

# TEACH IN 2023

# Sex (Un)Education

Presented by the  
GVSU Women's Commission

# Session Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

Pop Quiz!

Sex Ed Models

Lit Review & Reflection

In The News

Takeaways



# Introductions

## **Facilitator Introductions**

**Kristen Evans**

Generalist, Human Resources

**Emily Frigo (she/her/hers)**

Head of Professional Programs, University Libraries

**Jennifer Jameslyn**

Director, Brooks College Advising

## **Table Introductions**

Share your name, pronouns, major and what made you choose to attend this Teach-In session

# Pop Quiz!



# What is the typical use failure rate for male condoms?

**A**

2%

**B**

8%

**C**

13%

**D**

20%

**Which of these is the most effective (lowest typical use failure rate) form of birth control?**

**A**

**Male condom**

**B**

**Female condom**

**C**

**IUD**

**D**

**Birth Control Pill**

# What does Plan B do?

**A**

**Prevent ovulation**

**B**

**Terminate existing pregnancy**

**C**

**Cause ovulation**

**D**

**Cause your period to start immediately**

# Doctors generally start counting pregnancy from what point?

**A**

The last full moon

**B**

The most recent date the patient had intercourse

**C**

The day the patient started their last menstrual period

**D**

The date the patient expected to get their period but didn't

**True or False: students who participated in abstinence only sex ed were more likely to delay intercourse than students who participated in comprehensive sex ed curriculum.**

**A**

**True**

**B**

**False**

**True or False: students who participated in abstinence only sex ed programs had fewer sexual partners than students who participated in comprehensive sex ed curriculum.**

**A**

**True**

**B**

**False**

# Michigan law requires schools to teach

**A**

**Comprehensive sex education**

**B**

**Contraception methods and their rates of effectiveness**

**C**

**HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention**

**D**

**Sexual orientation and gender identity**

# Michigan law requires schools to teach

**A**

**Abstinence as a positive lifestyle**

**B**

**Verbal consent as a precursor to sexual activity**

**C**

**Disability inclusive sex ed, including contraceptive methods**

**D**

**Trauma informed sex ed**



# All sex education materials are reviewed and approved by

**A**

**Federal government officials**

**B**

**State government officials**

**C**

**High school principal and PE teacher**

**D**

**Local school board and local advisory board including students, parents, educators, clergy, and health professionals**

# Sex Ed Models

# Sex Ed Models

## **Abstinence Only**

- Sexual risk avoidance - teaches abstinence as only option for unmarried people, provides limited (if any) information about contraceptives and STDs

## **Abstinence Plus**

- Sexual risk reduction - emphasizes abstinence but includes information about contraceptives and STDs

## **Comprehensive Sex Education**

- Focus on information, values & decision-making - abstinence as best option to avoid pregnancy and STDs but also includes thorough education about contraceptives and STDs

[https://www.uua.org/files/documents/advocatesyouth/sexed\\_definitions.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/documents/advocatesyouth/sexed_definitions.pdf)

<https://www.advocatesforyouth.org/resources/fact-sheets/sex-education-programs-definitions-and-point-by-point-comparison/>

# Michigan Standards

- Michigan schools are **not required** to teach sex education. However, HIV/AIDS education is required.
- Curriculum is not required to be comprehensive.
- Curriculum must stress abstinence as a positive lifestyle.
- Curriculum is not required to include instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Curriculum is not required to include instruction on consent. However, curriculum must include instruction on refusal skills.
- Parents or guardians must receive written notice of any sex education class and can remove their children from any part of the instruction. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.
- HIV/AIDS education must be medically accurate. If a school chooses to teach sex education, curriculum cannot be medically inaccurate.

# Your Experience

**Did your K-12 sex ed curriculum include information about...**

- Pregnancy Prevention?
- Sexually Transmitted Infections?
- Reproductive Anatomy?
- Healthy Relationships?
- Consent?
- Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation?
- Childbirth, Adoptions & Abortion?
- Human Trafficking?
- Youth Rights & Community Resources?

