

The Health Disparity of Teen Pregnancy



Jailene Matias
DOHERTY HIGH SCHOOL



Peter Nguyen
SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Kavin Udayaprakash
SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

Table of Contents

1

Vocabulary

2

Video

3

Access

4

Poverty

5

Stigma

6

Solutions

7

Questions



Vocabulary

Health disparities

Preventable differences in terms of disease and injury that keep socially disadvantaged populations from achieving optimal health.

Ageism

Prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of a person's age.

Inequity

Differences that are unfair, avoidable, and unjust.

Obstetrics

The field of study concentrated on pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.



Why is Teen Pregnancy a Disparity?

Teenage mothers face discrimination and mistreatment because of their age and struggle through:

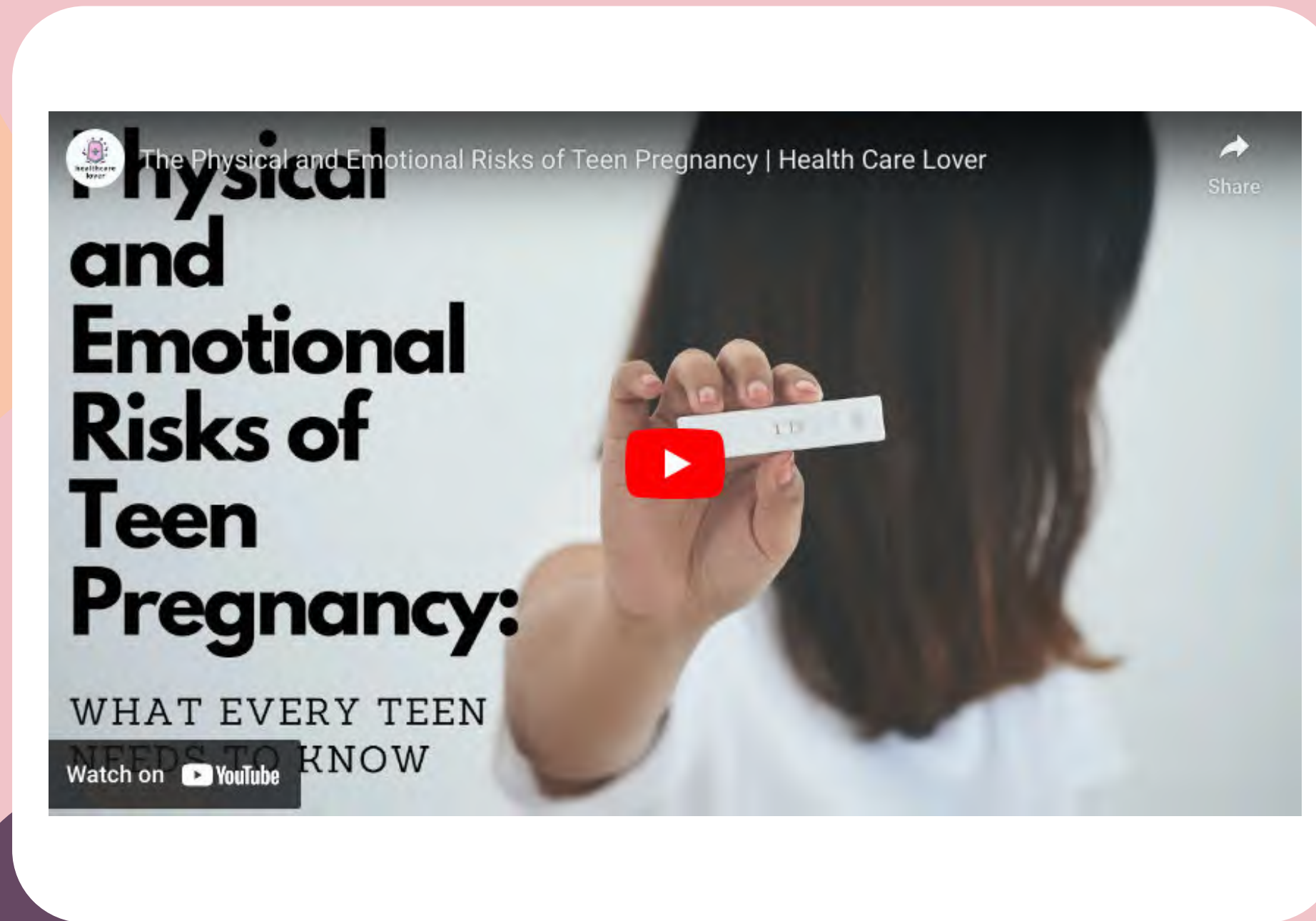
Access

Poverty

Stigma



Video



Thoughts on video?



