

SisterReach

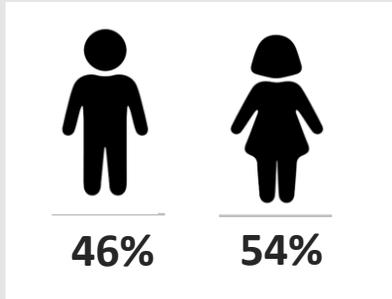
Survey among 600 registered voters in Tennessee, with oversamples of 100 parents of children in 6th – 12th grades, and 100 residents of each city: Chattanooga, Nashville, Memphis, and Knoxville
August 2019

Methodology

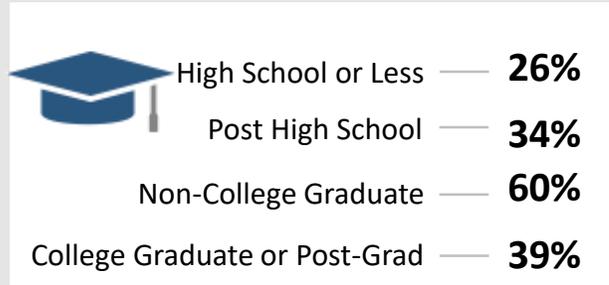
- Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey that was conducted by telephone from July 15 – 21, 2019. The survey reached a total of 600 registered voters in Tennessee with oversamples of 100 parents of children in 6th - 12th grade, 100 Chattanooga residents, 100 Nashville residents, 100 Memphis residents, and 100 Knoxville residents.
- The sample was drawn from a state voter file. The base sample was weighted slightly by gender, age, and race. The parent oversample was weighted by gender. The Chattanooga oversample was weighted slightly by gender and party identification. The Nashville oversample was weighted slightly by education and party identification. The Memphis oversample was weighted slightly by gender, race, and party identification. The Knoxville oversample was weighted slightly by education and party identification. All oversamples were then weighted down into the base to reflect the composition of registered voters in Tennessee.
- The margin of error for the total sample is +/-4.0% and the margin of error for the oversamples is +/-9.8%.

