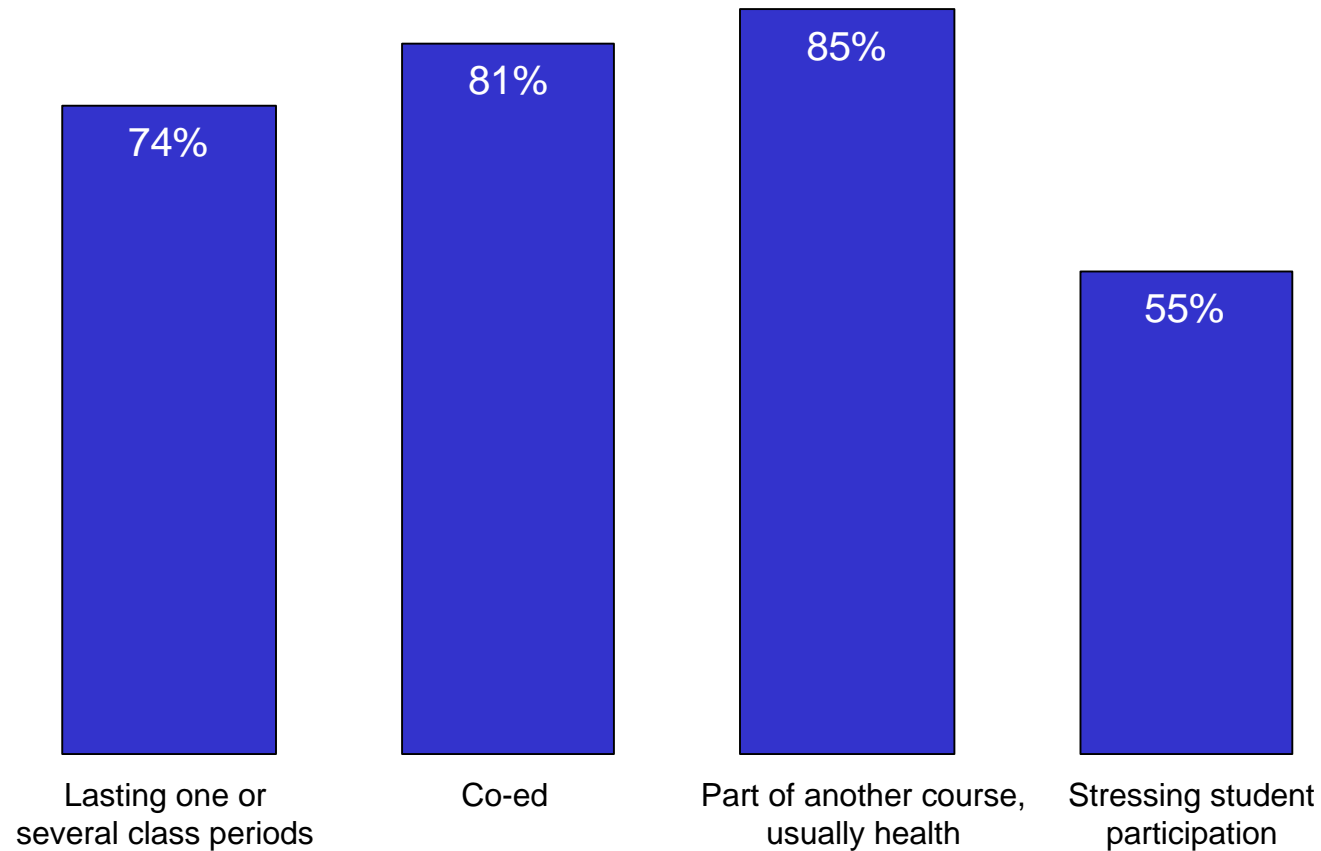


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 5

THE TYPICAL SEX ED COURSE

Percent of teachers who describe their most recent sex education course as...