Why is Access to Healthcare Difficult for Teens?

**Insufficient
amount of sex
education**

**Difference in
treatment**



Sex Education In Mass.



State

Massachusetts doesn't require sex education

Should Massachusetts require all public school districts to offer sex education classes?

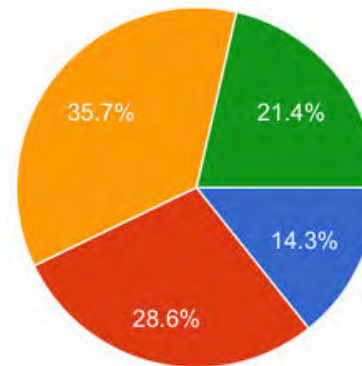


Zipporah Osei, 2023

School

Schools choose to not teach sex education

When does your school require Sex Education/Health?
14 responses



Parent

Parents don't want their kid to learn sex education

The Healthy Youth Act would require sex ed programs to be based on "medically accurate and age-appropriate information." Would you let your child participate?



Zipporah Osei, 2023

(SIECUS, 2020)

(Osei, 2023)

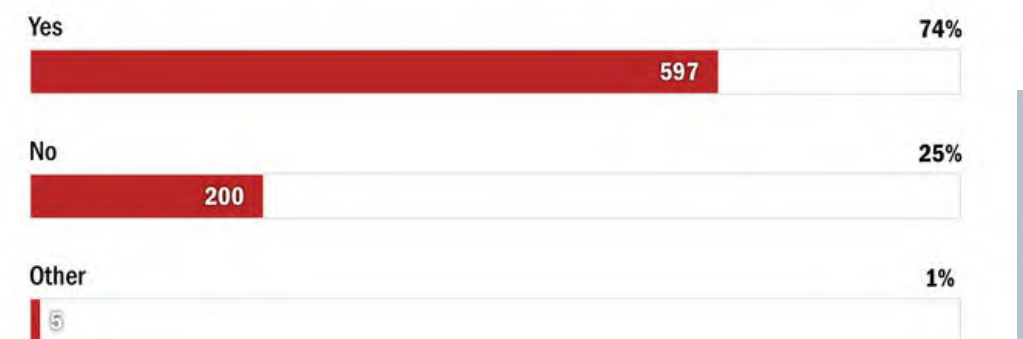
(Collaborative, 2023)

Sex Education In Mass.

Lack of Sex Education State

Massachusetts doesn't require high school or middle schools to teach sex education

Should Massachusetts require all public school districts to offer sex education classes?



Zipporah Osei, 2023

State Sex Education Policies and Requirements at a Glance

- Massachusetts schools are **not** required to teach sex education.
- Curriculum must explain the benefits of abstinence.
- If sex education is offered, curriculum is not required to include instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Siecus, 2020

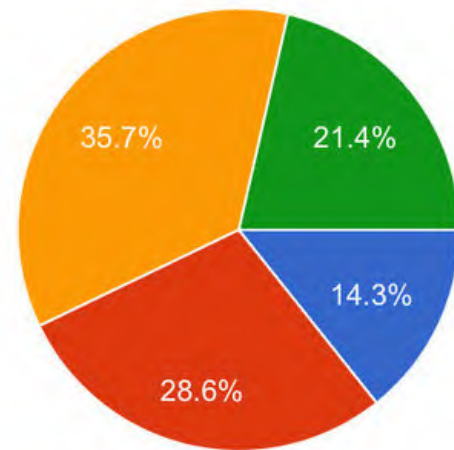
Sex Education In Mass.

Lack of Sex Education

School

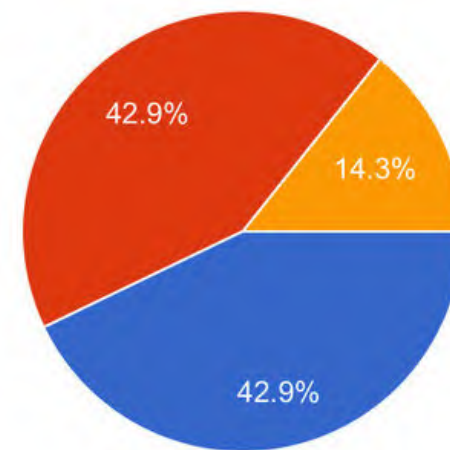
Schools choose to not teach sex education

When does your school require Sex Education/Health?



- High School
- Middle School
- Both
- None

When did you take Sex Education/Health?



