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'Was it Good For You?' Late Adolescent's Satisfation With School Based Sex ed.

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"WAS IT GOOD FOR YOU?": LATE ADOLESCENTS’ SATISFACTION WITH SCHOOL-BASED SEX-ED
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Recent reports point to an overall decrease in the rate of teen pregnancy. Although this is encouraging for communities, educators and policy-makers, one possible negative result of this downward trend could be an assumption that the programs responsible for bringing about this trend are no longer a top priority for funding. As part of our coursework for Human Development II: Adolescence (PSY 362), we sought to collect data that would provide insight and information about the need to continue and perhaps improve school-based sex education programs. Data collection is underway; we are administering an anonymous survey to undergraduate students at IPFW (goal N = 250). This survey asks for information such as participant’s age, gender, race/ethnicity, family background, years since high school graduation, and questions pertaining to their current and past sexual experiences. The survey also presents 60 issues/topics that might be addressed within the context of a sex ed program; these issues/topics cover areas such as Biological/Physical Aspects of Sex, STD/Contraception Knowledge, Clarification of Values Related to Sexual Behavior, Relationship/Communication Issues, Pregnancy/Parenting Issues. For each of the 60 issues/topics, participants are asked to make five ratings using a 5-point scale: 1) how knowledgeable they feel about the issue/topic; to what extent they have discussed it 2) with their parents; 3) with their peers; 4) how thoroughly their school-based sex-ed class(es) covered it; 5) how satisfied they are with the coverage provided by their school-based sex ed program. Preliminary data analyses indicate that late adolescents are not wholly satisfied with their school-based sex education experiences; additional analyses examining age and gender differences, as well as differences based on the demographic and sexual history information collected will be discussed.