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Examples of Interventions

Programs From Five Developed Countries Aim at Affecting Adolescents' Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors Through School-Based Sexuality Education

Country	Intervention	Description
Sweden	Sexuality and Interpersonal Relationships	The National Agency for Education provides sexuality education reference materials to schools. These guidelines focus on feelings and sexuality and emphasize dialogue rather than lecturing students. Teaching goals cover basic facts, norms and values, social and psychological contexts and personal decision-making. The Main Thread The Stockholm County Council unit for promoting sexual health and preventing HIV/STDs, LAFA, funded with federal money, develops sexuality education teaching methods and produced a methodological handbook of 40 different teaching methods for use in Sexuality and Interpersonal Relationships.
France	Training in sexuality education	The Ministry of Education organizes a national training program to train physicians, school nurses, social workers, management or supervisory personnel, teachers and guidance counselors to facilitate their involvement in sexuality education. Training is conducted by local school districts using funds specifically earmarked by the Community Health Office. Mandated sexuality education The Ministry of Education mandates that students in middle schools (ages 11–15) receive two hours per year of sexuality education covering issues self-image, legal, social and ethical dimensions of human sexuality, relationships, preventive behaviors and sources of care; in addition to covering physiology, STDs, contraception, abortion and assisted reproduction in the life and earth sciences curriculum. Sexuality education is also included in the 40 mandated hours of citizenship and health education provided during the first four years of secondary education.
Canada	Canadian Guidelines for Sexual Health Education	Health Canada, the national ministry of health, developed, with nongovernmental participation, and distributed 30,000 copies of a 33-page booklet of (voluntary) guidelines targeted to anyone developing and delivering sexuality education programs. The guidelines are based on principles of democratic society, achievement of positive outcomes and avoidance of negative outcomes. Skills for Health Relationships A joint venture of national and provincial ministries of health and education developed and distributes a curriculum on sexuality, AIDS and other STDs for grade 9 (aged 13–14) to any school, school board or ministry of education that assumes costs of duplicating the materials for their own use. In-service teacher training is also available. The curriculum is theoretically based, and supports abstinence, use of protective measures by sexually active youth and compassion and tolerance.
Great Britain	Action Plan to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy	The Government's Social Exclusion Unit's action plan to reduce teenage pregnancies will include a new guidance for schools on sexuality and relationships education which helps young people deal with pressures to have sex too young and encourages contraceptive use if they do have sex, along with new school inspection and better teacher training.
United States	The Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, Kindergarten–12th Grade	A private, not-for-profit organization, SIECUS, with foundation funding convened a volunteer task force to develop a framework to promote and facilitate the development of comprehensive sexuality education programs from kindergarten through 12th grade. SIECUS sells the publication and makes it available free on its website. Abstinence-only education The federal and state governments fund programs of abstinence-only education programs focused on youth aged 12–18. Local programs range from media campaigns to after-school activities with educational classes related to abstinence. Some programs substitute for contraceptive education; some complement contraceptive education; some replace contraceptive education with emphasis on contraceptive failure and risks.

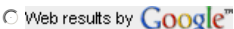
SOURCE: [The Alan Guttmacher Institute](#) report on Teenage Sexuality and Reproductive Behavior in Developed Countries[E-Mail This Graphic](#)

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