



## Hillsborough County Sex Education Survey

*January 22<sup>nd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

**Hillsborough County**  
GOVERNMENT  
*Florida*



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### ***METHODOLOGY***

Total Number of Completes: **314**  
Margin of error for the entire sample: **+/-5.53**  
Population: Hillsborough County Adults

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## I. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

From 22 January to 30 January 2015, the Public Opinion Research Laboratory at the University of North Florida completed a total of 314 County wide telephone interviews with adult respondents. The survey investigated a variety of issues pertaining such as what is appropriate sex education for middle and high schools, including gender and sexual orientation issues, what type of sexual education base curriculum should be enacted, if teen pregnancy is perceived as a problem in Hillsborough County, the responsibility of schools and religious leaders to prevent teenage pregnancy.

The Public Opinion Research Laboratory has found in regards to sex education for middle and high schools in Hillsborough County:

- Over 3/4ths (78%) of respondents with children said they would allow their children to participate in appropriate level sex education.
- 57% of respondents would prefer a comprehensive sex education rather than abstinence only or abstinence based.
- 79% of respondents support teaching middle school students how to deal with pressures to have sex, and that climbs to 95% for high school students.
- 3/4ths (76%) of respondents support teaching middle school students about gender and sexual orientation issues, and 83% for high school students.

Other Hillsborough County key findings:

- Nearly 3/4ths (72%) of respondents said they think teen pregnancy is an important problem in Hillsborough County, with 20% not sure.
- 90% of respondents claim the community should be doing more to prevent teen pregnancy.
- While 72% of respondents think that religious leaders should be doing more to prevent teen pregnancy, 82% think schools should be doing more as well
- By providing information about how to obtain and use birth control and condoms 40% of respondents claim it encourages teens to have sex, with 87% claiming it would encourage teens to make safer choices.



## II. METHODOLOGY

*Total Number of Completes: 314*

*Margin of error for the general population: +/- 5.53*

*Field Dates: January 22—January 30, 2015*

The survey was conducted through the use of Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) at a 27-station polling laboratory at the University of North Florida. A sample of the Polling Universe was selected through the use of Random-Digit-Dialing methodology. The sample is of adults in Hillsborough County, Florida. For non-completes with a working residential phone line, at least 5 callbacks were attempted. To ensure a representative sample, calls were made from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. every night between January 22 – January 20, 2015. The results were weighted by age, gender, race, and education to census demographics for adult residents in Hillsborough County, FL.

For more information about methodology, contact Dr. Michael Binder at [porl@unf.edu](mailto:porl@unf.edu) or (904) 620-4433.



### III. SURVEY RESULTS

Are you the caregiver (parent/guardian) to a school aged child 18 or under?

	N=314
Yes	33%
No	67%
DK/R	<1%

What grade is/are your child/children in?\*

	N=109
Elementary school (K-5)	62%
Middle school (6-8)	22%
High school (9-12)	40%
DK/R	5%

\*Respondents were allowed to select multiple answer choices, if they had students in different grades. Therefore the percentages add up to more than 100%.

Is/are your child/children enrolled in public school, private school or home schooled?

	N=109
Public school*	85%
Private school	4%
Home schooled	5%
Multiple children in multiple schools	4%
DK/R	2%

\*includes charter schools

Would you allow YOUR child/children to participate in grade-level appropriate, sexual health education at his or her school?

	N=109
Yes	78%
No	12%
DK/R	9%



If you had a child in school, would you allow him/her to participate in grade-level appropriate, sexual health education at his or her school?

	N=205
Yes	82%
No	13%
DK/R	4%

Which type of sexual health education or prevention curriculum would you be MOST likely to support in Hillsborough schools?

	N=314
Abstinence-only	8%
Abstinence-based	30%
Comprehensive sex education	57%
Sex education should not be taught in schools	2%
DK/R	3%

Support or oppose youth learning about the following topics in middle school, grades 6, 7, & 8.  
How to deal with pressure to have sex.

	N=314
Strongly support	55%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	4%
Strongly oppose	14%
DK/R	2%

Support or oppose youth learning about the following topics in middle school, grades 6, 7, & 8.  
How to talk with parents/caregivers about sex and relationships.

	N=314
Strongly support	71%
Somewhat support	17%
Somewhat oppose	3%
Strongly oppose	7%
DK/R	1%



Support or oppose youth learning about the following topics in middle school, grades 6, 7, & 8.  
Human anatomy and reproductive information.

	N=314
Strongly support	71%
Somewhat support	21%
Somewhat oppose	3%
Strongly oppose	4%
DK/R	1%

Support or oppose youth learning about the following topics in middle school, grades 6, 7, & 8.  
HIV and sexually transmitted infections information.

	N=314
Strongly support	78%
Somewhat support	13%
Somewhat oppose	4%
Strongly oppose	4%
DK/R	1%

Support or oppose youth learning about the following topics in middle school, grades 6, 7, & 8.  
Abstinence from sexual activity.

