

TABLE 2. Percentage distribution of U.S. public secondary school sex education teachers, by their presentation of abstinence and the effectiveness of methods for preventing pregnancy and STDs, according to region, 1999

Presentation of topics	Total (N=1,657)	Northeast (N=305)	South (N=510)	Midwest (N=560)	West (N=282)
Abstinence					
The only option	23.4	16.8	29.7***	22.4	21.1
One option/the best option	71.8	78.1	64.9***	72.6	75.9
Not taught	4.8	5.1	5.4	5.0	3.1
Method effectiveness†					
Effective	60.3	72.2	55.3***	54.9***	64.4
Ineffective	27.5	17.1	29.1***	32.3***	26.8**
Not taught	12.2	10.7	15.6*	12.8	8.8
Method effectiveness and abstinence‡					
Methods effective, abstinence best	51.2	62.1	45.5***	47.4***	57.2
Methods effective, abstinence only	9.1	10.4	10.2	8.1	7.4
Methods ineffective, abstinence best	25.5	21.3	25.0	30.2**	21.9
Methods ineffective, abstinence only	14.2	6.2	19.4***	14.3***	13.5**
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Differs significantly from proportion in the Northeast at $p < .05$. **Differs significantly from proportion in the Northeast at $p < .01$. ***Differs significantly from proportion in the Northeast at $p < .001$. †“Effective” includes instructors who taught that use of birth control can be an effective means of preventing pregnancy, condom use can be an effective means of preventing STDs or both. The category does not include teachers emphasizing that birth control or condoms are ineffective. “Ineffective” includes instructors emphasizing the ineffectiveness of birth control methods for pregnancy prevention, the ineffectiveness of condoms for STD prevention or both. ‡Instructors not teaching about abstinence were included with “abstinence best”; those not teaching about pregnancy prevention methods and STD prevention methods were included with “methods ineffective.”
 Notes: Ns are unweighted. For a list of states by region, see note to Table 1.