- High School
- Middle School
- None

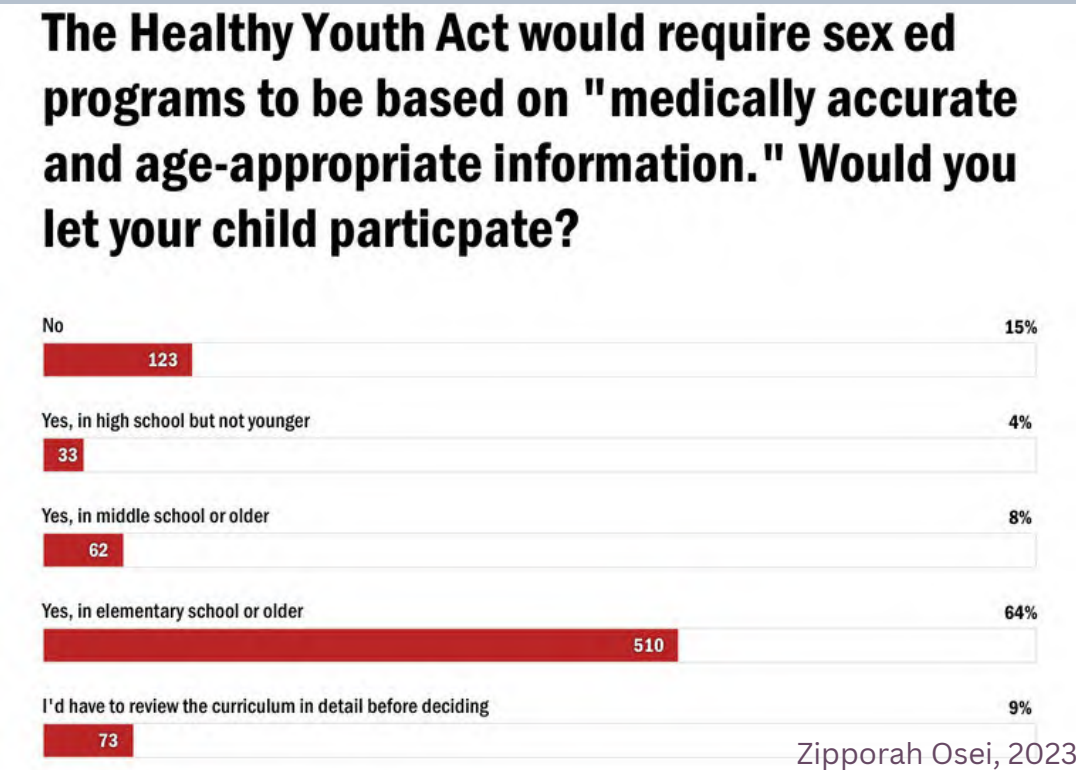


Sex Education In MA

Lack of Sex Education

Parent

Parents don't want their kid to learn sex education