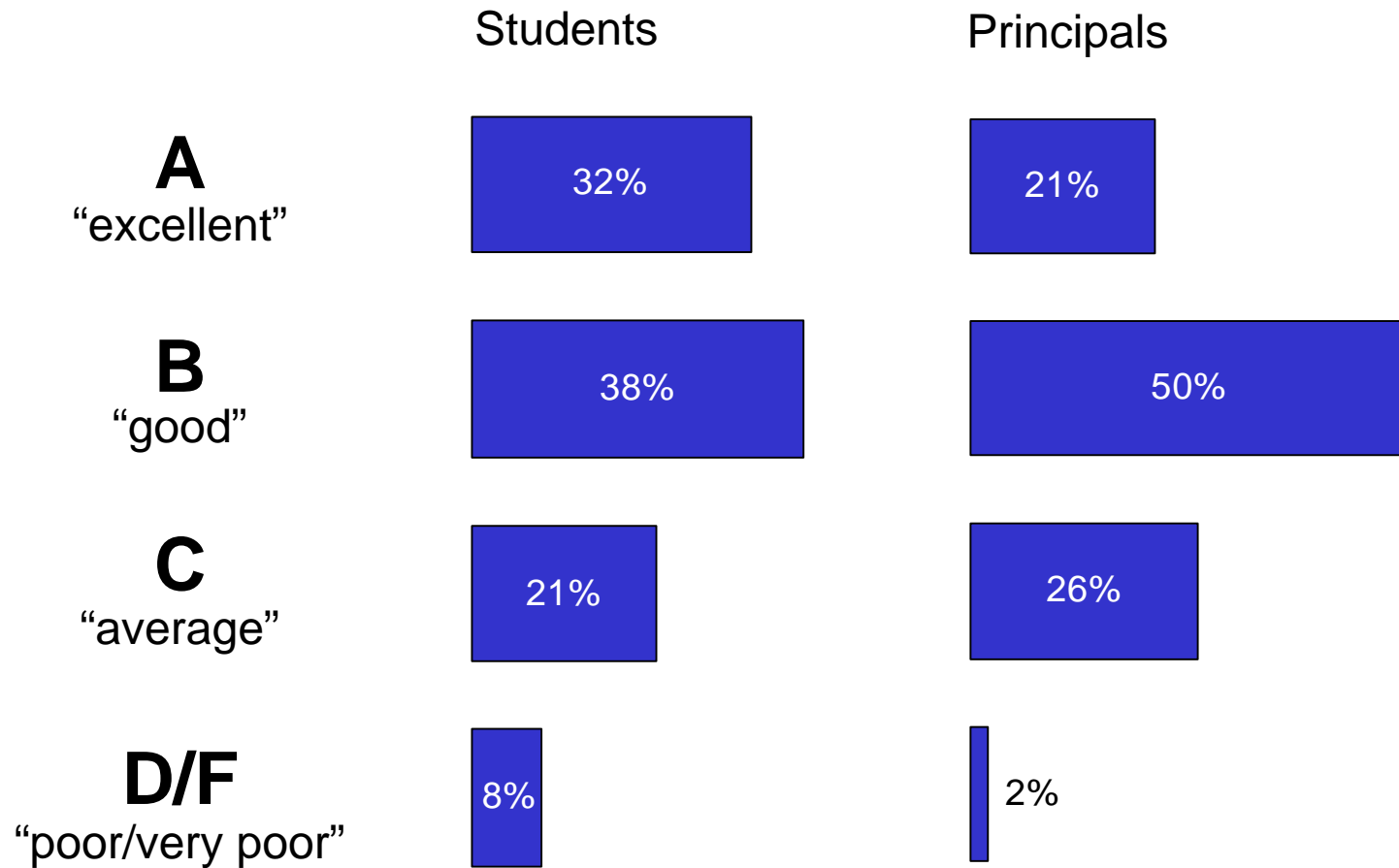


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 6

MAKING THE GRADE

Percent who rate their sex education overall...

