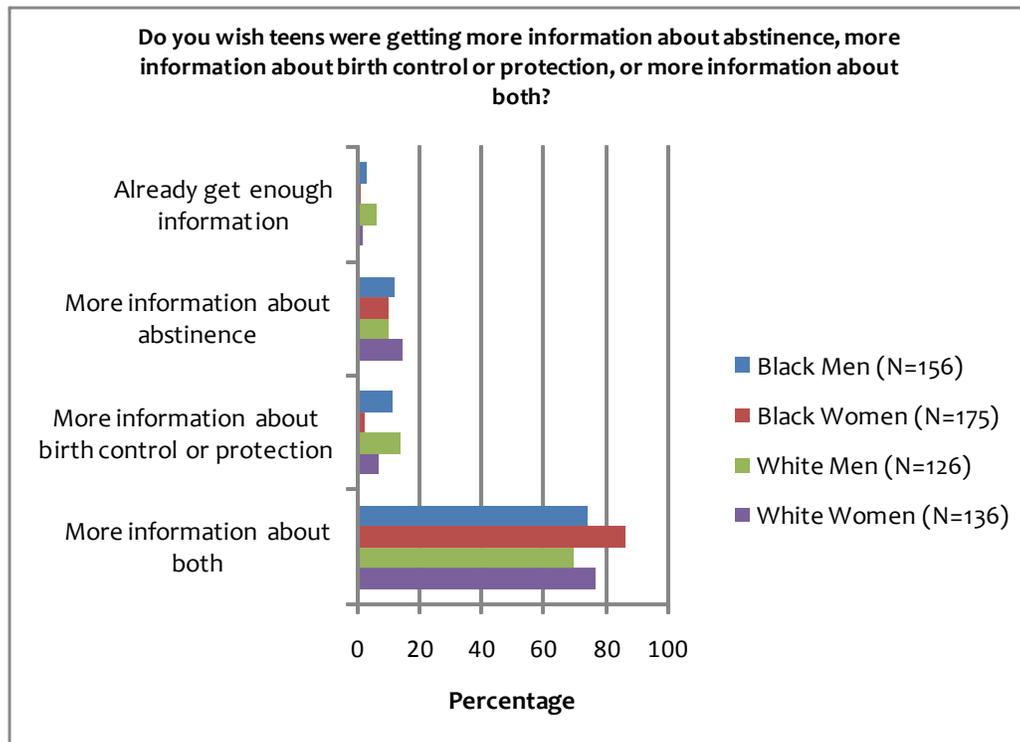
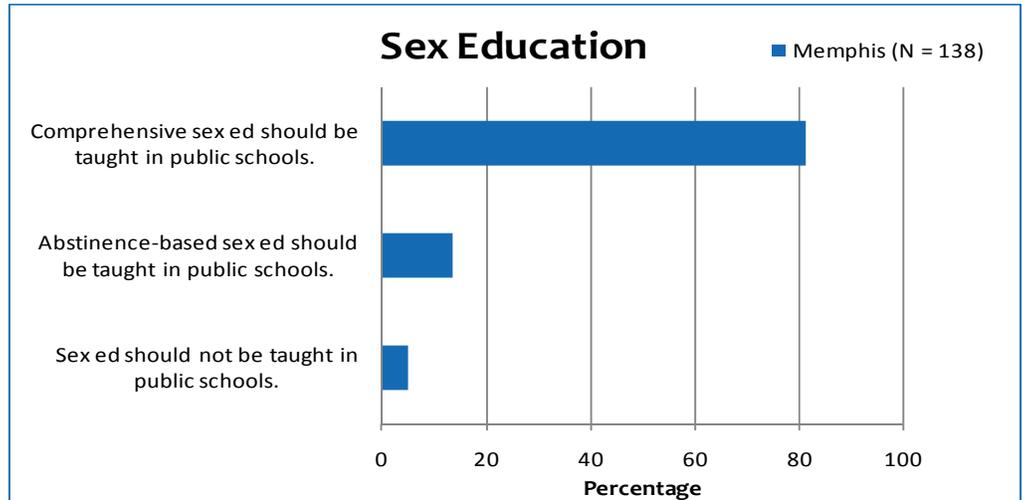


Attitudes Toward Sex Education in Memphis

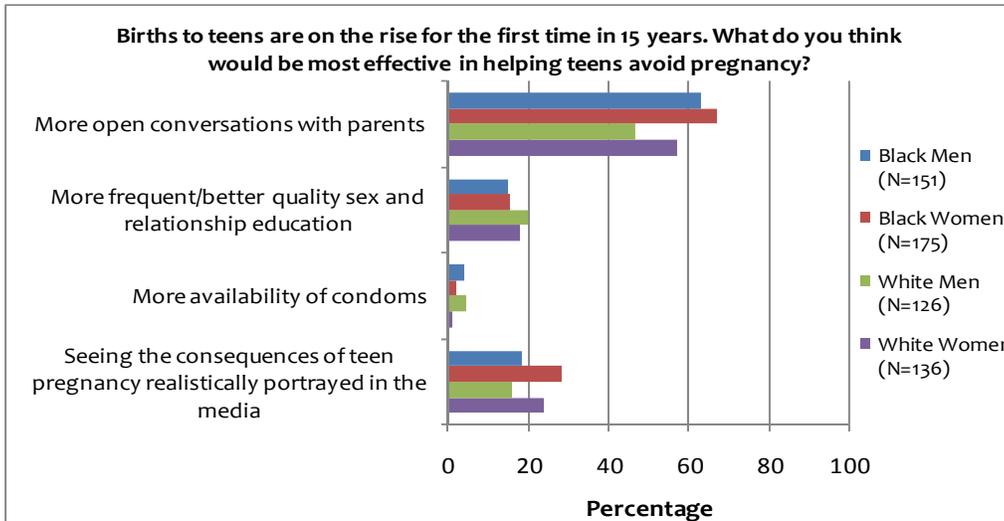
The high rate of teen pregnancy in the Memphis area suggests the need for a multifaceted strategy that addresses sexuality among our youth, yet the implementation of comprehensive sex education continues to be a controversial issue in the Mid-South. This fact sheet provides a snapshot of the attitudes of Shelby County residents towards sex education as a preventive strategy for teenage pregnancy.