Demographics of Tennessee Voters

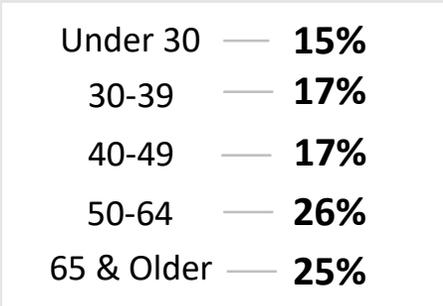
GENDER



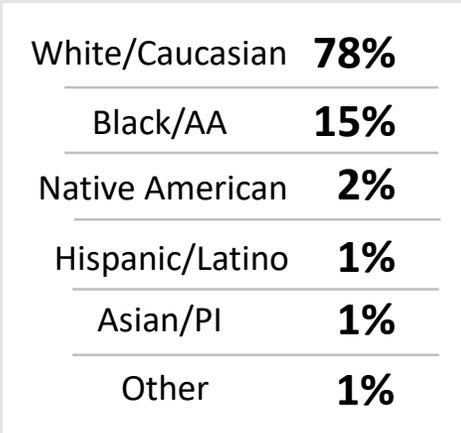
EDUCATION



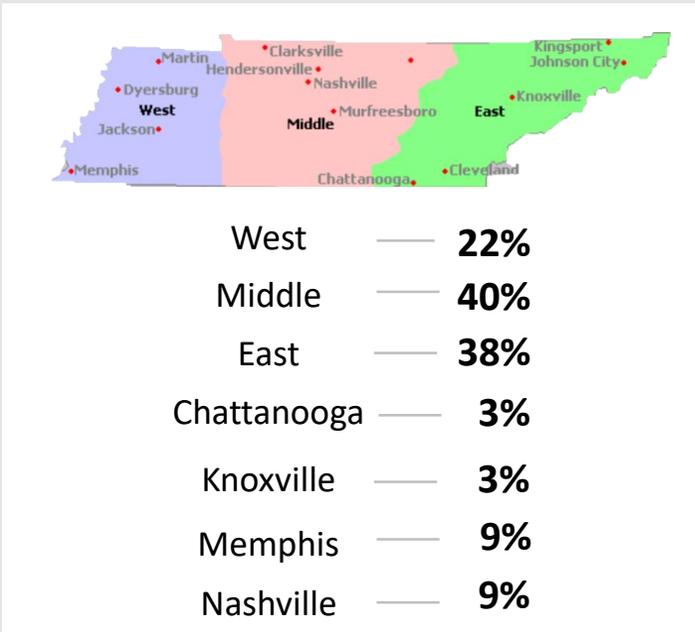
AGE



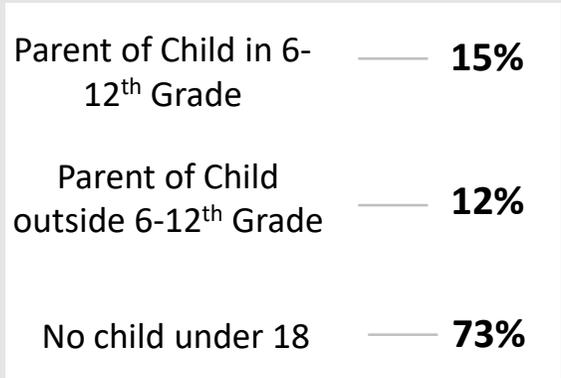
RACE



REGION



Children



Summary of Key Findings – Sex Education

- Support for comprehensive sex education in Tennessee is broad and strong. Voters overall support comprehensive sex education by a 3:1 margin, and parents with children in grades 6-12 are even more supportive (69% of mothers and 68% of fathers say they favor).
 - Those more likely to strongly favor include Knoxville residents, voters under age 30, and college graduates.
 - Regionally, voters in Knoxville (75% favor), Nashville (74%), and Memphis (69%) are most supportive, followed by Chattanooga (67%), and then greater regions of Central (69%), East (55%), and West (54%).
- When faced with a battery of options about which type of sex education they would prefer to be taught, almost 8-in-10 voters support a type of sex education that at least covers information on birth control and STDs and only 12% of voters say they prefer abstinence-only education.
- The most comprehensive types of sex education register the most support, with 32% of voters supporting sex education that covers delaying sex, abstinence, information about birth control, sexually transmitted diseases or STDs, healthy relationships, communication skills, and LGBTQ-specific information; and 31% of voters who favor the same proposal without LGBTQ-specific information.

Summary of Key Findings – Sex Education Continued

- Abiding by the status-quo may influence how favorable voters are to comprehensive sex education. It doesn't help to tell people the current law around sex education, and we see a drop in support among key groups (mothers of children in grades 6-12, younger voters, and college educated voters) when they hear this information.
- When voters are informed of Tennessee's current mandate, support for comprehensive sex education drops from a 3:1 favor/oppose margin to a 2:1 favor/oppose margin. While overall and strong support are similar, more people come out against us when informed of the mandate.
 - Strong support for comprehensive sex education increases dramatically among Black voters after being informed of the state mandate – 47% uninformed to 64% informed.
 - Independent voters also increase their strong support after hearing that Tennessee mandates abstinence-only sex education – 38% uninformed to 46% informed.
 - Strong support for comprehensive sex education holds steady among fathers of children in 6-12th grade after being informed of the state mandate – 55% uninformed to 57% informed. However, strong support decreases among mothers of children in 6-12th grade – 56% uninformed to 48% informed.

Summary of Key Findings – Parenting

- Most parents (59%) say they have not received an opt-out form for their child to attend sex education, while about a quarter say they have.
- Parents say they understand everything about their reproductive health (84% strongly agree) and that they talk to their teen about sex (73%). These are core values for Tennessee parents.
- A majority (55%) of parents say they would be comfortable supporting a child who came out as LGBTQ.
- There is an opportunity for education as a plurality of parents say they do not know everything included in their child's sex education curriculum.