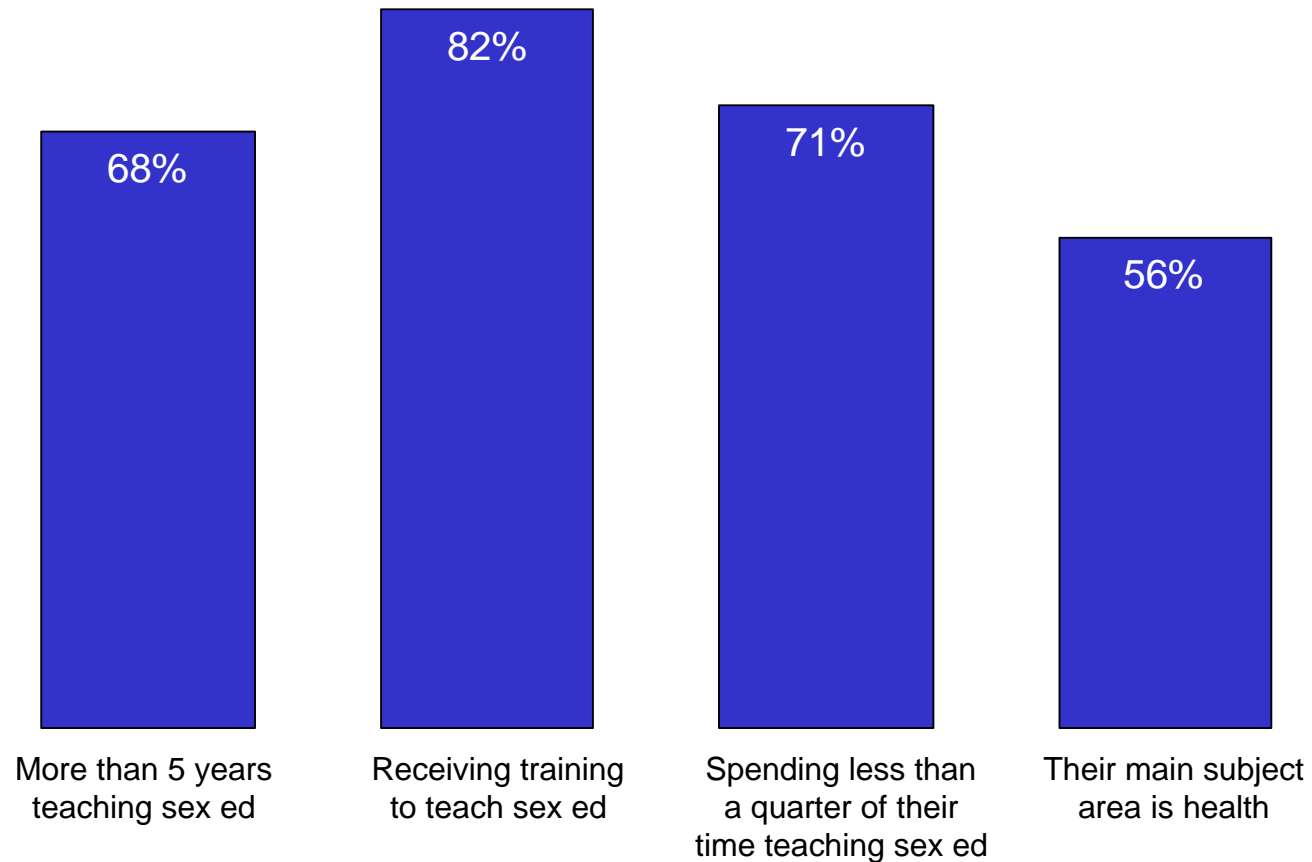


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 7

THE TYPICAL SEX ED TEACHER

Percent of teachers who report...



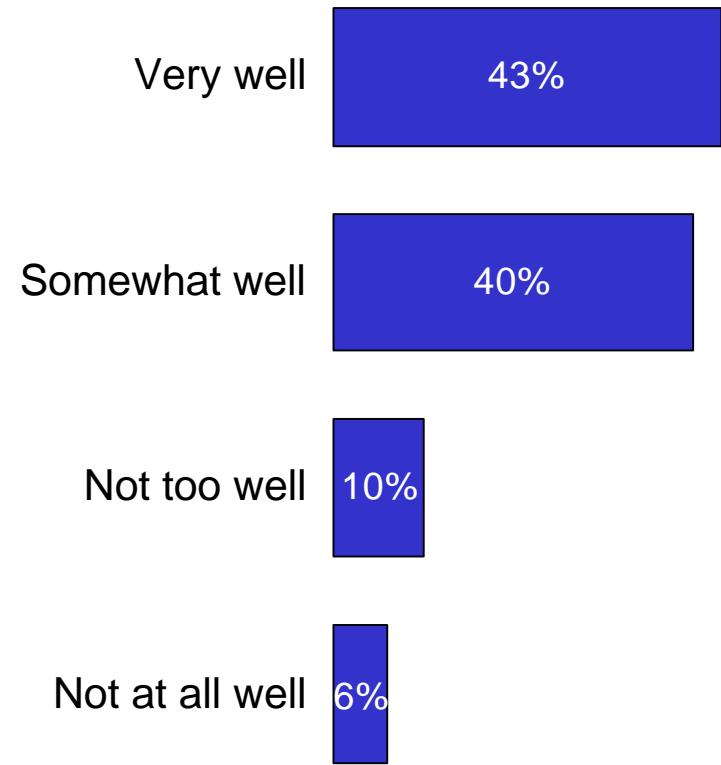
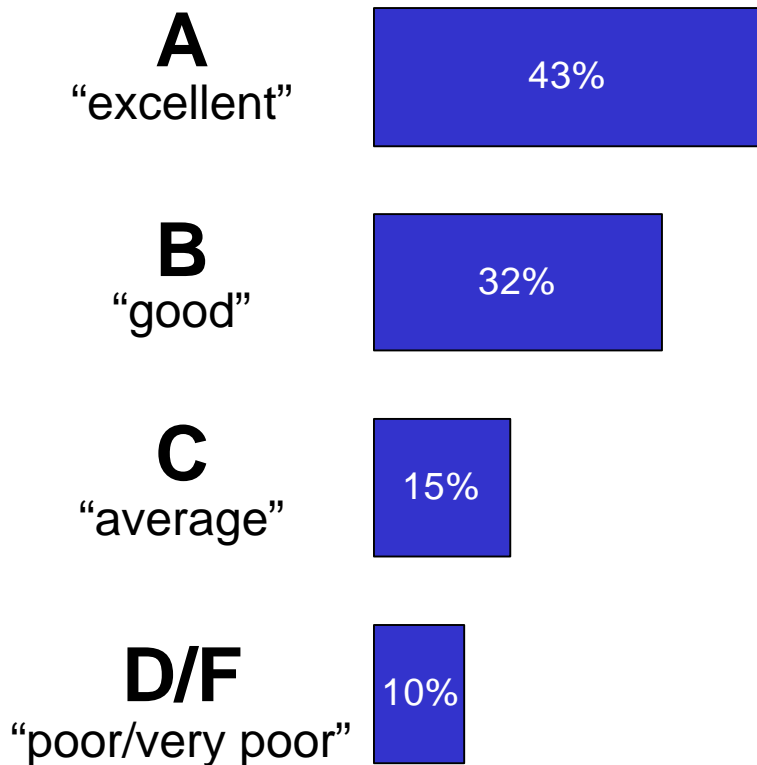
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 8

GRADING THE TEACHER

Percent of students who gave their sex education teacher...

Percent of students who say their sex education teacher understands them...

