

# Illinois Campaign for Responsible Sex Education

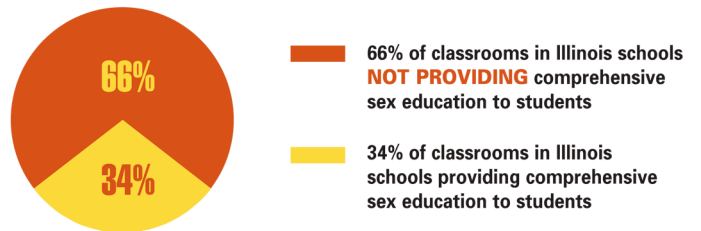
## National Opinion Research Center Summary of Findings

The Illinois Campaign for Responsible Sex Education, a joint project of the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health and Planned Parenthood / Chicago Area, commissioned the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago (NORC) to conduct a groundbreaking study of Illinois sex education teachers to build knowledge on teacher practice, beliefs and influences. The study was released in March 2005.

### KEY FINDING:

**While 93% of sex education teachers surveyed in Illinois offer some component of sex education, two thirds of Illinois sex education teachers omit critical elements of responsible and comprehensive sex education; curriculum is key.**

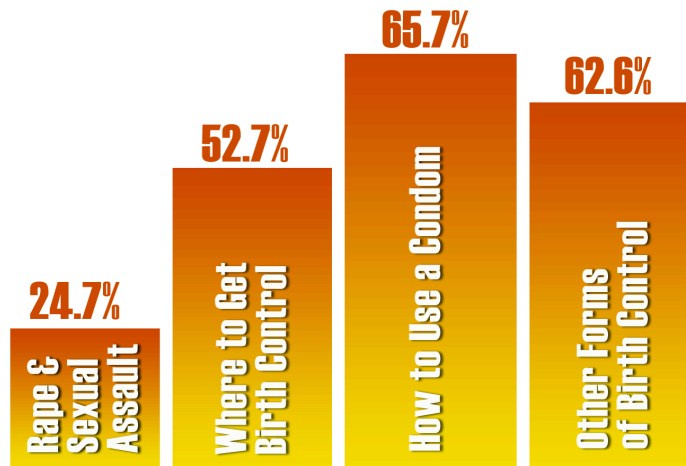
### Comprehensive Sex Education in Illinois Classrooms



**92% of teachers – an overwhelming majority – say that their curriculum has a great deal or some influence on what topics they cover.** Currently, there are no statewide standards and no state funding for comprehensive sex education programs that teach both abstinence and factual information. 38.9% used donated or free materials.

### What Illinois sex education classes DO NOT COVER

- **24.7 % DO NOT COVER** what action a student can take regarding rape and sexual assault
- **52.7 % DO NOT COVER** where to get birth control and health related services
- **65.7 % DO NOT COVER** how to use a condom
- **62.6 % DO NOT COVER** how to use other forms of birth control



### Sex education teachers believe in giving students information to aid in prevention and promote responsibility.

92% of teachers who teach sex education believe that whether or not young people are sexually active, they should be given accurate information about birth control and safe sex in school. 82.5% of teachers who teach sex education do not believe that giving accurate information about birth control and safe sex to young people encourages them to have sex. Teaching a strong abstinence message in concert with information on contraception is considered a "best practice" in teen pregnancy prevention.

### Sex education teachers want and need better preparation, more time.

29.8% of those sex education teachers were not trained to do so. Of those who have been trained, 29.5% feel that they have not received enough training. Sex education teachers spent on average 12 contact hours teaching sex education, but nearly a quarter of teachers spent 5 or fewer contact hours. 44.8% of teachers believe that too little classroom time is spent in their school to properly cover sex education.