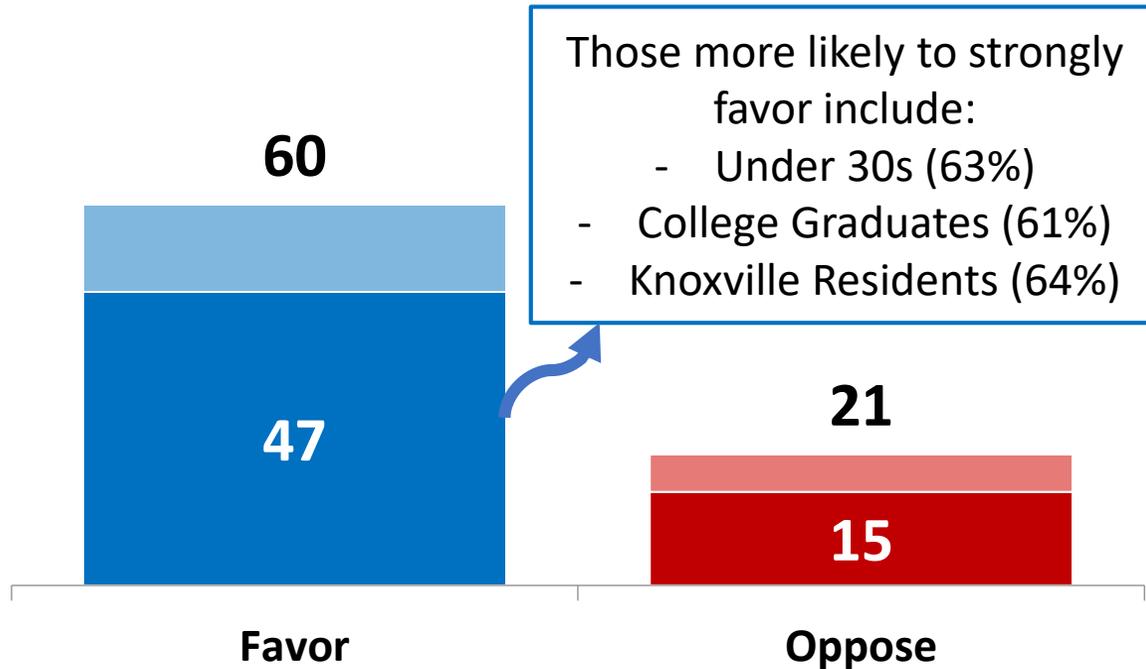


Illustration by Katie Carey

Sex Education

Across all subgroups, majorities favor teaching age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education in schools in Tennessee. Roughly 3 times more voters strongly favor than strongly oppose the proposal. A large majority of parents of children in grades 6-12 favor this proposal. The West and East regions are slightly less supportive than other regions.

Would you say you favor or oppose teaching age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education in schools in Tennessee or are you not sure?



Those more likely to strongly favor include:

- Under 30s (63%)
- College Graduates (61%)
- Knoxville Residents (64%)

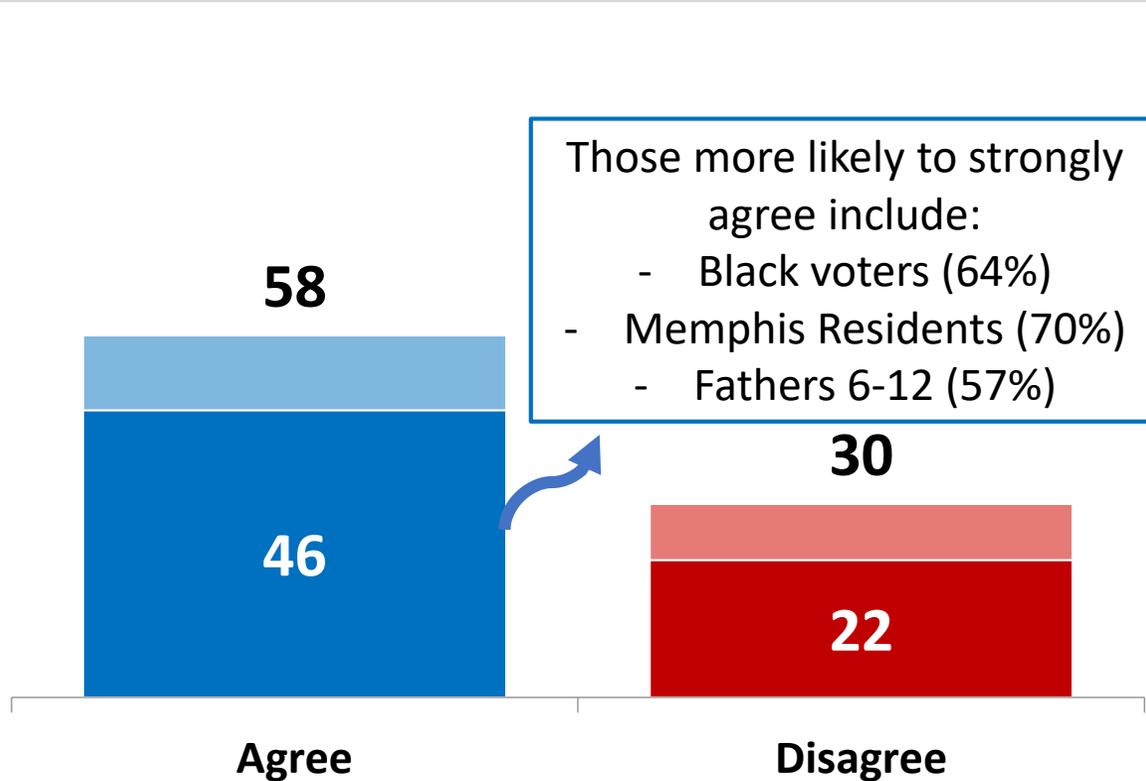
	Favor	Oppose
Men	58	24
Women	62	19
Under 30	76	14
Millennial	72	16
Under 50	71	15
50 +	50	27
White	60	21
Black	61	20
College	73	15
Noncollege	53	24
Mother 6 – 12	69	15
Father 6 – 12	68	21
West	54	21
Central	69	19
East	55	24
Chattanooga	67	12
Knoxville	75	15
Memphis	69	17
Nashville	74	14