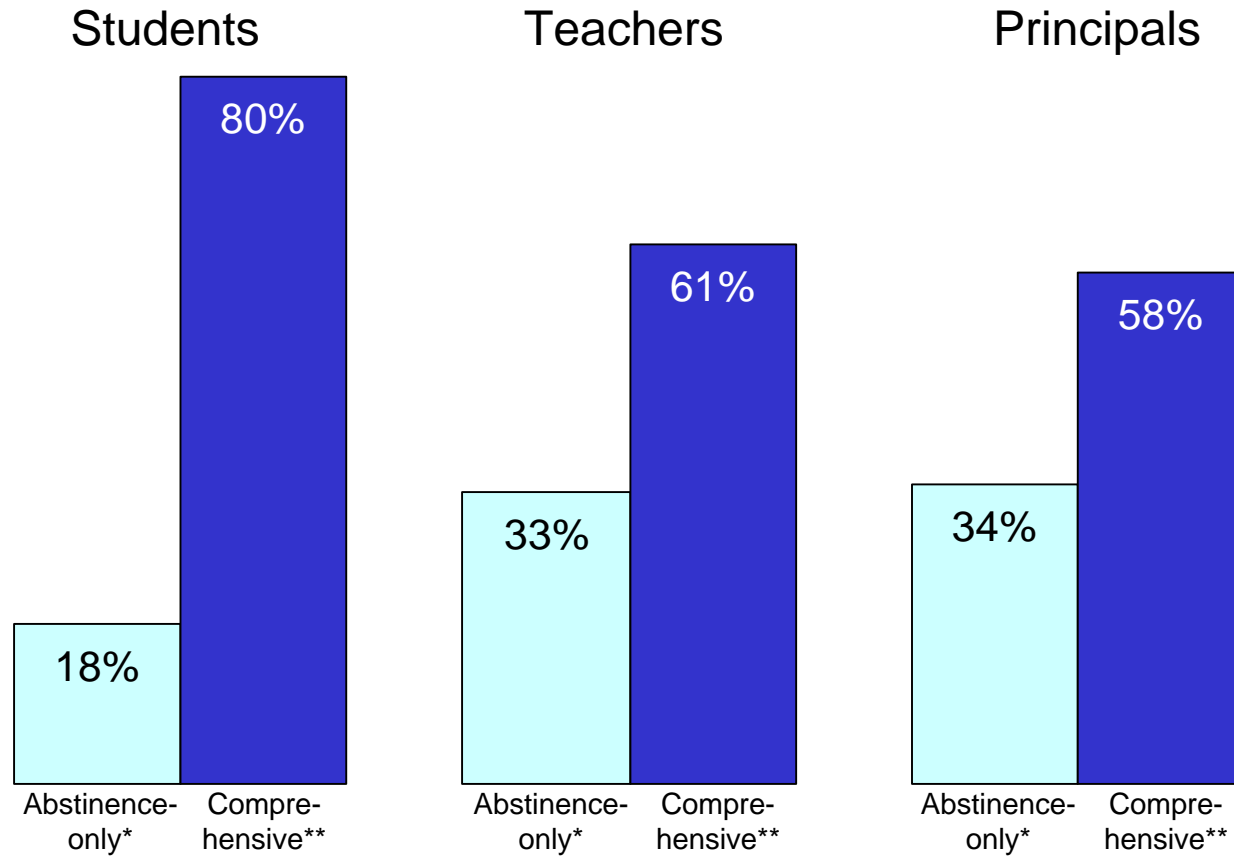


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 9

THE “MAIN MESSAGE”

Percent who describe the “main message of their sex education as...



* Abstinence-Only is defined as “young people should only have sex when they are married”.

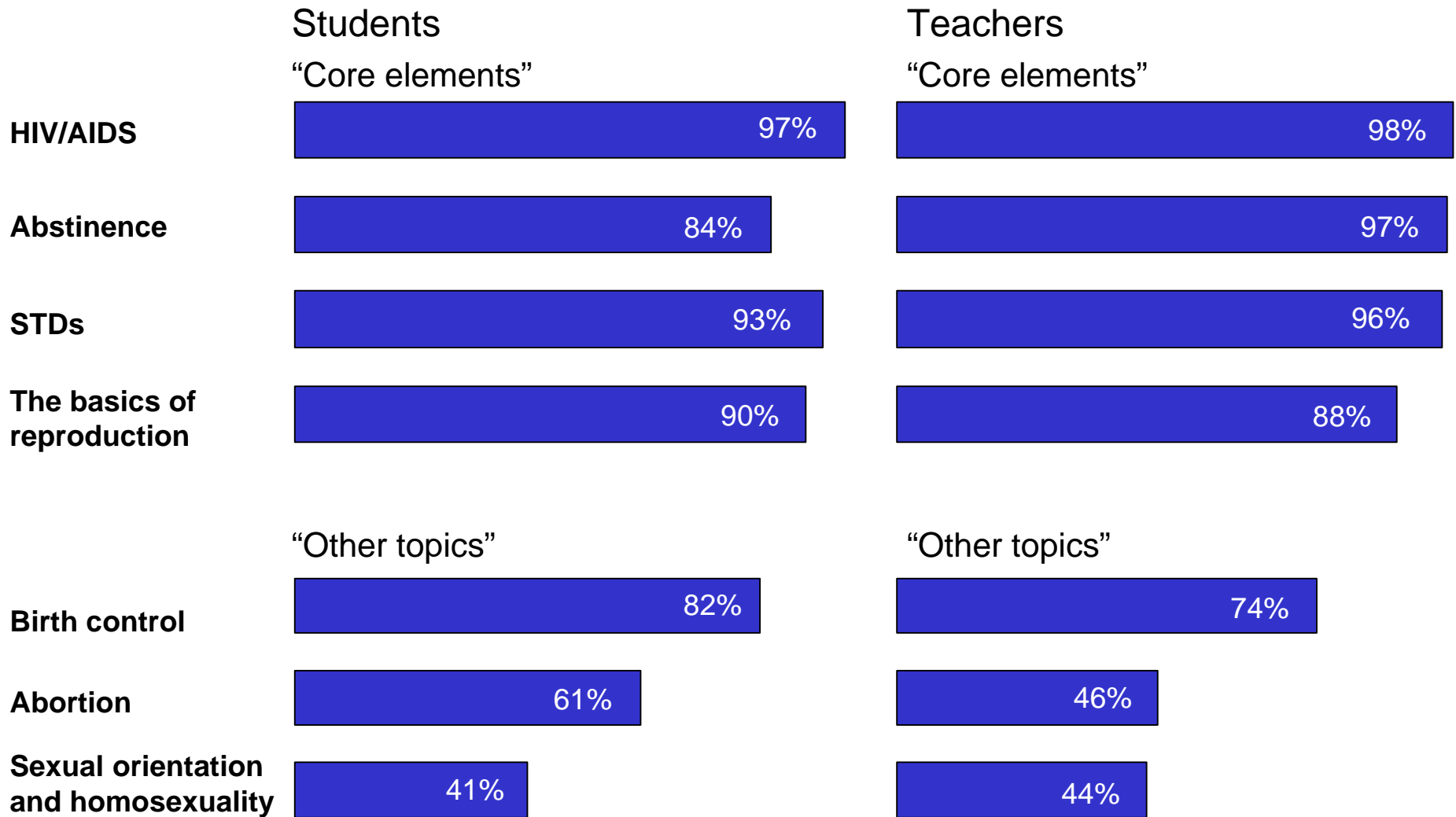
**Comprehensive is defined as “young people should wait to have sex, but if they do not, they should use birth control and practice safer sex”.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation’s Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 10