Zipporah Osei, 2023

The Effects of Lack of Sex Ed

1

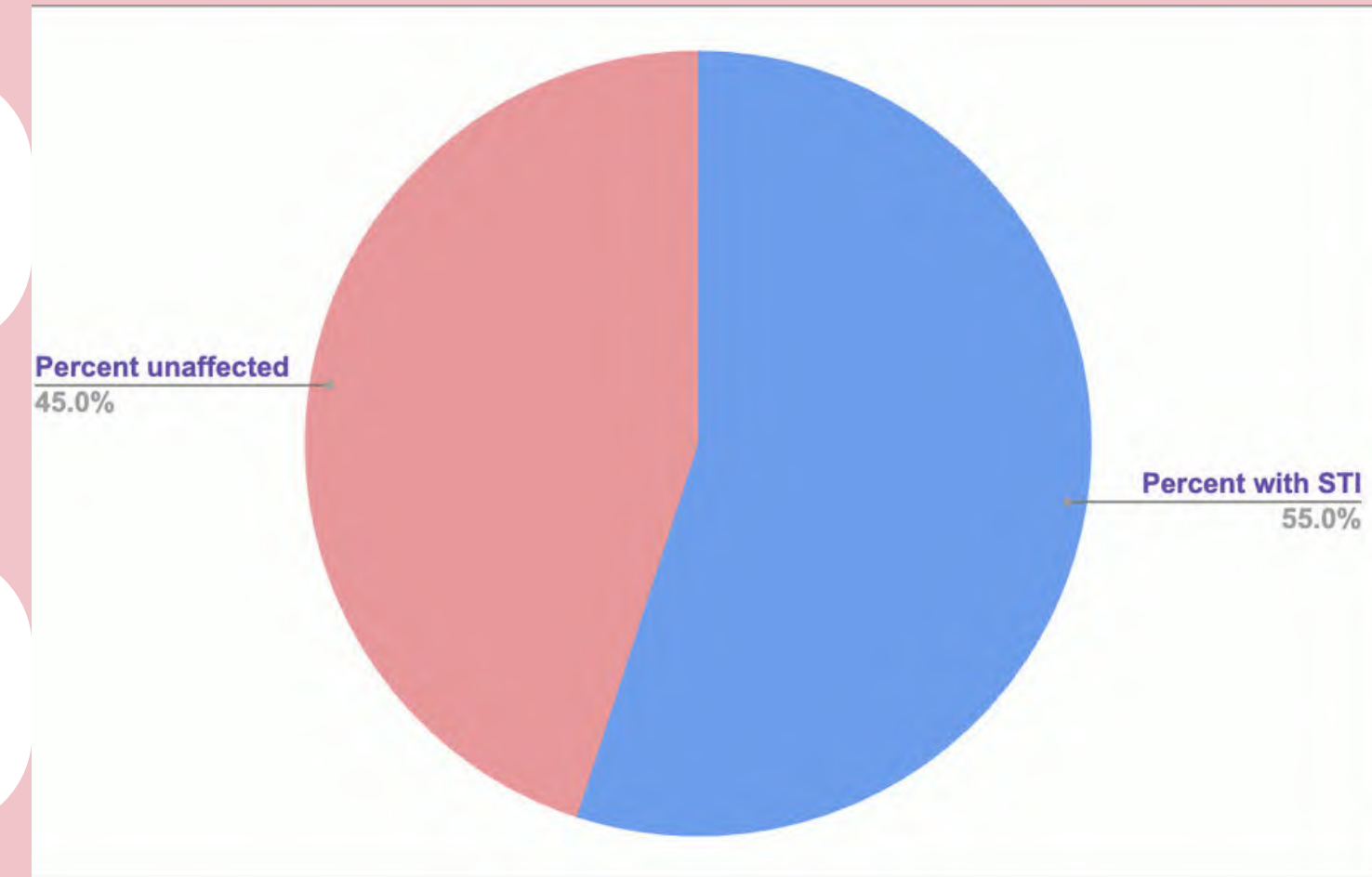
Increased Rates of STI

2

Higher Rates of Teen Pregnancy

3