■ Not so strongly favor
■ Strongly favor
■ Not so strongly oppose
■ Strongly oppose

Split Sampled Question

When told that Tennessee mandates schools to only teach abstinence-based education, voters tend to agree at similar overall levels and intensity that Tennessee should allow schools to teach comprehensive sex education. But we do see a drop in support among some key groups (younger voters, college educated voters, and mothers of children in grades 6-12) and increased opposition among women.

Current law in Tennessee mandates that schools only teach abstinence-based education. Do you agree or disagree that Tennessee law should allow schools to teach comprehensive sex education instead of abstinence-based education?



Those more likely to strongly agree include:

- Black voters (64%)
- Memphis Residents (70%)
- Fathers 6-12 (57%)

	Agree	Disagree
Men	51	35
Women	63	26
Under 30	61	26
Millennial	65	26
Under 50	64	26
50 +	51	34
White	55	33
Black	72	16
College	62	30
Noncollege	55	31
Mother 6 – 12	61	31
Father 6 – 12	72	26
West	63	23
Central	55	34
East	58	30
Chattanooga	66	25
Knoxville	78	12
Memphis	75	14
Nashville	69	21

■ Not so strongly agree
■ Strongly agree
■ Not so strongly disagree
■ Strongly disagree

Split Sampled Question

Voters show the most support for comprehensive and inclusive sex education. Excluding healthy relationships and communication skills is less supported, while abstinence-only receives the least support. Nearly 8-in-10 voters support a type of sex education that at least covers information on birth control and STDs.

Which kind of sex education would you prefer to be taught in Tennessee schools?

		Parent		Region						
		Mother 6 – 12	Father 6 – 12	West	Central	East	Chattanooga	Knoxville	Memphis	Nashville
Delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and STDs and healthy relationships and communication skills and LGBTQ-specific information	32	34	27	34	30	34	32	37	45	39
Delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and STDs and healthy relationships and communication skills	31	34	31	31	32	31	37	30	24	32
Delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and STDs	15	18	15	16	16	13	13	19	14	15
Only Abstinence	12	11	20	8	13	13	8	5	7	6
(None of these)	6	3	6	8	7	3	5	4	5	6

Across demographics, younger voters and Black voters are most supportive of comprehensive sex education that includes LGBTQ-specific information. Older voters are slightly less likely to support comprehensive sex education but still prefer this over abstinence-only.

Which kind of sex education would you prefer to be taught in Tennessee schools?