THE “CORE ELEMENTS” AND OTHER TOPICS

Percent who say their most recent sex education course included information about...

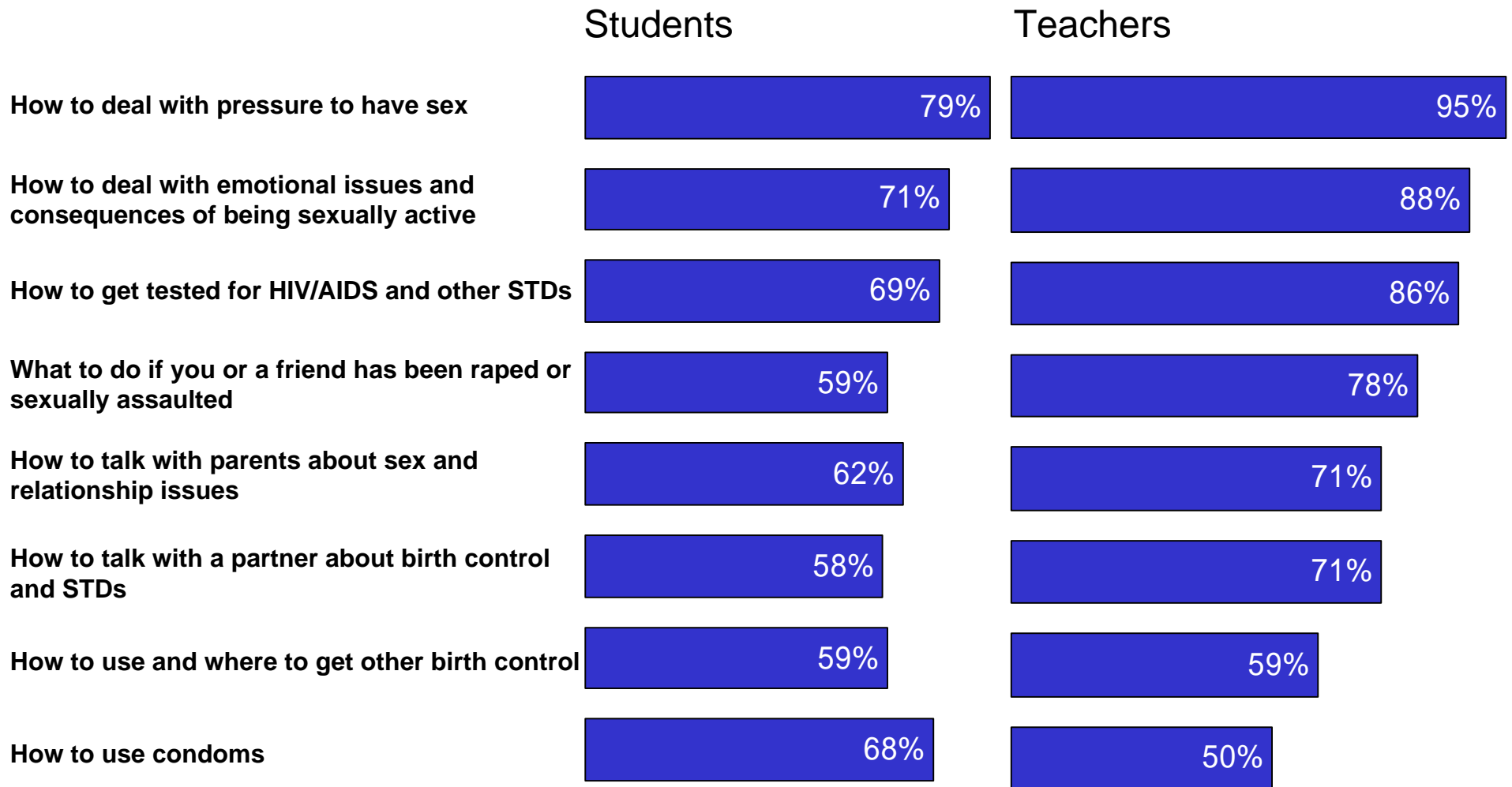


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 11

SAFER SEX AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Percent who say their most recent sex education course included information about...

