



# Consent in Sex Education



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## BACKGROUND

- Lack of consent education can make it hard to effectively communicate during sexual activities and can lead to preventable harm.
- We were interested in studying how MSU students learn about consent, and how that influences their use of consent in their sexual experiences.
- According to RAINN, on college campuses over 13% of all students experience some form of sexual violence. This number increases for male students to 26.4%.
- It is shown that sexual violence risk factors are negatively associated with endorsement of active consent and positively correlated with endorsement of passive consent (Zhou, 2024).

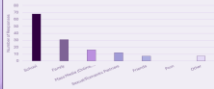
## CONCLUSION

- 80.6% of respondents say they received formal sexual education, 49% said they received comprehensive and inclusive sexual education.
- 79.9% of respondents say that campus hookup culture has an influence on the general public's understanding of consent.
- This study could benefit from a larger, more diverse sample size. 74.6% of all respondents were college age girls/enrolled in social science courses at MSU.
- Given that the majority of our participants learned about consent in school, it would be important for consent education to start younger through formal sex education in schools.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Current studies agree that consent education should be a priority in sex education (MacDougall, et al., 2020). Students have access to various sex and consent education through social media, conventional media, porn, and YouTube content (Garwood Cross, L., et al., 2025). Online sources mitigate the issues due to gendered bias which is often present in sex education curriculum (Javid, H., et al., 2020).

How Did You Learn About Consent?



Was Consent Talked About During Your Sexual Education?



Do You Talk About Consent Before Engaging in Sexual Activities With Others?



## RESULTS

- Michigan State University (MSU) students sampled primarily learned about consent through sexual education (77%) in school (n=68 participants)
- While 74.38% of participants talk about consent before engaging in sexual activities, slightly more than 1 in 4 (25.32%) MSU students in our sample reported not talking about or not knowing if consent was talked about beforehand, which can reduce sexual violence harm.

## OBJECTIVE

How do MSU students learn about consent, and does that influence their use of consent in their sexual experiences?

## METHOD

- Analyzed n=105 journal style qualitative data set collected in sociology classes from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024, collected in Dr. Prior's Lab
- Data was processed and coded per participant experiences learning about sex and consent education
- A sex education and sexual culture survey was created in collaboration with Dr. Prior's Campus Sexual Culture Lab.
- Thematically coded and peer response answer from n=299 responses were coded to create quantitative and qualitative data sets
- Questions focused on consent education as well as how it shapes participants' sexual experiences

"Consent means active and willing participation by both parties, completely free of mind-altering substance or coercion"

"Consent is agreeing to do something that can be revoked at any moment and should be respected by all parties present."



These quotes were taken from Fall 2023 SOC 216 & 316

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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