

80%

of WA women who experienced sexual assault were attacked before they turned

18



# WHY WASHINGTON GIRLS NEED A COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION BILL

*The Justice for Girls Coalition of WA State Supports HB 2184/SB 5395*

Washington state is **failing** to meet its Healthy People 2020 objectives. By **requiring** comprehensive sexual health education through HB 2184/SB 5395, Washington state can ensure schools **consistently** play a role in improving health, safety and economic opportunity for WA state girls.

## COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE BEST ANTIDOTES FOR ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

Right now, 80% of Washington women who have experienced sexual assault were attacked before they turned 18 years old, while almost 18% of 10th graders in this state reported that they had been made to engage in unwanted kissing, sexual touch or intercourse. Education about sex, consent and healthy relationships can protect girls from violence, allowing girls to be knowledgeable and proactive when making decisions about their bodies, including understanding bodily autonomy as an important part of abuse prevention.

### WHY FOCUS ON GIRLS?

Not only are girls more at risk for sexually based violence, they are the ones who bear the burden of unintended pregnancies. Teenage mothers are less likely to finish high school and are more likely than their peers to live in poverty, depend on public assistance, and be in poor health. Their children are more likely to suffer health and cognitive disadvantages, come in contact with the child welfare and correctional systems, live in poverty, drop out of high school and become teen parents themselves.

### WASHINGTON STATE MUST ENSURE ALL GIRLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS GET THE SKILLS AND INFORMATION THEY NEED TO THRIVE.

Nearly 1 in 11 female teens



Nearly 1 in 15 male teens



reported experiencing physical dating violence in the last year.



*Justice for Girls*  
COALITION OF WASHINGTON STATE

For more information, visit [jfgcoalition.org/public-policy](http://jfgcoalition.org/public-policy)

Sources: Goesling B et al., Programs to reduce teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and associated sexual risk behaviors: a systematic review, Journal of Adolescent Health, 2014, 54(5):499-507, doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2013.12.004; Grossman, Jennifer B., et al, Protective Effects of Middle School Comprehensive Sex Education With Family Involvement, Journal of School Health, November 2014, Vol. 84, No. 11; Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, citing (1) Washington State Healthy Youth Survey; Question 129 from the Washington State Department of Health (2016) and (2) Sexual Assault Experiences and Perceptions of Community Response to Sexual Assault: A Study of Washington State Women, 2001 from the Office of Crimes Victims Advocacy (2001); Susan M. Igras, Marjorie Macielra, Elaine Murphy & Rebecka Lundgren (2014) Investing in very young adolescents' sexual and reproductive health, Global Public Health: An International Journal for Research, Policy and Practice, 9:5, 555-569; "Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior," issued by former Surgeon General David Satcher in June 2001; Chin HB et al., The effectiveness of group-based comprehensive risk-reduction and abstinence education interventions to prevent or reduce the risk of adolescent pregnancy, human immunodeficiency virus, and sexually transmitted infections, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2012, 42(3):272-294, doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2011.11.006; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Emerging Evidence, Lessons and Practice in Comprehensive Sexuality Education: A Global Review, Paris: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2015, <http://www.unfpa.org/publications/emerging-evidence-lessons-and-practice-comprehensive-sexuality-education-global-review>.