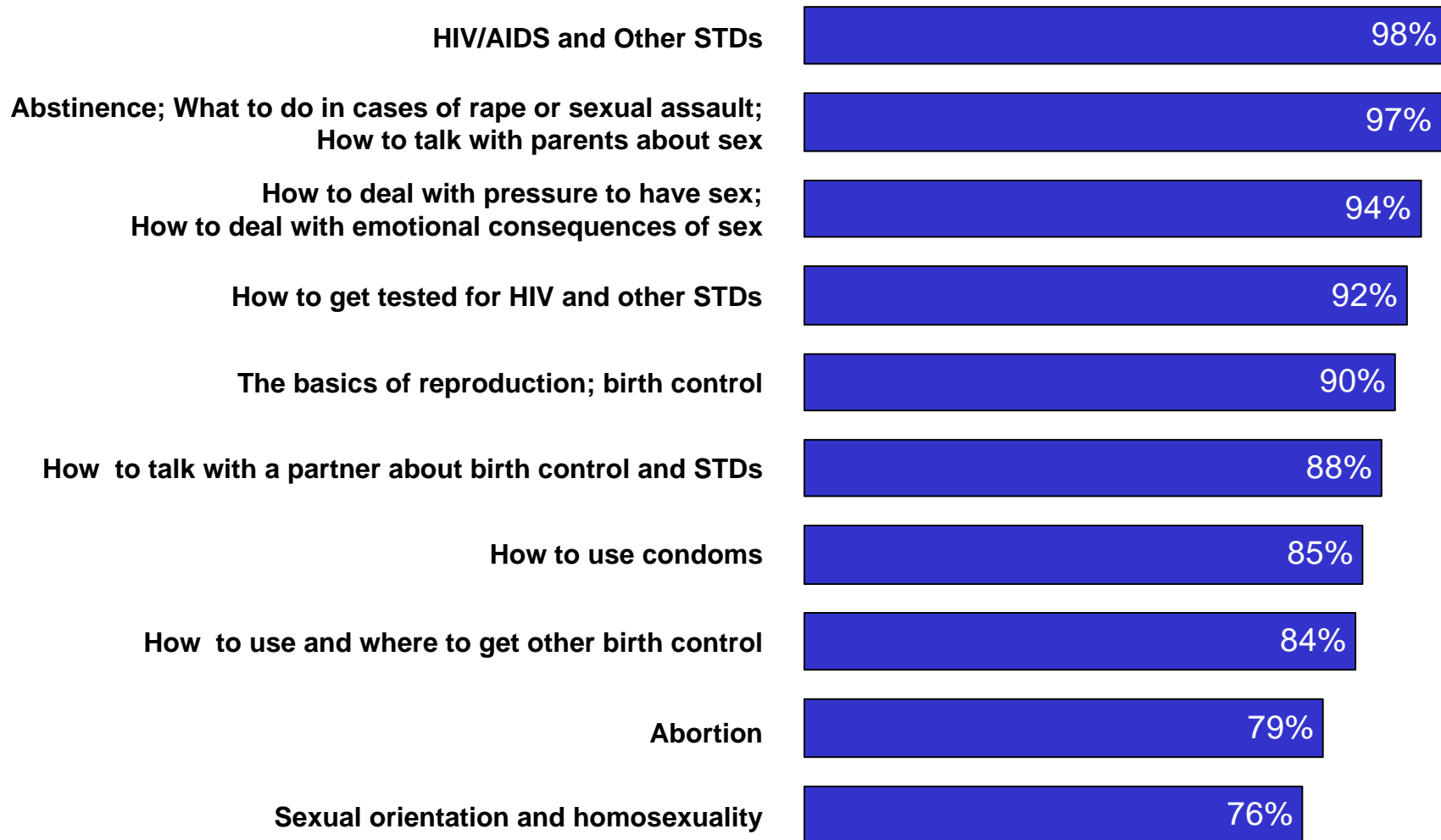


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 12

WHAT PARENTS SAY SEX ED SHOULD TEACH

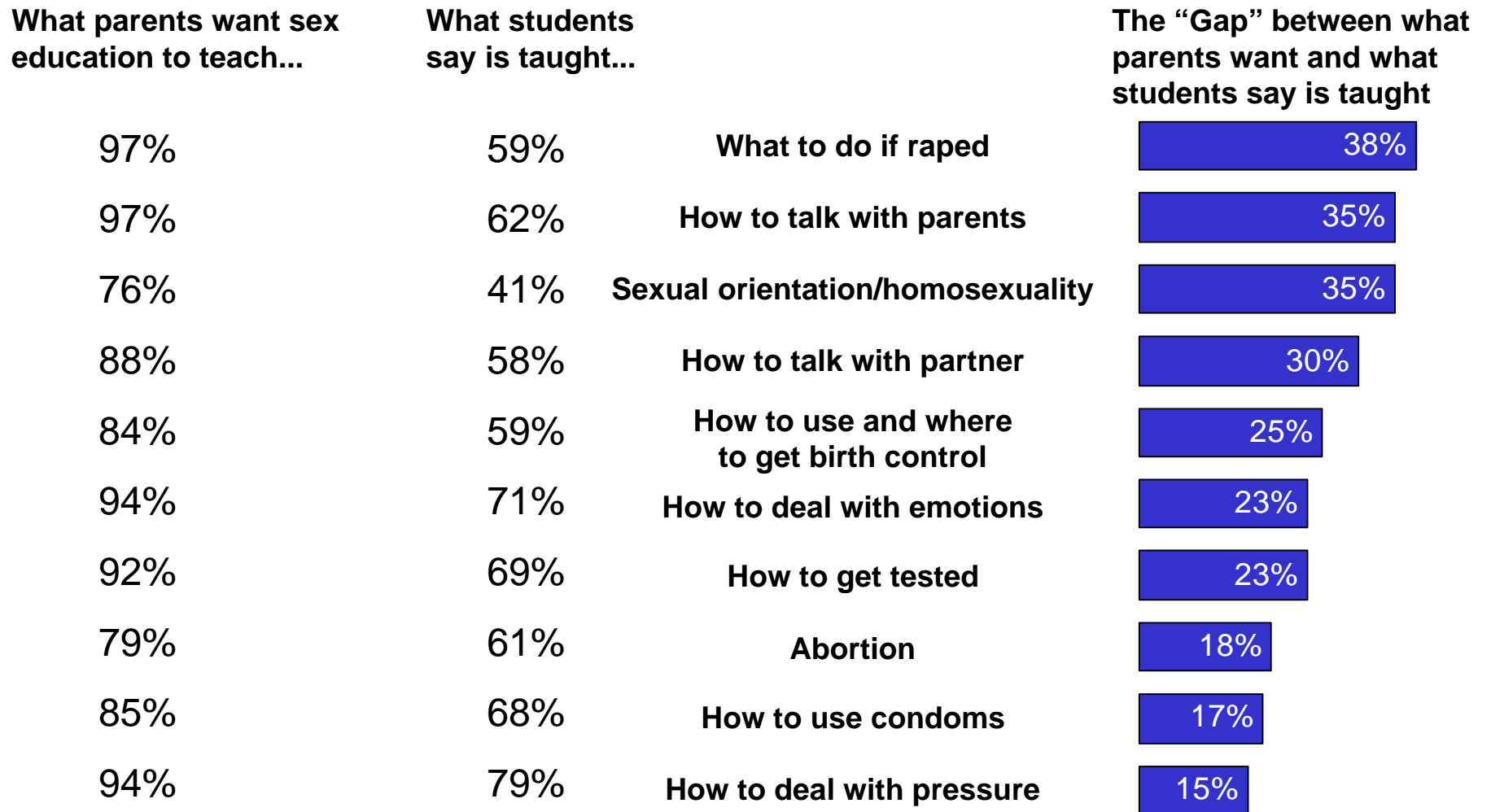
Percent of parents who say sex ed SHOULD cover...