	Gender		Age				Race		Education		
	Women	Men	Under 30	Millennial	Under 50	50 +	White	Black	Noncollege	College	
Delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and STDs and healthy relationships and communication skills and LGBTQ-specific information	32	31	34	39	39	37	28	31	38	31	35
Delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and STDs and healthy relationships and communication skills	31	30	33	35	32	34	29	32	34	30	33
Delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and STDs	15	15	14	14	12	14	16	15	13	15	16
Only Abstinence	12	14	10	8	11	10	14	12	11	14	9
(None of these)	6	6	5	4	4	4	7	6	2	6	4

Full text of Sex Education Types

Full text of Sex Education Types

Sex education that covers delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases or STDs and healthy relationships and communication skills and LGBTQ-specific information

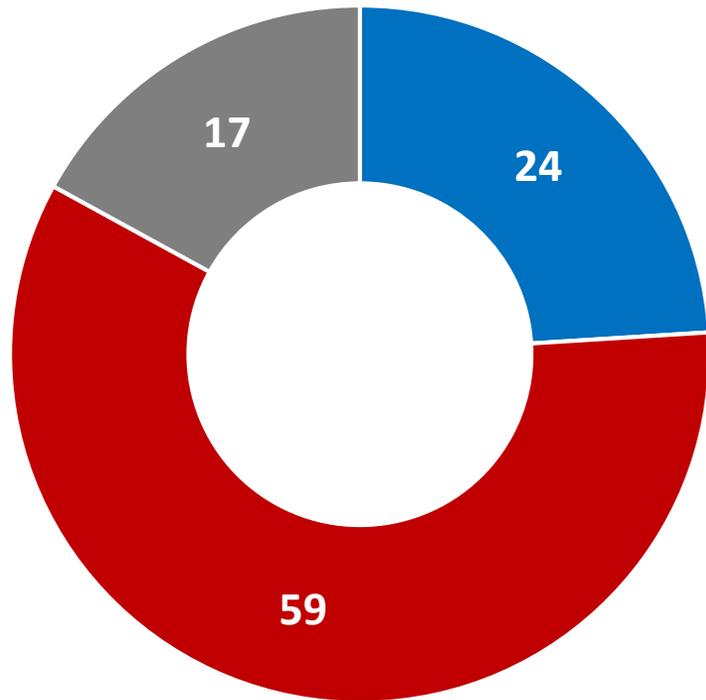
Sex education that covers delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases or STDs and healthy relationships and communication skills

Sex education that covers delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases or STDs

Sex education that covers only abstinence

Six in ten parents say they did not receive an opt-out form for their child to attend sex education last year. Black parents and Millennial parents are most likely to have not received the form. Mothers are more likely than fathers to say they did not receive the form while fathers are more likely not to know.

[ASK OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN GRADES K-12] Did you receive an opt-out form for your child to attend sex education last year or did you not receive such a form?



	Yes	No	Don't Know
Men	19	58	23
Women	28	60	11
Millennial	17	69	14
Under 50	24	59	17
50 +	21	60	18
White	25	58	17
Black	20	74	6
College	21	59	19
Noncollege	26	59	14
Mother 6 – 12	31	56	13
Father 6 – 12	30	46	24
West	17	67	17
Central	26	50	23
East	26	65	10

■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Don't know

Voters who are informed that Tennessee mandates abstinence-based education are less supportive of comprehensive and LGBTQ-inclusive sex education, and slightly more supportive of a limited sex education focused on abstinence. Parents who remember receiving an opt-out form are more likely than parents who don't remember receiving the form to favor abstinence only education or comprehensive sex education without LGBTQ information.

Kind of sex education you prefer to be taught in Tennessee schools	All	Heard fact that TN mandates abstinence-based education		Receive opt-out form for child to attend sex-ed		
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Don't know
Sex education that covers delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases or STDs and healthy relationships and communication skills and LGBTQ-specific information	32	29	36	29	27	34
Sex education that covers delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases or STDs and healthy relationships and communication skills	31	31	32	38	31	42
Sex education that covers delaying sex, including abstinence, and information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases or STDs	15	16	13	10	21	12
Sex education that covers only abstinence	12	15	9	22	13	10
None of these	6	5	6	1	7	2

