

Reported Coverage of Gender-Based Violence Prevention Concepts in Sexual Health Education in Secondary School: A National Survey of University Students in Canada

Jessica Wood¹, Sandra Byers², Alexander McKay¹, Jocelyn Wentland¹,
& Raven Mann¹

Sex Information & Education Council of Canada (SIECCAN)
University of New Brunswick

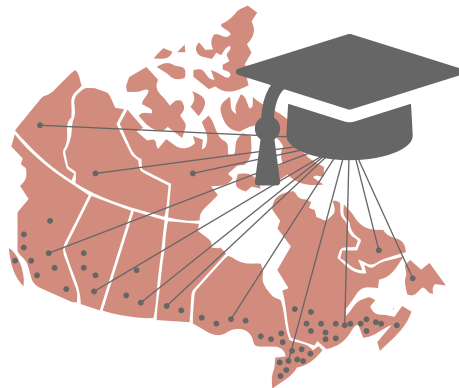
The Current Study

Determine perceived coverage of relevant gender-based violence (GBV) prevention topics

Examine differences in coverage based on region, gender, & sexual orientation

GBV concepts vs. traditional sexual health education topics

1511
university
students



16
GBV
Prevention
Topics



Results

All GBV prevention topics rated as “covered poorly”

(Mean range 2.02 – 2.96)

Example Topics	Full Sample Mean (SD)
Communicating about sexual consent	2.96 (1.29)
Sexual and reproductive rights	2.45 (1.33)
Bystander intervention skills	2.18 (1.27)
Power dynamics in sexual & romantic relationships	2.11 (1.26)
Sexual Pleasure	2.08 (1.20)

Results



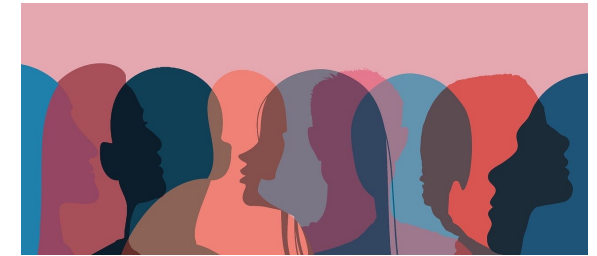
Ontario > Quebec &
Atlantic Provinces

$F = 8.05, p > .001$



LGBQ+ students <
Heterosexual
students

$t = -5.80, p < .001$



Transgender/Nonbinary
Students, Cisgender
Women < Cisgender
Men

$F = 80.50, p > .001$

Significantly higher coverage of STI prevention, safer sex, & birth control
(Mean range 3.31 - 3.59)

Conclusions

- Significant conceptual gaps in sexual health education
- Gaps may be more pronounced for youth at greater risk of experiencing GBV
- Implications for curricula and program development



@SIECCAN

jessicawood@sieccan.org

sieccan

www.sieccan.org



Funding support provided by Trojan. The funders had no role in the design of the study, data collection, analysis, or interpretation of results.

Conclusions

- Significant conceptual gaps in sexual health education
- Gaps may be more pronounced for youth at greater risk of experiencing GBV
- Implications for curricula and program development



@SIECCAN

jessicawood@sieccan.org

sieccan

www.sieccan.org



Funding support provided by Trojan. The funders had no role in the design of the study, data collection, analysis, or interpretation of results.