	N=314
Strongly support	70%
Somewhat support	19%
Somewhat oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	4%
DK/R	1%

Support or oppose youth learning about the following topics in middle school, grades 6, 7, & 8.  
Birth control.

	N=314
Strongly support	60%
Somewhat support	19%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	9%
DK/R	1%



Support or oppose youth learning about the following topics in middle school, grades 6, 7, & 8.  
Condom use.

	N=314
Strongly support	66%
Somewhat support	15%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	12%
DK/R	1%

Support or oppose youth learning about the following topics in middle school, grades 6, 7, & 8.  
Gender and sexual orientation issues.

	N=314
Strongly support	55%
Somewhat support	21%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	13%
DK/R	2%

Support or oppose teens learning about the following topics in high school, grades 9, 10, 11 & 12.  
How to deal with pressure to have sex.

	N=314
Strongly support	87%
Somewhat support	8%
Somewhat oppose	1%
Strongly oppose	4%
DK/R	<1%

Support or oppose teens learning about the following topics in high school, grades 9, 10, 11 & 12.  
How to talk with parents/caregivers about sex and relationships.

	N=314
Strongly support	89%
Somewhat support	8%
Somewhat oppose	<1%
Strongly oppose	2%
DK/R	1%



Support or oppose teens learning about the following topics in high school, grades 9, 10, 11 & 12  
Human anatomy and reproductive information.

	N=314
Strongly support	90%
Somewhat support	8%
Somewhat oppose	0%
Strongly oppose	2%
DK/R	<1%

Support or oppose teens learning about the following topics in high school, grades 9, 10, 11 & 12.  
HIV and sexually transmitted infections information.

	N=314
Strongly support	91%
Somewhat support	6%
Somewhat oppose	1%
Strongly oppose	2%
DK/R	<1%

Support or oppose teens learning about the following topics in high school, grades 9, 10, 11 & 12.  
Abstinence from sexual activity.

	N=314
Strongly support	79%
Somewhat support	12%
Somewhat oppose	4%
Strongly oppose	3%
DK/R	1%

Support or oppose teens learning about the following topics in high school, grades 9, 10, 11 & 12.  
Birth control.

	N=314
Strongly support	81%
Somewhat support	12%
Somewhat oppose	3%
Strongly oppose	4%
DK/R	0%



Support or oppose teens learning about the following topics in high school, grades 9, 10, 11 & 12.  
Condom use.

	N=314
Strongly support	87%
Somewhat support	7%
Somewhat oppose	<1%
Strongly oppose	6%
DK/R	0%

Support or oppose teens learning about the following topics in high school, grades 9, 10, 11 & 12.  
Gender and sexual orientation issues.

	N=314
Strongly support	70%
Somewhat support	13%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	8%
DK/R	2%

Do you wish that teens were getting more information about abstinence, more information about birth control and condoms, or more information about both?

	N=314
Abstinence	12%
Birth control and condoms	6%
Both	77%
DK/R	4%

Please tell much how much you agree or disagree with each statement.  
It is OK for teenagers to become parents if they want to.

	N=314
Strongly agree	5%
Somewhat agree	7%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	71%
DK/R	3%



Teen pregnancy is an important problem in Hillsborough County.

	N=314
Strongly agree	51%
Somewhat agree	21%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	1%
DK/R	20%

Teens who are having sex should be able to get birth control and condoms.

	N=314
Strongly agree	64%
Somewhat agree	24%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	4%
DK/R	3%

Providing information about how to obtain and use birth control and condoms encourage teens to have sex.

	N=314
Strongly agree	20%
Somewhat agree	20%
Somewhat disagree	26%
Strongly disagree	31%
DK/R	3%

Providing information about how to obtain and use birth control and condoms encourage teens to make safer choices.

	N=314
Strongly agree	62%
Somewhat agree	25%
Somewhat disagree	4%
Strongly disagree	7%
DK/R	2%



Religious leaders and groups should be doing more to help prevent teen pregnancy.

	N=314
Strongly agree	41%
Somewhat agree	31%
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	11%
DK/R	6%

Schools should be doing more to help prevent teen pregnancy.

	N=314
Strongly agree	55%
Somewhat agree	27%
Somewhat disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	5%
DK/R	3%

Our community should be doing more to help prevent teen pregnancy.

	N=314
Strongly agree	68%
Somewhat agree	22%
Somewhat disagree	3%
Strongly disagree	3%
DK/R	4%

What is your age group?

	N=314
18-29	26%
30-39	18%
40-49	17%
50-59	16%
60-69	11%
70+	11%
DK/R	0%



What is your racial or ethnic background?

	N=314
White	54%
Black or African America	17%
Hispanic	24%
Asian	2%
Native American; American Indian	1%
Other	2%
DK/R	1%

What is the highest grade in school or year of college you have completed?

	N=314
Grade school	5%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	34%
College graduate	18%
Post graduate degree	12%
DK/R	0%

Respondent gender.

	N=314
Male	48%
Female	52%

What language was the survey completed in?

	N=314
English	91%
Spanish	9%