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JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG  
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

## *Section C*

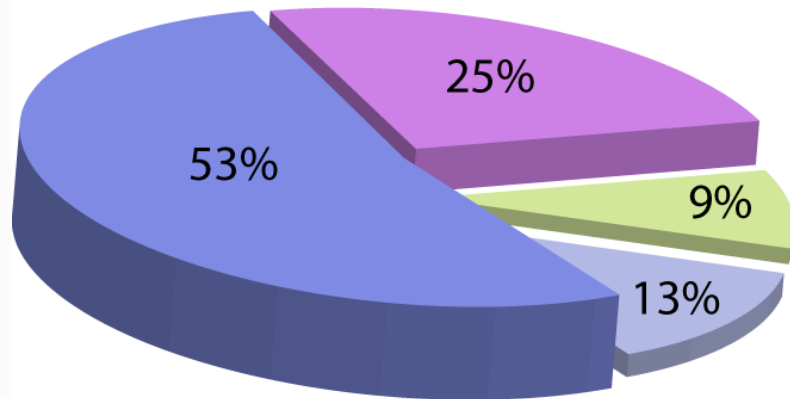
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Sex Education in U.S. Public Schools

# Sex Education Discussions

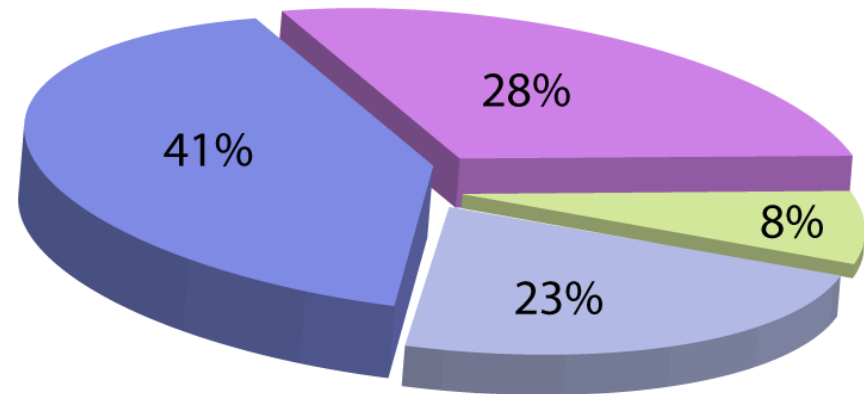
## Discussions of Sex Education Topics with Parents among Females and Males Aged 15–17, 2002

Females



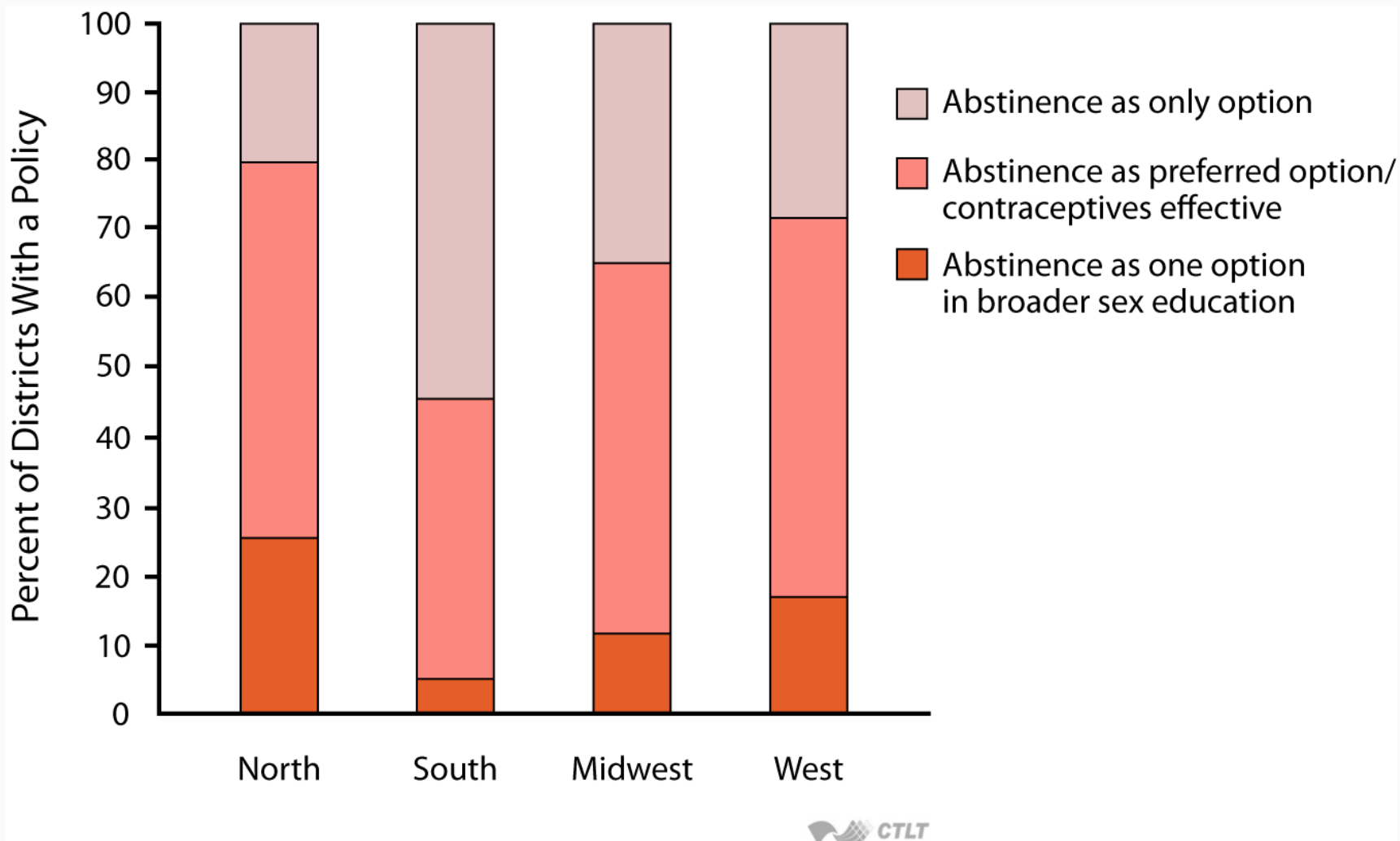
- Discussed how to say no to sex AND discussed birth control, condoms, or STDs.
- Did not discuss any topics.

