HOW EDUCATED ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS ABOUT SEX EDUCATION?

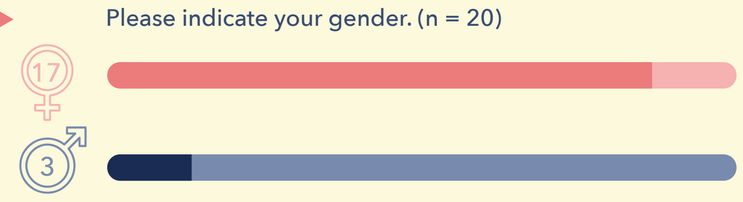
JULISA CORIA / ARS329 DESIGN RESEARCH, FALL 2017 / DESIGN PROGRAM, SUNY NEW PALTZ

Sex Education affects all human beings. This is a topic that branches off to many other specific topics such as gender identity, anatomy, consent, behavior, relationships, etc. Unfortunately, not many people know that it's a topic that can be discussed way before puberty begins. For this reason, Sex Education is avoided during early phases of a person's a life, which could impact the behavior and decisions that a person makes as they grow older.

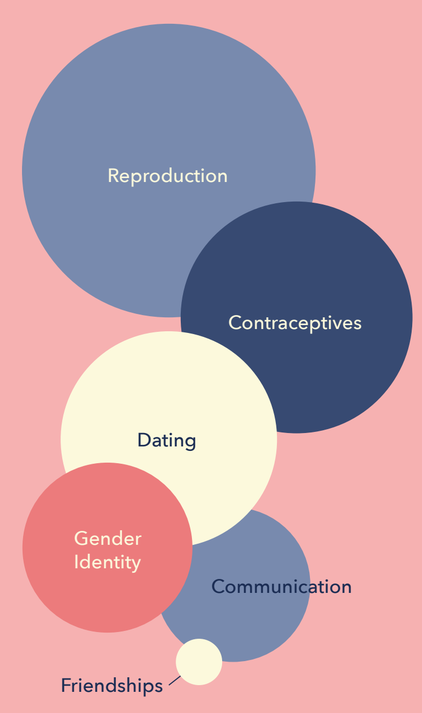
METHOD ONE

I'm interested in knowing how much people are lacking in their knowledge when it comes to the different topics that Sex Ed branches off to. Based on students experiences, their attitudes and knowledge on Sex Ed will reflect based on the answers they provide.

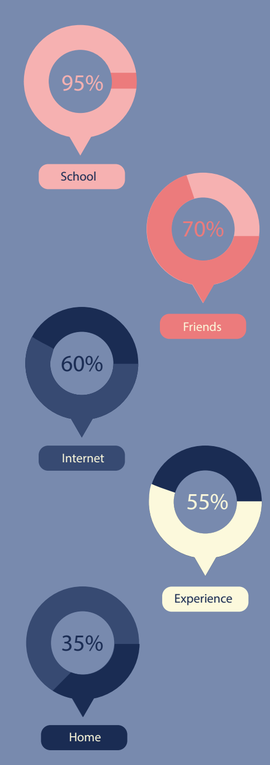
Q1 Please indicate your gender. (n = 20)



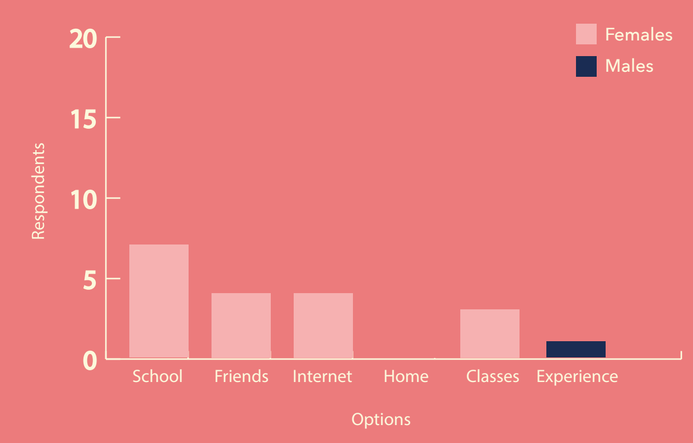
Q2 To your knowledge, what does sex education include? (Check all that apply.)