Misconceptions of Sex and Pregnancy



The Effects of Lack of Sex Ed

1

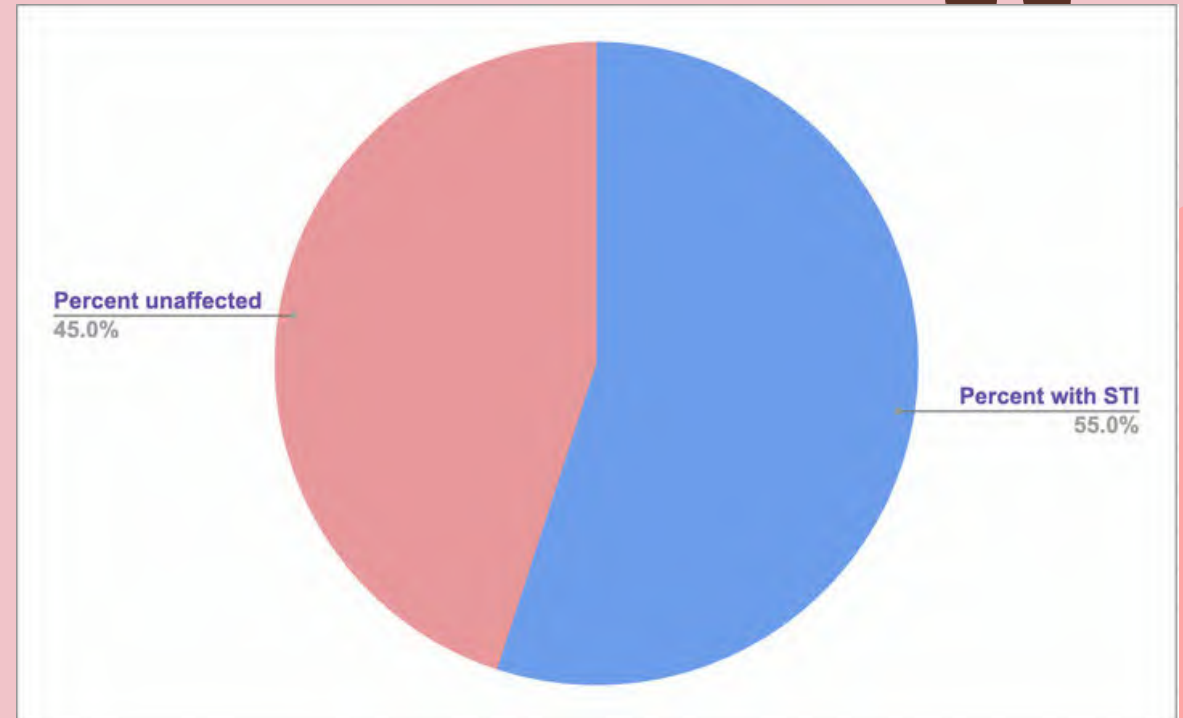
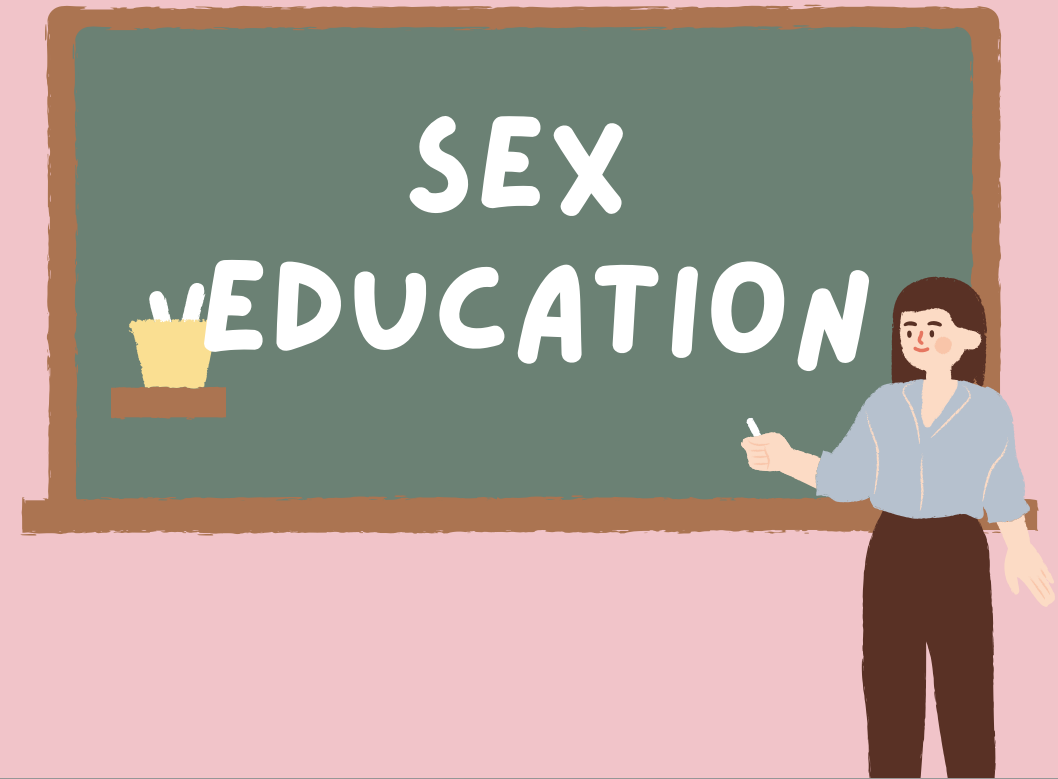
Increased Rates of STI

