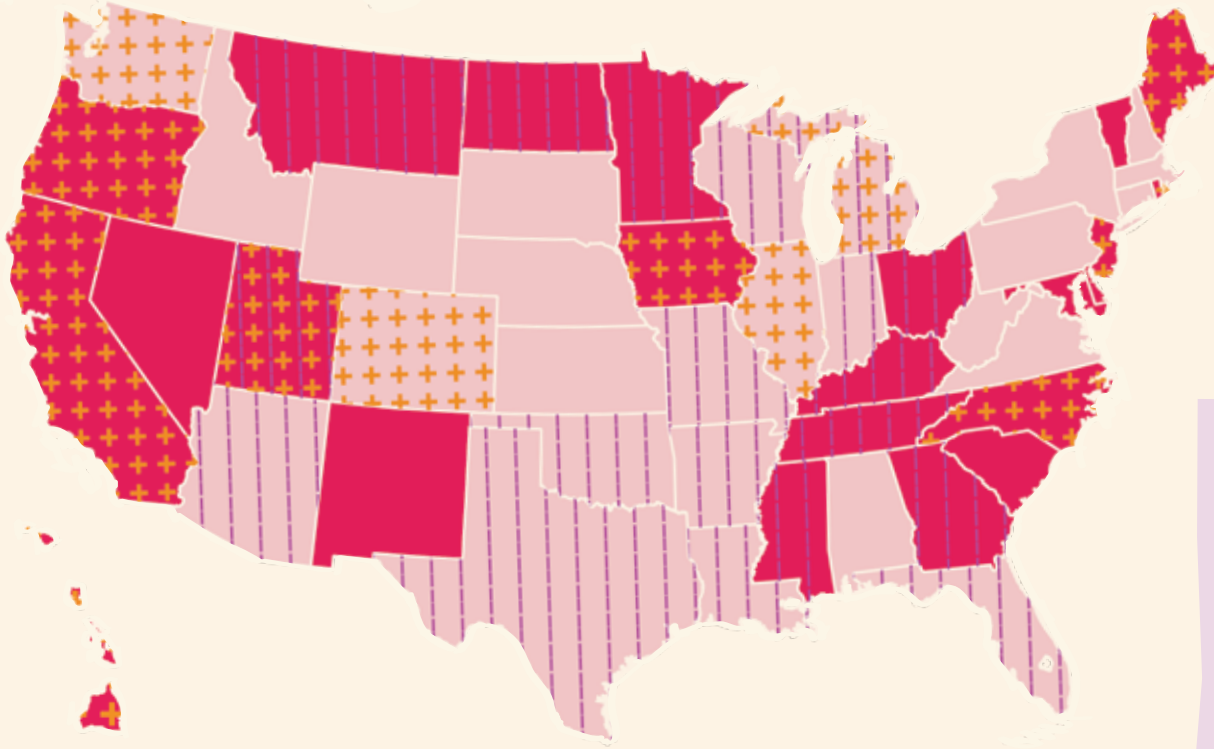


SEX EDUCATION

Legislation surrounding sexual education varies wildly from state to state in America. While some states **require** comprehensive, **medically-accurate** information to be available to students, others don't mandate any sexual education **at all**.



Legend

- States that do not require schools to teach sex education
- States that require sexual education in schools
- States where sexual education has to be medically accurate
- States where abstinence must be stressed if sex education is taught

A number of U.S. states use federally-funded “abstinence only” programs, which attempt to dissuade teenagers from engaging in any sexual intercourse at all. Many of these programs are driven by the idea that teaching students about healthy sexuality will make them more likely to seek out sexual encounters.

While abstinence is – *in theory* – the best way to prevent pregnancy and STDs, abstinence education does not lead to abstinent behavior. In fact, many states that heavily stress abstinence in their sexual health curriculum have unusually high teen pregnancy rates. The Guttmacher Institute found that **teen pregnancy rates dropped by 9% in the years since Oregon mandated comprehensive sexual education**, which informs students about contraceptives, STDs, and healthy relationship skills.

Impacts of Teen Pregnancy in the United States:

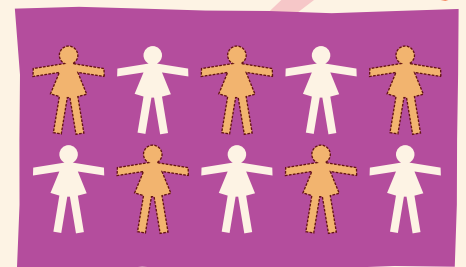
1. Mississippi
2. Arkansas
3. Louisiana
4. Oklahoma
5. Alabama

These states require abstinence-only education when sex ed is taught.

These states don't require schools to teach sexual education at all.



Only 51% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma.



Only 39% of teen mothers complete community college.