Males



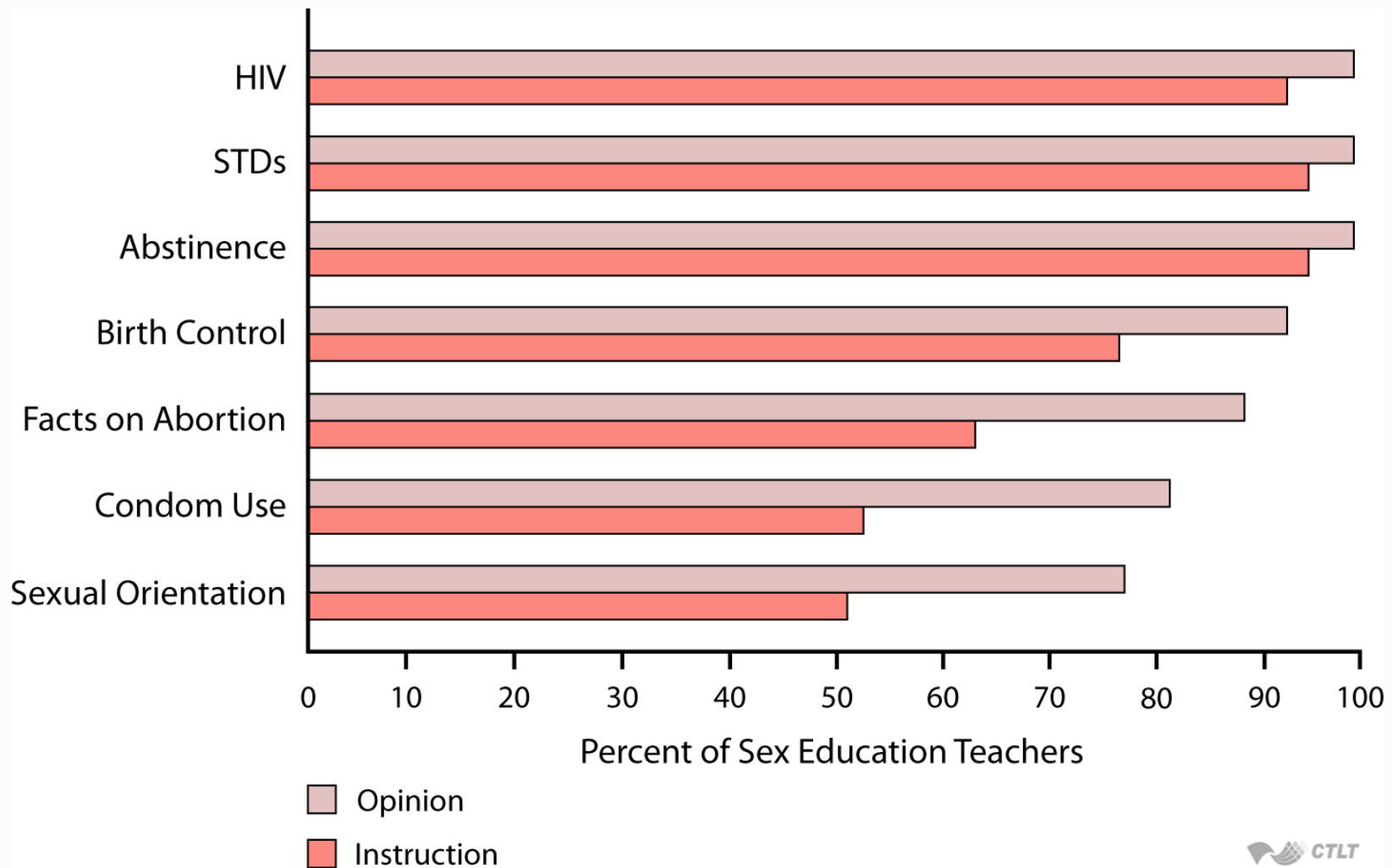
- Discussed birth control, condoms or STDs, BUT NOT how to say no to sex.
- Only discussed how to say no to sex.