2

Higher Rates of Teen Pregnancy

3

Misconceptions of Sex and Pregnancy



Difference in Care Between Pregnant ¹³

Teenagers and Adults

Teenagers

Ageism

Inadequate care

Funding cut for 81
programs

Adults

More Resources for
mental and physical
health

Better health
insurance

Welcomed in hospital
and community

Critical for
pre/post
care



Poverty and Economic Inequity

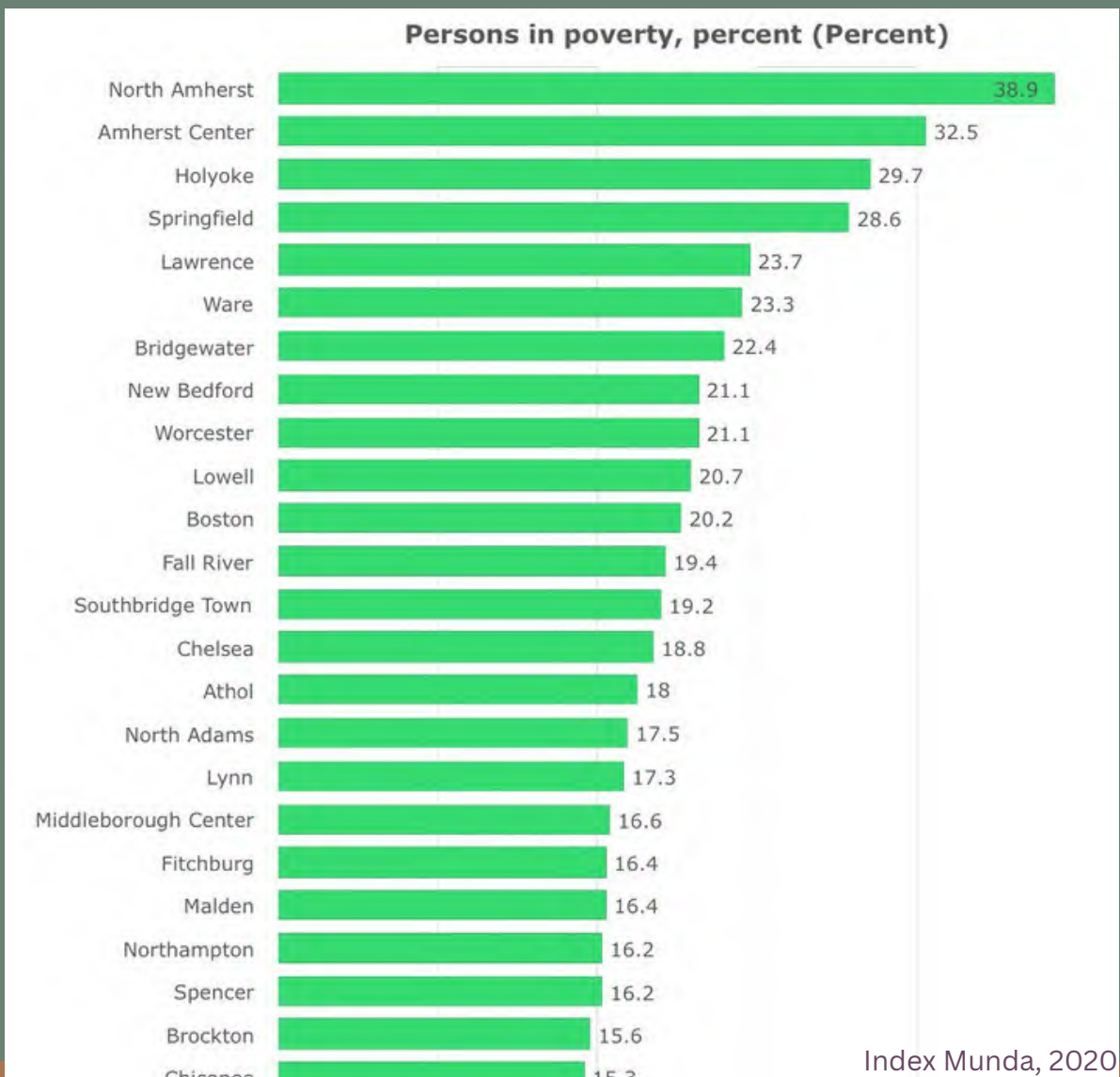
Teen Pregnancy in Poverty Cost of Care



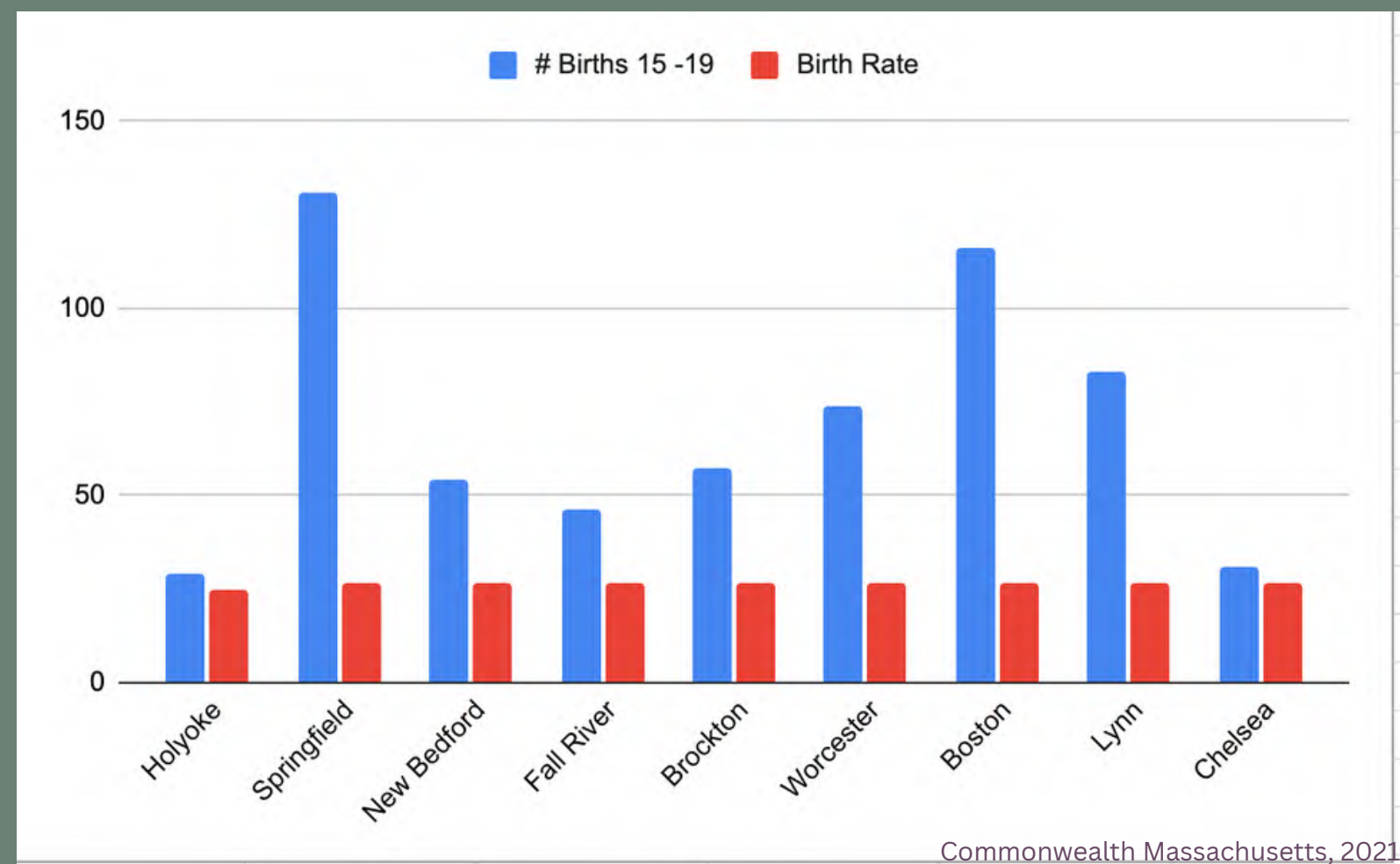
Teen Pregnancy in Poverty

Poverty in MA

2021



Index Munda, 2020



Commonwealth Massachusetts, 2021

Cost for Care



Costs \$11,000 for a vaginal birth and \$20,000 for a cesarean section, not including prenatal or postnatal care.



Teenagers can only work 40 hours a week with a minimum wage of \$15 per hour.

How are teen parents expected to pay these expenses?

“They are a shame to the community”

Many people assume teen mothers are