SEX ED TO-GO FOR PROFESSIONALS  
by Planned Parenthood

# Right? Here in Allendale

*"The city of Allendale received pushback in 2019 after parents advocated for sex education curriculum to be science-based and inclusive of topics related to sexual orientation and gender identity. After intense debate largely dominated by community members opposed to updating the curriculum, the school district removed all mention of sexual orientation and gender identity from course materials regardless of the subject."*



The screenshot shows the top portion of an NPR article. At the top left is the NPR logo and 'WGVU Public Media'. At the top right is a red 'DONATE' button. Below the navigation is the section title 'Let's Talk About Sex'. The main article title is 'When The Conversation Doesn't Include You: LGBTQ+ Sex Ed In A Small Town'. Below the title is the date 'April 1, 2019 · 5:48 PM ET' and the text 'Heard on All Things Considered'. There are two author boxes: 'ALYSSA EDES' with a Twitter icon and 'AILSAS CHANG' with a Twitter icon. At the bottom is a blue '12-Minute Listen' button with a play icon and a menu icon.

[https://siecus.org/state\\_profile/michigan-state-profile/](https://siecus.org/state_profile/michigan-state-profile/)  
<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/01/706944327/when-the-conversation-doesnt-include-you-lgbtq-sex-ed-in-a-small-town/>  
<https://revuewm.com/cannabis/news/item/4365-teach-the-children-well-comprehensive-sex-education-advocates-face-uphill-climb-to-change-west-michigan-culture>



# Comprehensive Sex Ed

Comprehensive sex education refers to K-12 programs that cover a broad range of topics related to:

- Human development, including puberty, anatomy, sexual orientation, and gender identity
- Relationships, including self, family, friendships, romantic relationships, and health care providers
- Personal skills, including communication, boundary setting, negotiation, and decision-making
- Sexual behavior, including the full spectrum of ways people choose to be, or not be, sexual beings
- Sexual health, including sexually transmitted infections, birth control, pregnancy, and abortion
- Society and culture, including media literacy, shame and stigma, and how power, identity, and oppression impact sexual wellness and reproductive freedom

# International Models

## Sweden

- Required with little to no opposition since 1955
- Includes facts about anatomy, sexual orientation, STIs, abortion and contraceptives as well as discussion about attitudes, norms, and values about love, sex, and relationships



## Netherlands

- Sexuality education including information about health, tolerance, and assertiveness required starting at age 4



<https://www.rfsu.se/om-rfsu/om-oss/in-english/national-work/sexuality-education/about-swedish-sexuality-education/>

<https://www.studyinternational.com/news/sex-education>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2018/08/the-benefits-of-starting-sex-ed-at-age-4/568225/>

<https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/03/comprehensive-sexuality-education/>



# Knowledge As Power

Books

THEN & NOW

# WOMEN and THEIR BODIES

a course



Published 1970

Cost 75 cents

Boston Women's  
Health Collective

<https://www.ourbodiesourselves.org/about-us/our-history/>

“

"The purpose of this paper is then to help use learn more about our anatomy and physiology, to begin to conquer the ignorance ... when we felt we didn't know what's happening to us. **The information is a weapon without which we cannot begin the collective struggle for control over our own bodies and lives.**"

Boston Women's Health Collective as cited in Wells, S. P. D. (2010). *Our Bodies, Ourselves and the Work of Writing*. Stanford University Press.



“

**"It was the first time, for many of these women, to learn about their bodies, their desires, their choices, without a gatekeeper withholding information or framing possibilities or judging; to understand the possibilities of the body, and to make choices about what is best for that body. For a woman? In that time and place? Revolutionary."**

“Our Bodies, Ourselves: Agency, Autonomy, and Embodiment.” (2022, July 6). The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, University of Mississippi.