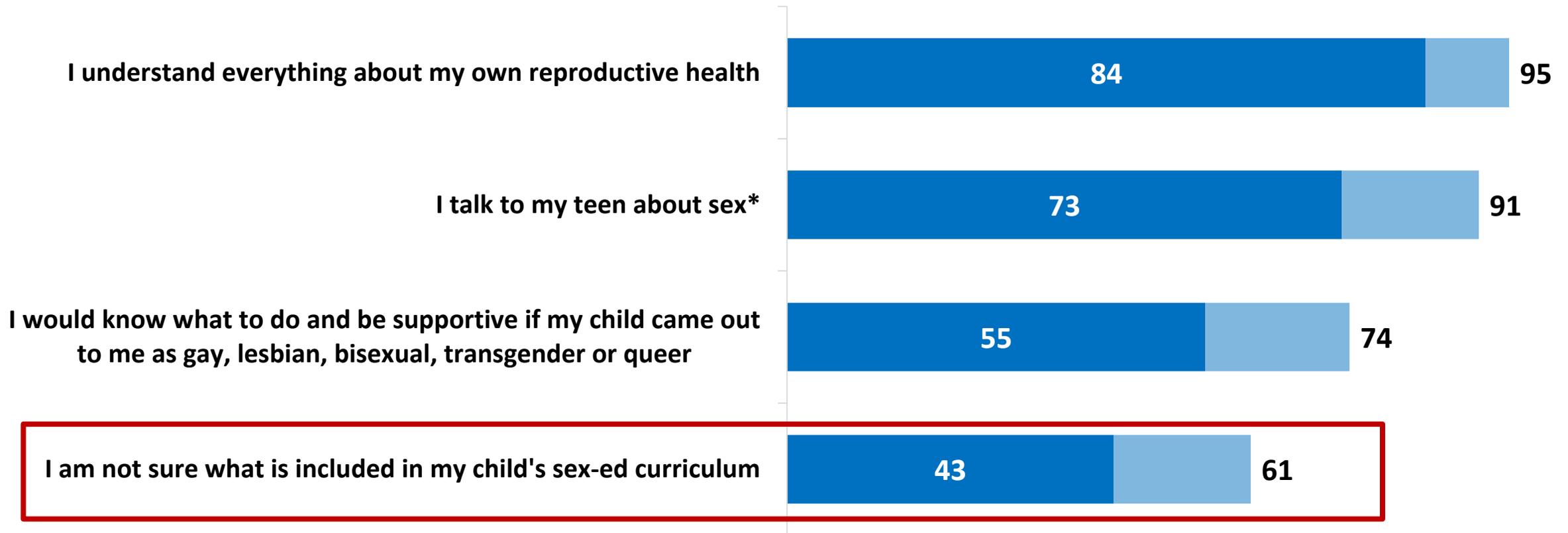


Image: Getty Images. Design/Ashley Britton/SheKnows.

Parenting

Parents overwhelmingly agree that they understand everything about their own reproductive health. Parents of teens strongly agree that they talk to them about sex. These two aspects are core values for Tennessee parents. A strong majority of parents also agree that they would know what to do and be supportive if their child came out as LGBTQ. However, there is an opportunity for education as six out of ten voters agree that they are not sure what is included in their child's sex-ed curriculum.

[ASK PARENTS ONLY] Now I'm going to read you some statements related to parenting. Please tell me if you agree or disagree.



Not so strongly agree

Strongly agree

*Only asked of parents with children ages 13-19.

Older voters and Black voters are more likely to strongly agree that they understand everything about their own reproductive health and that they talk to their teen about sex. Black voters are most likely to strongly agree that they would know what to do and be supportive if their child came out as LGBTQ. Pluralities of voters do agree that they are not sure what is included in their child's sex-ed curriculum, while East residents are most likely to feel they know what is being taught.

[ASK PARENTS ONLY] Now I'm going to read you some statements related to parenting. Please tell me if you agree or disagree.

% Strongly Agree	All	Gender		Age			Race		Edu		Region			Parent	
		M	W	Mill.	<50	50+	White	Black	Col	Non	West	Cen.	East	Mom	Dad
I understand everything about my own reproductive health	84	82	87	84	83	92	85	88	86	82	85	84	85	86	88
I talk to my teen about sex*	73	73	73	67	70	81	70	78	74	72	74	69	77	73	73
I would know what to do and be supportive if my child came out to me as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer	55	53	57	56	55	55	54	63	56	54	59	54	53	58	56
I am not sure what is included in my child's sex-ed curriculum	43	44	43	42	41	54	44	45	47	39	45	48	36	43	43

*Only asked of parents with children ages 13-19.

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