

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
POLICY

Subject: Comprehensive Sex Education  
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POLICY STATEMENT

Research indicates that nearly all teen (or adolescent) pregnancies are unplanned. Research further indicates that teen pregnancy is closely linked to other critical social issues to include poverty, poor overall child well-being and welfare, irresponsible fatherhood, poor health issues, limited education, and other risky behaviors. Consequently, there are significant public costs associated with adolescent childbearing.

Therefore, the SDSMA believes all adolescents should receive age-appropriate, medically accurate, comprehensive sexuality education that includes information on abstinence as well as the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives. Comprehensive sex education should also include information on and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Policy Council, 11/3/2017.