<https://sarahisomcenter.org/isom-news/2022/7/6/our-bodies-ourselves-agency-autonomy-and-embodiment>

A RESOURCE BY AND FOR TRANSGENDER COMMUNITIES



# TRANS BODIES, TRANS SELVES

EDITED BY LAURA ERICKSON-SCHROTH

FOREWORD BY KAI CHENG THOM

SECOND EDITION

First published in 2014

2nd edition 2022

Written by and for  
transgender and gender  
nonconforming people

<http://transbodies.com/>

# Book Titles: what is in a name?

- **Human Reproductive Biology**
- **New Joy of Sex**
- **Girl Sex 101**
- **Let's Talk about S-E-X**
- **Angry Birds, Killer Bees**
- **Our Bodies, Ourselves**
- **Trans Bodies, Trans Selves**



can understand, plus pictures they will enjoy." — ANN LANDERS

CHANGING BODIES, GROWING UP.

SEX & SEXUAL HEALTH

NOTABLE

# It's Perfectly Normal



ROBIE H. HARRIS illustrated by MICHAEL EMBERLEY

First published in 1994

Most recent edition  
2021

10 years older and up

Accurate information,  
drawings

# THE TRAVELS OF THE EGG: *Menstruation*



At puberty the brain tells the ovaries to produce oestrogen, which tells the eggs to mature.



And then, about once a month, an egg leaves an ovary and pops into a Fallopian tube.





“

**"How can we not write about those very experiences that have meaning for our children? How can we not write honestly? How can we hold back writing about powerful feelings, or not include certain information children crave and have the right to know, simply because we are afraid? If we do that, children will sense that we are not being honest and they will not read or listen to the books we write. But if we are honest, our books may be banned."**

<https://pen.org/robie-harris-on-the-banning-of-her-books/>

# Reflection Roundtables

You have until 3:30pm to rotate through three reflection exercises in your own time

## Literature Review

Browse the books,  
taking care to notice:

- Book title
- Cover art
- Table of Contents
- Year Published

## Reflection Notes

Use the sticky notes  
to respond to the  
prompts:

- What you learned  
in K-12 sex ed
- What you didn't  
learn
- What you had to  
un-learn

## Resource Review

Click QR code or visit  
[www.gvsu.edu/wcommission](http://www.gvsu.edu/wcommission)  
and select  
"Events" to review  
resources and  
curriculum examples



