SEX EDUCATION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IS INFLUENCED BY CULTURE, RELIGION, ETHNICITY AND MORALITY. AND IS IDEALLY GIVEN THROUGH MULTIPLE SOURCES TO ACHIEVE THE EVIDENCE-BASED COMPREHENSIVE MODEL, INCLUDING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, SCHOOL-BASED EDUCATORS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, FAMILIES, AND MENTORS.

Between 2006-2010 and 2011-2013, there was a significant reduction in adolescents’ receipt of formal sexuality education. While it is speculated that adolescents’ may have turned to the internet for reproductive health information, it is unknown which sources they used and trusted the most that led to this decline in teen pregnancy and birth rate.

Cultural differences may also create differences in where and how teens seek out information, as children of immigrants report feeling fear of judgment and stigma surrounding sex. (2)

If the trustworthiness of parent advise were to be evaluated, it could help guide the future direction of evidence-based sex education and programming.

The study consists of two parts:

1) A survey of teens (ages 12-19) using 4-point Likert scale measuring trust in different sources for sexual health. (Parents born in US) (Parents born outside US)

2) A semi-structured interview where teens are asked about where they seek out sexual health information and why they might use those sources over others. Both arms of the study compare information-seeking behavior between those with and without parents born outside of the United States. A mixed methods analysis will be used to integrate data types.