# School District Sex Ed Policies Vary Widely by Region



# What Is Actually Taught in Sex Education

- There is a large gap between what teachers believe should be covered in sex education and what they

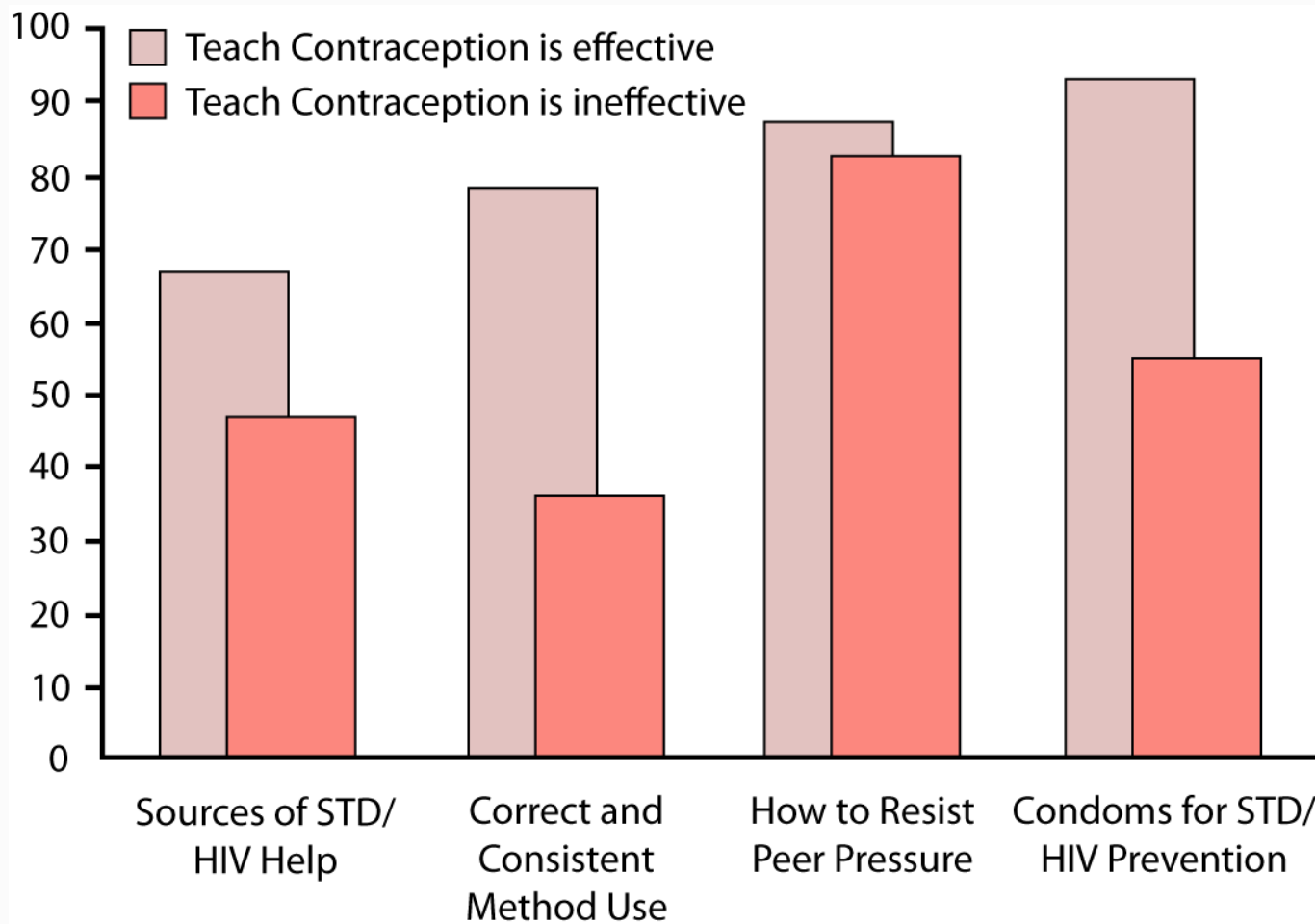


## *Teaching about Contraception*

- Many sex education teachers do not teach about contraception
  - One in four sex education teachers is prohibited from teaching about contraception
  - Four in 10 either do not teach about contraceptive methods (including condoms) or teach that they are ineffective