Troubled

Exploitive

Poor parents

Promiscuous

Dependent

Emotional



Personal Story of Overcoming Teen Pregnancy Stigmas

Natasha Vianna

Her high school promptly told her “It’s unlikely you’ll even graduate, so let’s just focus on finishing high school.”

At age 33 she is giving Ted Talks about her experience working with Boston politicians.

Personal Story of Overcoming Teen Pregnancy Stigmas






Natasha Vianna

Solutions

Supporting Government and State Legislatures

S.2459
AN ACT RELATIVE TO HEALTHY YOUTH

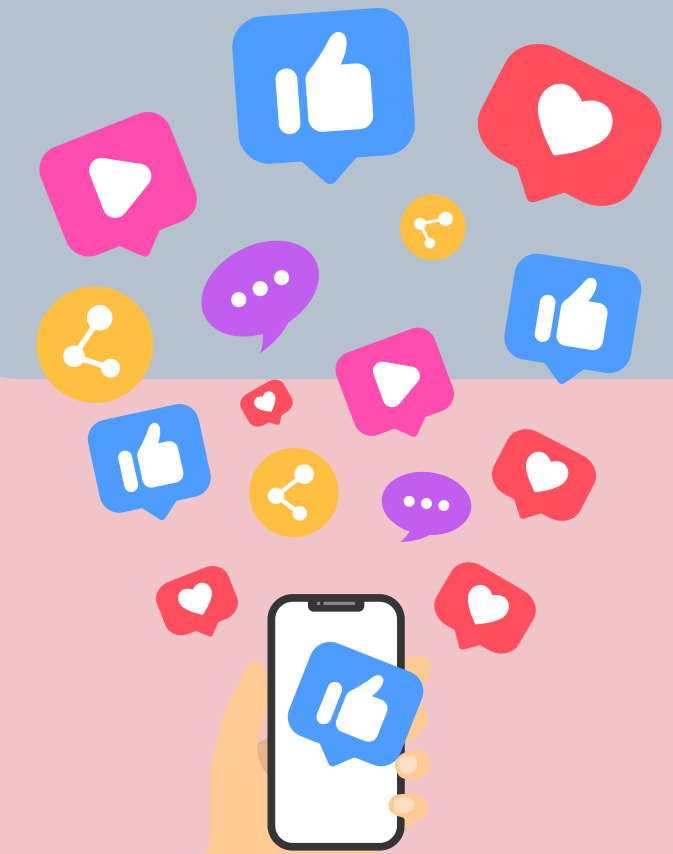
-  Ensures school districts offering sex education provide their students with age-appropriate, medically accurate information.
-  Requires the teaching of consent, healthy relationships, the benefits of delaying sex, as well as information on contraception.
-  Ensures curricula be inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations and recognizes the health needs of LGBTQ youth.