# Individual Reflection

In The News

JANUARY 1 – AUGUST 31, 2023

# 3,923

**TOTAL TITLES**  
TARGETED FOR CENSORSHIP



OFFICE FOR  
*Intellectual Freedom*  
American Library Association

# WHERE

**CENSORSHIP OCCURRED**  
JANUARY 1 – AUGUST 31, 2023



**220**  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS



**208**  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARIES



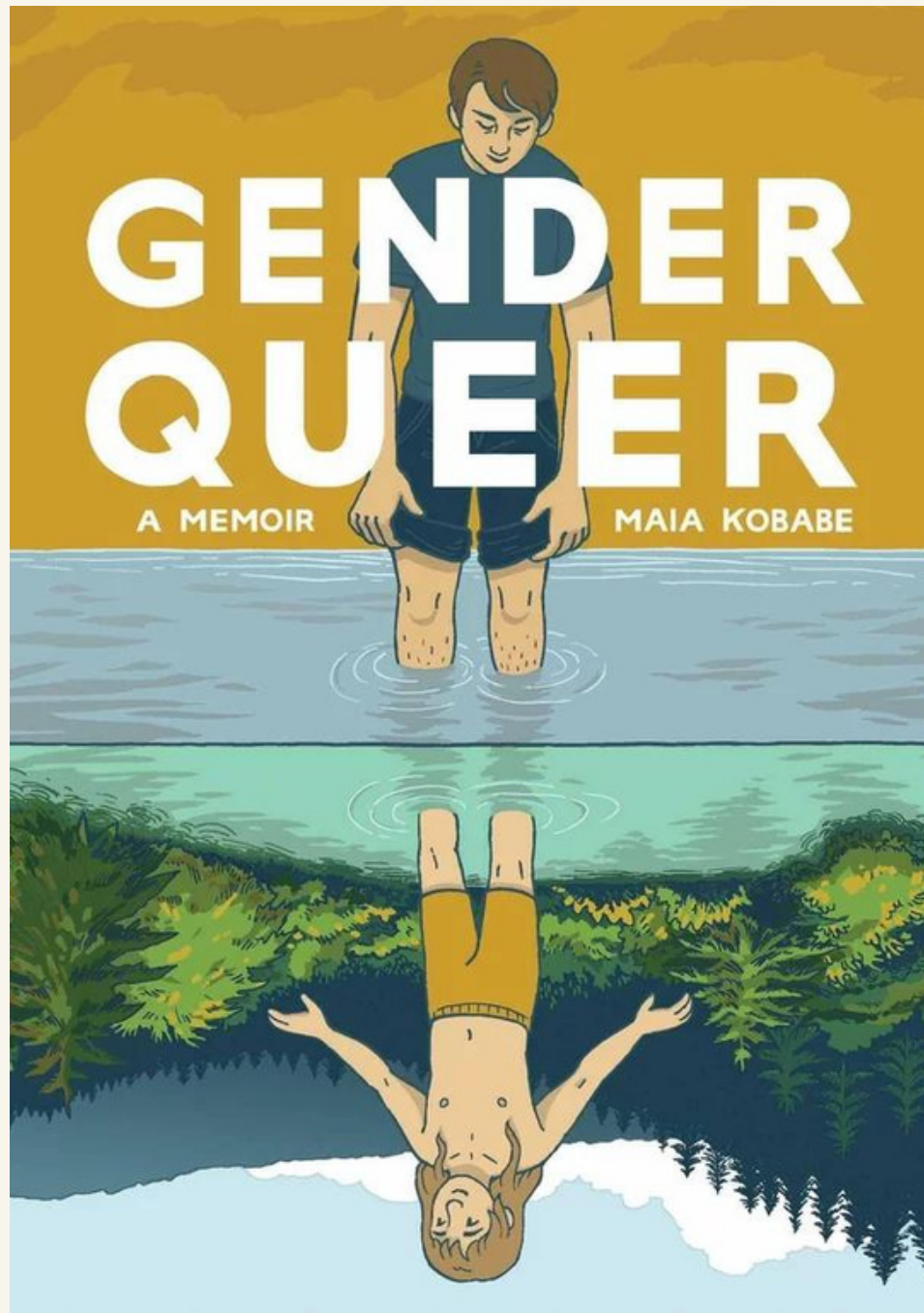
OFFICE FOR  
*Intellectual Freedom*  
American Library Association

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/book-ban-data>

# Book Bans



# Banned Books



Large majorities of voters (71%) oppose efforts to have books removed from their local public libraries, including a majority of Democrats (75%), independents (58%), and Republicans (70%).

# August 2022

## Book banning or protecting children? LGBTQ books at West Michigan library draw differing views

Published: Aug. 09, 2022, 2:37 p.m.



A large group of residents spoke in favor and against the Patmos Library keeping LGBTQ materials on its shelves during the library board's meeting on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022. During an hour-and-a-half public comment period, residents shared their reasons on why the library should or shouldn't remove the books. (Bradley Massman | MLive)

# November 2023

## Twice-defunded West Michigan library will stay open thanks to voters

Updated: Nov. 08, 2023, 12:39 a.m. | Published: Nov. 07, 2023, 11:26 p.m.



After shooting down two previous attempts, voters have approved a three-year property tax that will keep Patmos Library open. Neil Blake/MLive.com

# Book Bans



# November 2022

POLITICS & ELECTIONS

## Proposal 3 passes, etching abortion rights into Michigan Constitution

Updated: Nov. 10, 2022, 10:36 a.m. | Published: Nov. 09, 2022, 5:37 a.m.