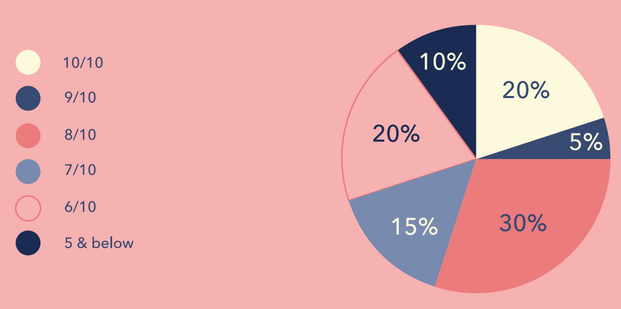
Q3 Where did you learn about sex ed?



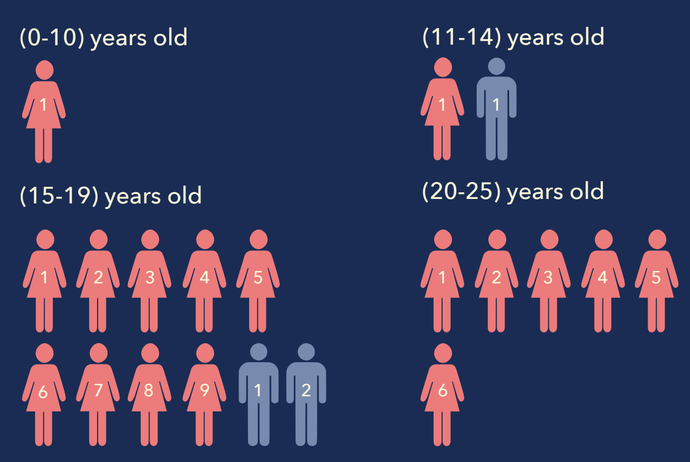
Q4 How did you learn MOST about sex education?



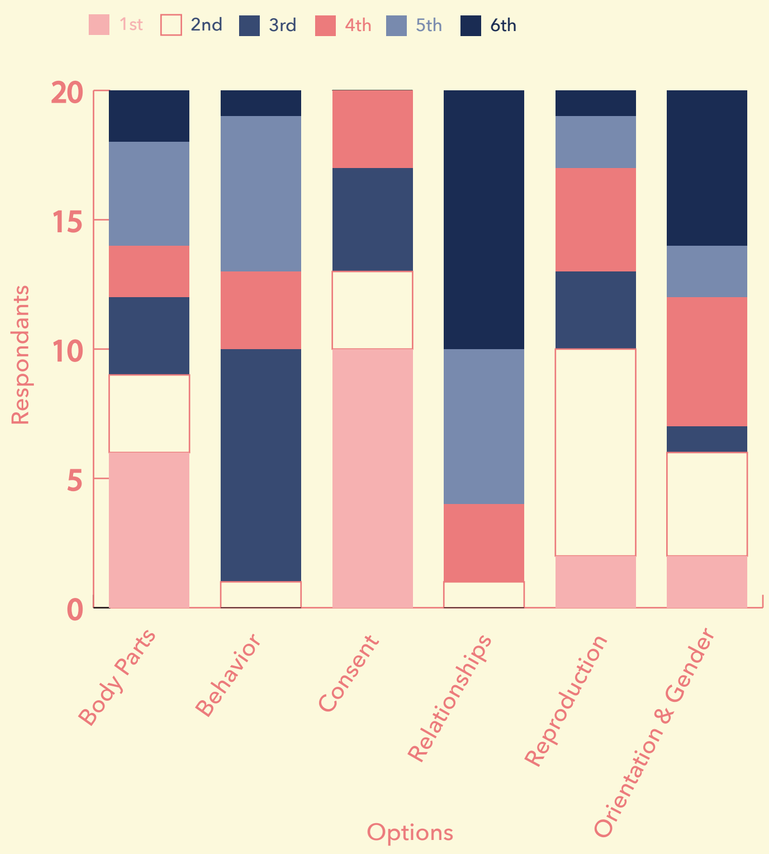
Q7 On a scale of 1-10, how satisfied or dissatisfied do you feel with your knowledge on sex education?