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 13

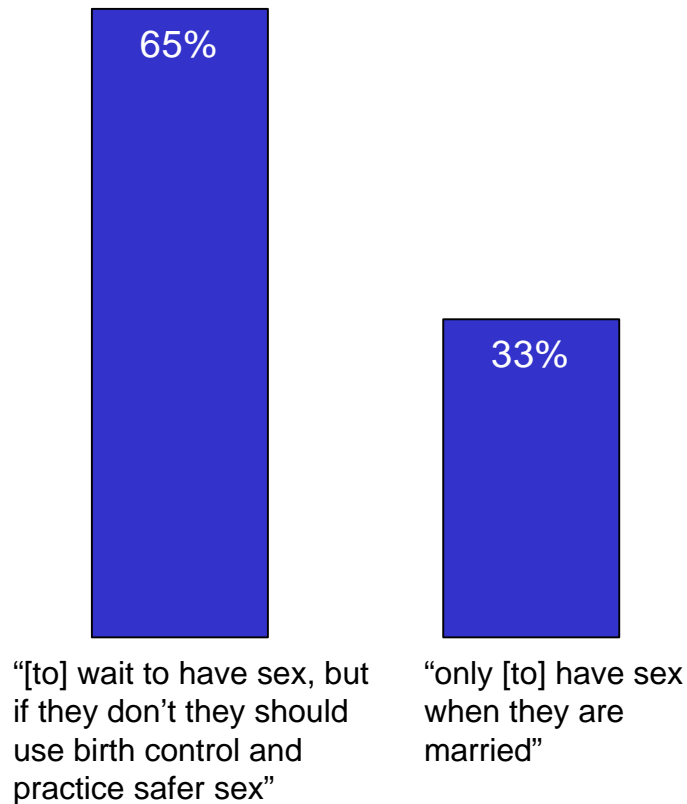
THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT PARENTS WANT AND SCHOOLS TEACH



