



SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS: WHAT TEENAGERS REALLY KNOW?

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Introduction

In the current framework of guidance considers the obligation to address sexual education in schools in Portugal (Law No. 60/2009 of 6 August, Order No. 196-A / 2010 of 9 April).

Objectives: To identify students knowledge in relation to new legislation and basics of sex education.

Materials and Methods

Cross-sectional study with a sample with 530 students from secondary schools of a northern region of Portugal.

The assessment protocol includes sociodemographic questionnaire (Correia, 2004) and it was applied from October to December of 2011.

Data analysis was performed using SPSS.

The informed consent was obtain from schools.

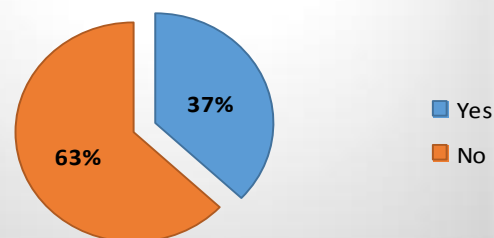
References

Down the framework for implementation of sex education in schools, Diário da República 1st series — N.º 69 — 9 of april, 2010.

Correia, Teresa I.G. Reproductive health - family planning knowledge and sexual behavior of Portuguese adolescents. [Thesis]. Port: University of Porto, Faculty of Medicine, 2004.

Results

Knowledge of the law on sex education



About 30% of students in this sample doesn't identify basic concepts of sexual and reproductive health and family planning neither sexually transmitted infections.

Variable	Female N(%)	Male N(%)	p
Knowledge of the law on sex education	124(41.3)	74(32.2)	0.037
knowledge about contraception	236(78.7)	128(55.7)	0.000

Conclusions

The weak information of adolescents knowledge about sex education and gender differences still seem to persist in spite of the existence of sex education in schools from Portugal.

Maybe sex education should be a subject in a curriculum from a school, being responsible for this subject a teacher that must be specialized in the area of sexuality.