



## Jackson County Department of Public Health

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May is “National Sex Ed for All” month and Jackson County is at the forefront of inclusive and accurate sexual health education, through the grant-funded Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program. Health Educators at the local Jackson County Department of Public Health have been serving county youth for over twenty years with the most up-to-date Sexual Health Education available.

These educators work with high school students in a comprehensive manner teaching the same evidence-based curriculum to everyone. Their focus is on helping students understand thoroughly: effective communication skills and setting boundaries; bodily changes through puberty and reproductive anatomy; how to prevent unplanned pregnancy and transmission of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI/STD) with a focus on abstinence as the most effective method to prevent both; all possible consequences of sexual behavior; giving and receiving sexual consent; the costs of raising a child; and all applicable related laws. The vast majority of Republicans and Democrats agree that sex education covering a wide range of topics should be part of the school curriculum. Sexual health education has been proven to positively impact young people’s lives and their lifelong health.

The Jackson County Department of Public Health’s Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program assists youth in developing positive, informed, and successful skills in order to healthily navigate sexual health throughout their lifespan. If you would like to have a voice in the process, JCDPH is looking for members to serve on a quarterly-meeting Community Advisory Council, especially parents who gave birth as teens, and anyone currently in their teens. Financial incentives can be provided for participating. For that purpose, or if you have any questions for your county Health Educators about anything related to the programs being taught, please contact Curtis Collins at 828-587-8252 and/or [curtiscollins@jacksonnc.org](mailto:curtiscollins@jacksonnc.org).

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