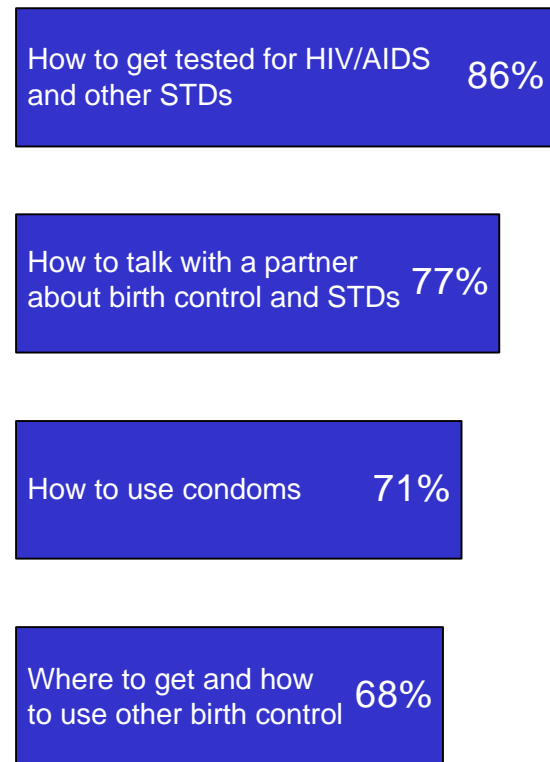
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

MIXED MESSAGES

Percent of parents who say if topic of when to have sex comes up in sex education young people should be told...



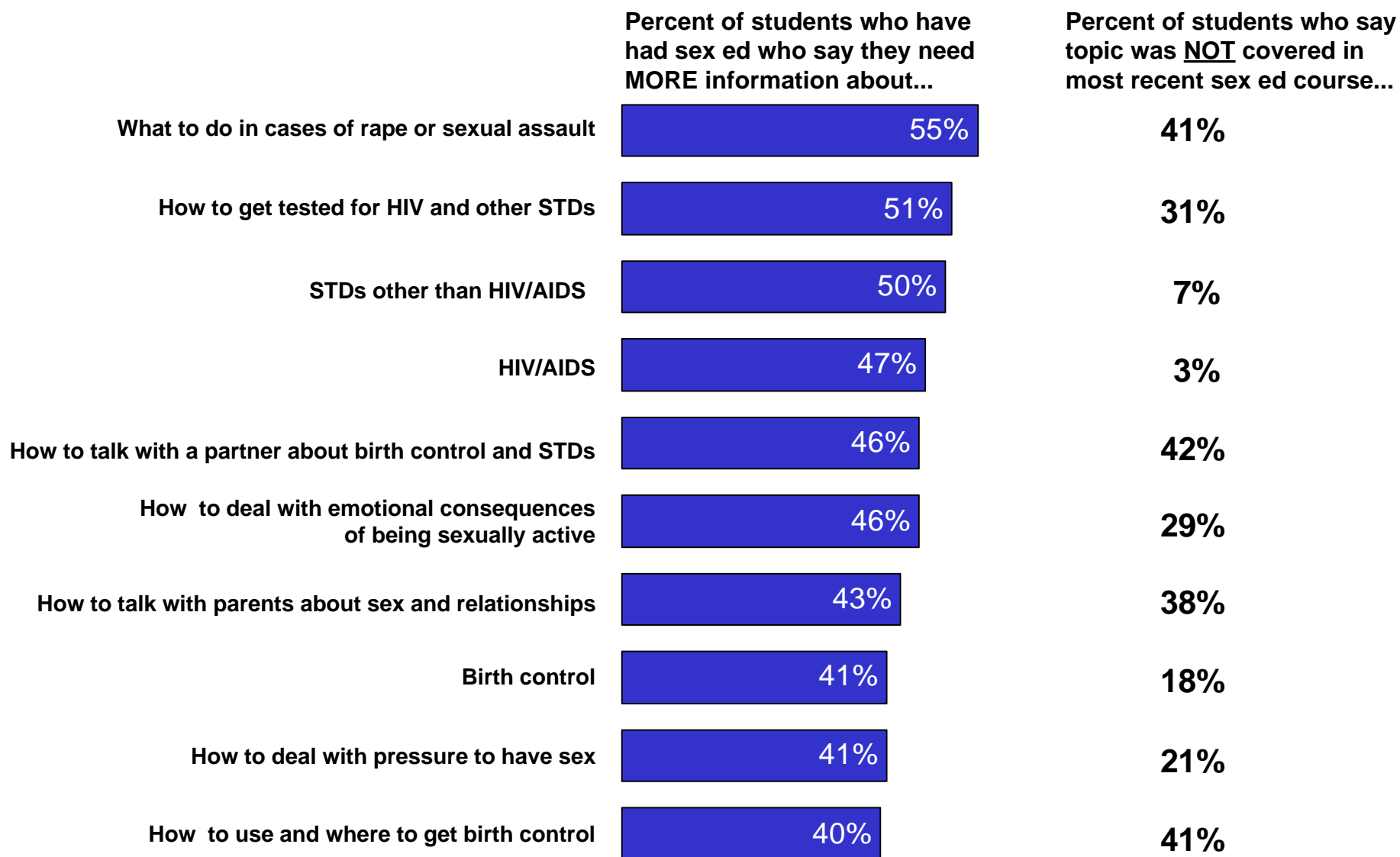
Among the 33 percent of parents who say sex education should tell young people "only to have sex when they are married" who also say schools should teach...



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).

Chart 15

TOP TEN TOPICS STUDENTS SAY THEY NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms*, based on a series of national surveys with public secondary school students and their parents, teachers, and principals, (conducted February-May 1999, released September 26, 2000).



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