Data are drawn from two samples, participants at the 2009 All About Woman, a free, one day event intended to address women's wellness issues in Tennessee, and the 2009 Early Childhood Public Opinion Poll, conducted by The Mid-South Survey Research Center (MSRC) representing researchers from The Urban Child Institute, The University of Tennessee, and The University of Memphis to investigate the attitudes of Shelby County residents.

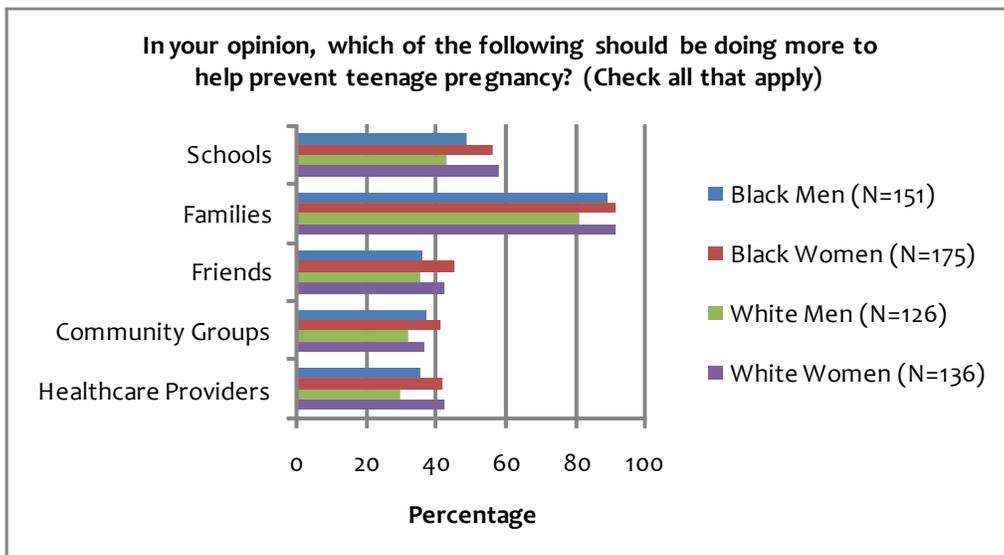
- The overwhelming majority of Memphis women in the sample thought comprehensive sex education should be taught in public schools.
- Source: All About Women, 2009
- Sample of 138 participants consists of 82.2% African Americans and 14.5% Whites



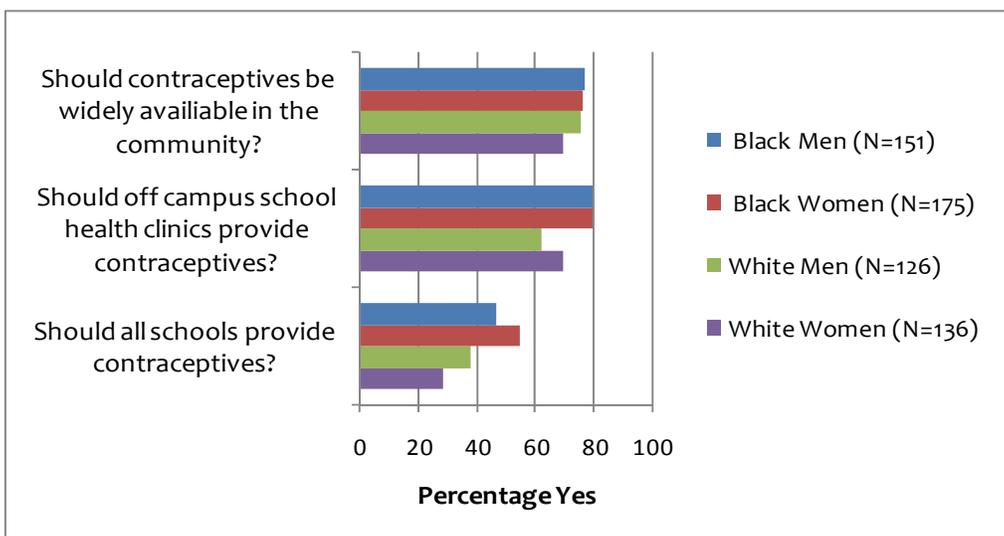
- The vast majority of Shelby County residents, both black and white, wish that teenagers were provided with more information about both abstinence and birth control.
- Source: Early Childhood Public Opinion Poll, 2009
- Sample of 588 participants consists of 55.4% African Americans and 44.5% Whites



- The majority of Shelby County residents feel that the most effective way to avoid teen pregnancy is to have more open conversations with parents.
- Source: Early Childhood Public Opinion Poll, 2009
- Sample of 588 participants consists of 55.4% African Americans and 44.5% Whites



- The majority of Shelby County residents believe that families need to be doing more to help prevent teenage pregnancy.
- Close to half of all participants believe that schools should be doing more to help prevent teenage pregnancy.
- Source: Early Childhood Public Opinion Poll, 2009



- The majority of Shelby County residents feel that contraceptives should be widely available throughout the community and that off campus school health clinics should provide them.
- About half of black participants and about a third of white participants believe that schools should provide contraceptives.
- Source: Early Childhood Public Opinion Poll, 2009