#HealthyYouthActMA @MA_Senate

Informing Teens of Effective Contraceptives



Using mass media to encourage safe sex



Q A



Thank You!

Contact us for more information

Kavin Udayaprakash
Shrewsbury High School
kavin.udayaprakash@gmail.com

Jailene Matias
Doherty Memorial High School
matiasjailene@gmail.com

Peter Nguyen
South High School
pete627@yahoo.com



Citations

B. I. H. C. (n.d.). Healthcare cost of pregnancy. The Cost of Having a Baby in the United States. <https://www.birthinjuryhelpcenter.org/cost-pregnancy.html>

Belluck, P. (2017, August 10). Programs that fight teenage pregnancy are at risk of being cut. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/10/health/teen-pregnancy-prevention-trump-budget-cuts.html?mcubz=0>

Clarke , L. S., & et. (2022). The unique contribution of gendered racial stress to depressive symptoms among pregnant black women. Women's health (London, England). <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35900027/>

Collaborative, S. E. (2023). Massachusetts State Policy Information . Massachusetts. <https://sexeducationcollaborative.org/states/massachusetts#:~:text=State%20Law,boards%20to%20make%20such%20decisions.>

Control and Prevention, C. for D. (2023, May 26). Health disparities. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/disparities/index.htm#:~:text=Health%20disparities%20are%20preventable%20differences,youth%20health%20risk%20behaviors%20persist.>

Fisher, Christopher M., et al. "Adolescent Perspectives on Addressing Teenage Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections in the Classroom and Beyond." Sex Education, vol. 20, no. 1, 23 May 2019, pp. 90–100,

Goldstein, R. (2023). Massachusetts births 2021. Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2021-birth-report/download>

Help Center, B. I. (n.d.). Healthcare cost of pregnancy. The Cost of Having a Baby in the United States. <https://www.birthinjuryhelpcenter.org/cost-pregnancy.html>

I. M. (2022a). Massachusetts Poverty Rate by City. Massachusetts poverty rate by City. <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/massachusetts/percent-of-people-of-all-ages-in-poverty/cities#chart>

L. (2022, June). Youth STIs: an epidemic fuelled by shame - the lancet child & adolescent health. Youth STIs: an epidemic fuelled by shame. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(22\)00128-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(22)00128-6/fulltext)

Luttmer, E. F. (2009). The American Economic Review. American Economic Review, 99(5), i–vi. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.99.5.i>

H. C. L. (2023, February 24). The physical and emotional risks of Teen Pregnancy | Health Care Lover. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrJPTKBNgm0&t=8s>

M.-W. (1996). America’s most trusted dictionary. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Ney, J. (2024, April 29). Teen pregnancy and inequality. Medium. <https://jeremybney.medium.com/teen-pregnancy-and-inequality-3fcd9497f61f>

Novoa, C. (2024, July 18). Ensuring healthy births through prenatal support. Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/ensuring-healthy-births-prenatal-support/>

Osei, Z. (2023, June 8). Readers say sex education in Mass. schools is “long overdue.” Boston.com. <https://www.boston.com/community/readers-say/readers-say-sex-education-in-mass-schools-is-long-overdue/>

Ruzibiza, Y. (2020). ‘They are a shame to the community ... ’ stigma, school attendance, solitude and resilience among pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers in Mahama refugee camp, Rwanda. *Global Public Health*, 16(5), 763–774. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2020.1751230>

S. (2020, January 25). Massachusetts State Profile. Massachusetts’ Sex Education Snapshot. <https://siecus.org/stateprofiles/massachusetts-state-profile/#:~:text=Massachusetts%20schools%20are%20not%20required%20to%20teach%20sex%20education.,sexual%20orientation%20or%20gender%20identity.>

SmithBattle, L. (2020b). Walking on eggshells. *MCN the American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 45(6), 322–327. <https://doi.org/10.1097/nmc.0000000000000655>

Sewpaul, R., Crutzen, R., Dukhi, N., Sekgala, D., & Reddy, P. (2021, August 4). A mixed reception: Perceptions of pregnant adolescents’ experiences with health care workers in Cape Town, South Africa. *Reproductive health*. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8336349/>