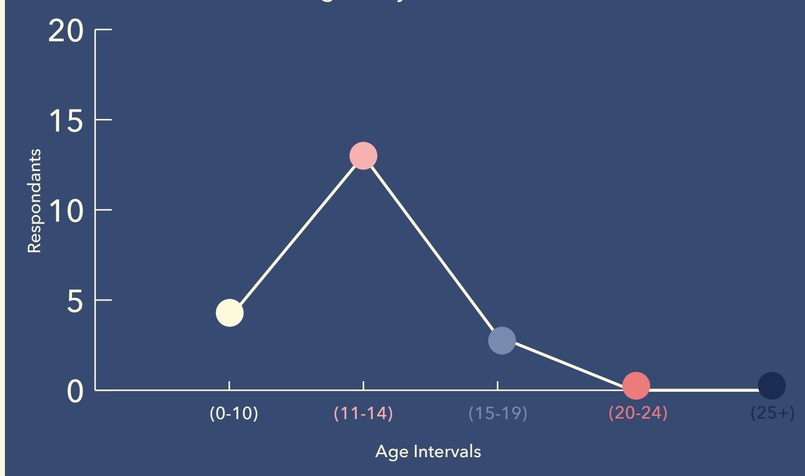
Q6 At what age did you feel satisfied with your knowledge of Sex Ed?



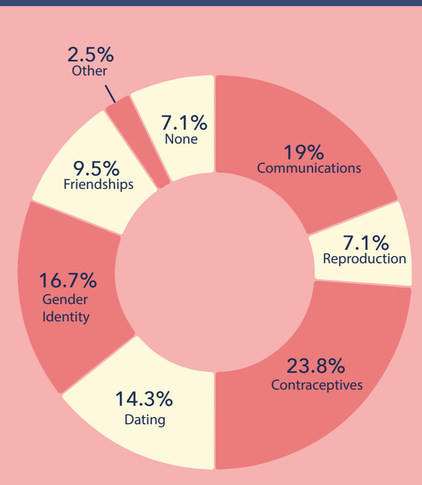
Q8 According to your knowledge on sex ed topics, put these statements in the order in which you believe people should be learning them, (1 being first to learn, and 6 being the last to learn about.)



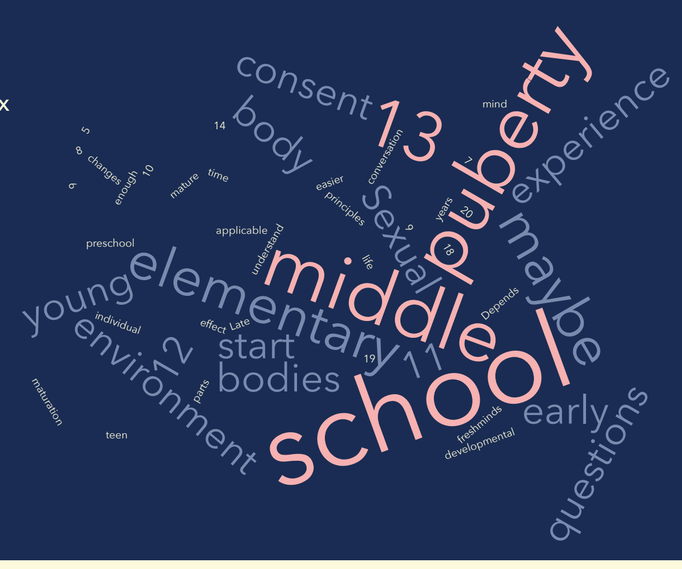
Q5 At what age did you FIRST learn about sex ed?



Q9 Which topics do you wish you knew more about?



Q10 At what age do you think people should FIRST learn about sex education & why?



METHOD TWO

The method I used was to conduct four individual qualitative interviews. During this method, I recorded my discussions with each individual in order to find out about their first sexual experience. After that I transcribed them, so that I could pick out certain phrases or ideas. This allowed me to conduct three separate rankings depending on their stories, which include Comfort, Preparedness, Maturity. My goal with this method was to see how comfortable and prepared each individual felt when it came to what they considered their first sexual experience, as well as how mature they were with their own actions.

Bad
Ok
Good

Individual ONE - Female, 22

Individual TWO - Male, 20

Individual THREE - Female, 19

Individual FOUR - Female, 23

CONCLUSION

My original problem was the fact that I wanted to investigate how educated college students were when it came to Sex Education. My first primary source helped by allowing me to receive specific data count of how much individuals knew about Sex Ed. Despite the confidence in their knowledge, that I was expecting, I knew that by asking some questions that weren't only about opinion, helped to determine who actually knew their material and who didn't. In a way, this was sort of a test to see just how much each person thought they knew as opposed to how much they actually knew. The second method was helpful in revealing three specific elements within each discussion with the four individuals: maturity, comfort, and preparedness. Instead of asking specific questions, the individuals revealed their true knowledge with their first sexual experience. The negative conclusions to most of the stories leads me to believe that Sex Education needs to be implemented more in people's lives. It's never too late to continue learning more, no matter what age.

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This project was conducted as a Student Research Exercise and as such, was not subject to SUNY New Paltz HREB review.