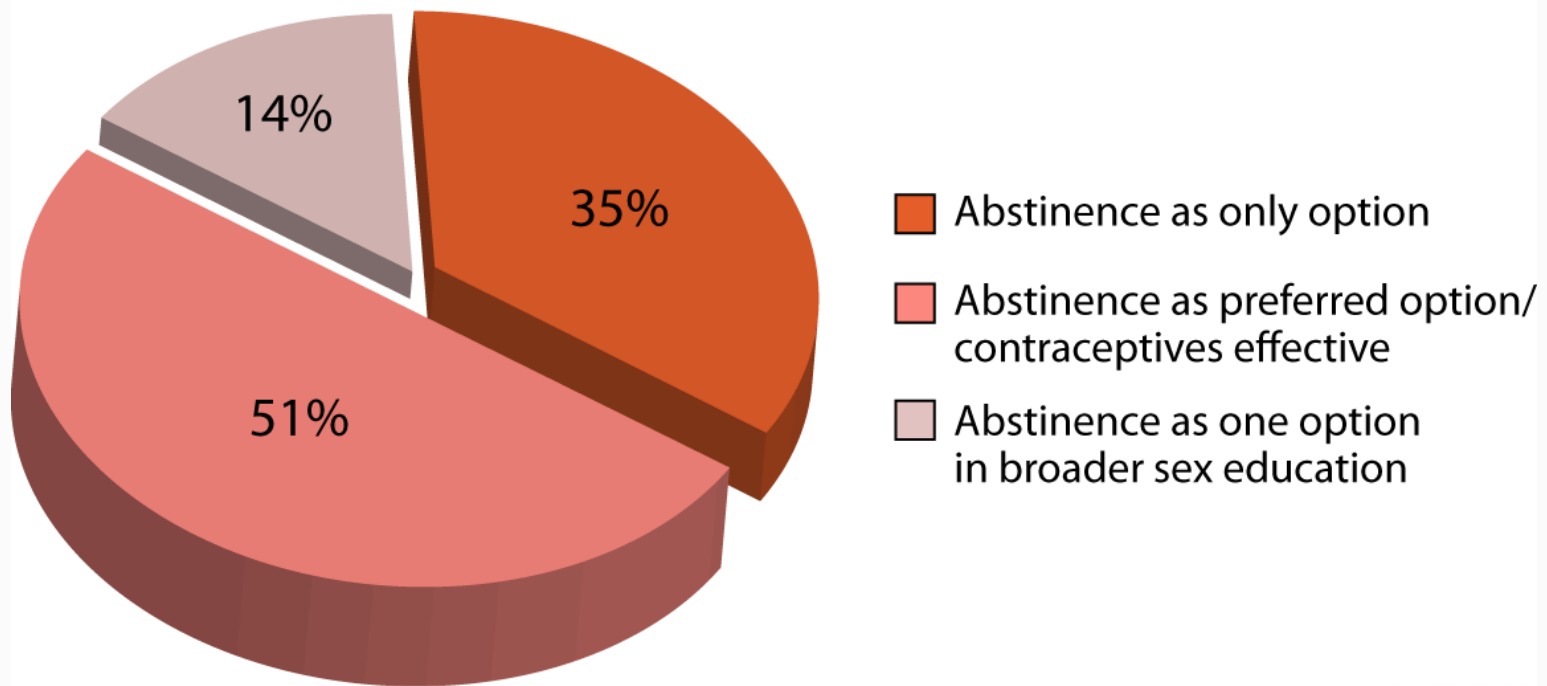
## Covering Key Prevention Topics

- Teachers who teach the effectiveness of contraception are more likely to cover key prevention topics



# Most School District Policies Promote Abstinence

Districts with a Sex Education Policy





# *The Effectiveness of Sex Education*

- What do evaluations say about the effectiveness of sex education?
  - No evidence that abstinence without contraceptive education effectively protects teenagers
  - Contraceptive education does not encourage sexual activity

# The Effectiveness of Sex Education

- What do evaluations say about the effectiveness of sex education?
  - No evidence that abstinence without contraceptive education effectively protects teenagers
  - Contraceptive education does not encourage sexual activity
  - There is considerable evidence that certain programs that include abstinence *and* contraceptive education help teenagers:
    - ▶ Delay sexual activity
    - ▶ Increase contraceptive use
    - ▶ Reduce number of partners