Executive Summary

3 Years of Evaluating WISE in Georgia

The Working to Institutionalize Sex Education or WISE program is a national initiative that supports schools in implementing quality comprehensive sex education. As the Georgia implementation partner, GCAPP is responsible for the implementation, evaluation, and management of WISE in collaboration with partner school systems. Each year an external program evaluation is conducted to assess the implementation and outcomes of the program. The general findings and conclusions from the past 3 years of program evaluations are summarized below. Full copies of these most recent program evaluations are available upon request. A supplemental comparative impact analysis accompanies this summary as an attachment.

The numbers of trained teachers and impacted students continues to grow each year as new school systems join WISE. Just in the 2021-2022 school year, GCAPP successfully trained over 749 teachers reaching over 108,403 students with comprehensive sex education (CSE). Data across each year of implementation indicate that through WISE, teachers gain valuable knowledge and skills to successfully implement CSE. Student pre/post survey results indicate WISE has increased knowledge about abstinence, anatomy, STDs, HIV, effective communication and healthy relationships and improvements in attitudes, intentions, and motivation to negotiate sexual behavior and take preventive action. The changes in knowledge, attitudes, and intention are represented in the following three charts.

Figure 1.

High School students' knowledge about abstinence, anatomy, pregnancy, puberty, HIV and STIs significantly increased after receiving Comprehensive Sex Education in 2022 (by more than 20%).

[Bar charts showing increase in knowledge from 2020 to 2022]

WHAT ARE SCHOOL & DISTRICT STAFF SAYING?

The following points were drawn from focus group and interview results in recent years.

High school teachers and counselors in Bulloch County shared that their students really appreciated the lessons on birth control, condoms and STDs and were engaged in the content.

“I’m so grateful that GA and DeKalb County believe that not talking about something doesn’t make it not exist.”
– Educator 2022

“It’s been a great working experience. GCAPP is very accessible, and they want to be helpful and want to work with you. It’s not like you have to go hunt them down.”
– District Coordinator 2021
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Figure 2.
High School students’ intention to “avoid getting pregnant or getting someone pregnant” increased each year after receiving Comprehensive Sex Education.

Figure 3.
High School students’ intention to “avoid getting or spreading an STD” increased in 2020 and 2022 after receiving Comprehensive Sex Education.

Summary of Findings: Three years’ worth of WISE data suggests that high school students who participated in implementation sites have increased knowledge about sexual and reproductive health including on abstinence, anatomy, STDs, HIV and improvements in attitudes, intentions, and motivation to prevent risky sexual behavior.

1 Surveys assessed knowledge using a variety of questions about abstinence, anatomy, pregnancy, puberty, HIV and STI’s. Questions varied by district, grade level and content. To determine changes in knowledge, the percentage of questions answered correctly was calculated and compared. The figures present the total knowledge scores before and after implementation for all students for whom we have pre-post data.