# November 2023

## One year after Michigan approves abortion access, Right to Life sues to overturn it

Updated: Nov. 08, 2023, 4:51 p.m. | Published: Nov. 08, 2023, 1:59 p.m.



# Prop 3



## Top stories

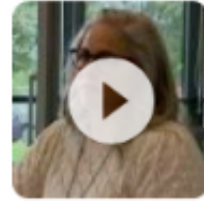
News about Ottawa County



WOODTV.com

Report: Ottawa County health officer will get \$4 million to resign

5 hours ago



The Holland Sentinel

Instead of firing her, Ottawa Impact plans to give Hambley millions to resign

6 hours ago

FOX 17

Ottawa County looks to spend \$4M to end health officer's case against the...

2 hours ago



MLive.com

Instead of firing her, Ottawa County commissioners move to settle lawsuit with...

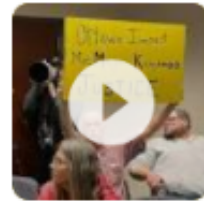
2 days ago



WZZM13.com

Ottawa County commissioners delay termination vote for health...

1 day ago



More news →

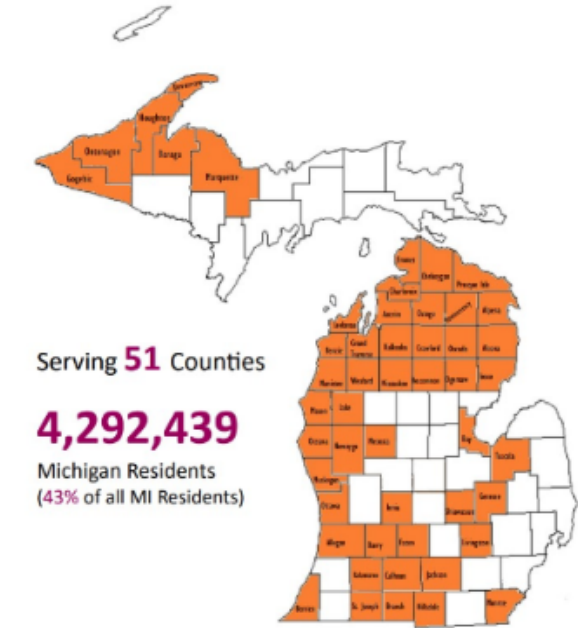
## Wear One – Free Condom Pick-up Locations

The Wear One program offers free condoms to anyone between the ages of 18 and 24. For more information or to receive condoms by mail, complete the order form [here](#) or visit any of the locations below.



Condoms By Mail Order Form »

## Wear One Counties



WOC counties #map 01 02202022 PH

# Public Health

# SEX ED WEEK at GVSU

## Kinky karaoke, sex toy talk prompt GOP outrage at GVSU sex ed week

Updated: Feb. 09, 2023, 10:54 p.m. | Published: Feb. 09, 2023, 9:51 p.m.



Grand Valley State University students head to class in Allendale, MI.

☰ SUBSCRIBE

# THE MIDWESTERNER

HOME ORIGINALS

ORIGINALS

## 'Kinky Karaoke & Condom Cupcakes': Conservative Michigan county sponsors university's raunchy 'Sex Ed Week'

'Use the terms "people with penises" or "vulva-owners" instead of saying men and women'

BY KYLE OLSON  
FEBRUARY 8, 2023

# On Campus





DEEP READS

# A sex educator in Michigan refused to be shamed. Then came the backlash.

Heather Alberda found her calling by speaking bluntly about sex in her conservative county. Her career was no match for the nation's culture wars.

# The Washington Post

# Takeaways & Next Steps

1. Vote

2. Thank the Health Department



Thank you  
for joining  
us today.

**Please complete the  
session evaluation**