

Sexuality Education in the WHO European Region

SPAIN

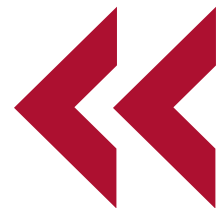


SPAIN



Status of sexuality education

The legal basis for sexuality education in Spain is weak, but in practice it is firmly fixed in the curricula of many schools. Initiatives to integrate sexuality education into school curricula depend on local authorities and schools. Non-governmental organisations play an important role in delivering sexuality education in schools.





Laws and policies

No law in Spain requires schools to deliver sexuality education. In 2010, the Ministry of Health issued Organic Law No. 2/2010 on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Abortion.¹ In the development of this law, sexuality education appeared only as a recommendation, and no reference was made to its approach and content. The latest education law (Ley Orgánica No. 8/2013)² makes no reference to sexuality education.

Implementation of sexuality education

The actual content of sexuality education varies widely, depending on the local authority, school and implementing organisation. Sexuality education in schools is delivered as short workshops, within other subjects. These workshops are usually implemented by a wide variety of external public and private organisations.

Local governments and schools often request workshops for learners³ aged between 12 and 16 years in secondary schools. Frequently, there is no continuity of the lessons in later years. Usually, a workshop takes up two sessions lasting one hour each. In some cases, particularly interested teachers themselves carry out sexuality-education workshops within the framework of the subjects they teach. But the learners can hardly influence the content of workshops; in some cases, their questions and interests are collected beforehand. In most workshops, the learners are informed about the sexual and reproductive health services they can access. The choice of the workshop's content and topics depends on the implementing organisation and on the demands made by the local authority or school.

Parents or families are sometimes involved in sexuality education, but this is not a widespread practice. Some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) rely on specific funding to develop workshops on sexuality education aimed at families. Some local governments and schools also ask for workshops that include the participation of families.

Training of teachers on sexuality education

There is no official or compulsory training for teachers. Some particularly interested teachers participate in training courses on their own initiative, in order to acquire the knowledge and tools they need.

There are some educational materials and guidelines developed by NGOs, most of which reflect a comprehensive approach, although large parts of the guidelines are dedicated to the prevention of unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and HIV. One example is the Spanish Federation of Family Planning (FPFE; IPPF member association), which published a guide with specific funding from the Ministry of Health, aiming to provide some recommendations for the development of activities of sexuality education in the classroom as well as providing methodological resources.

Sexuality education outside the formal school setting

The FPFE conducts comprehensive workshops in both its own youth-friendly clinics and other youth spaces, and it provides such workshops together with other NGOs working with young people. Besides the FPFE, there are at least five other NGOs involved in sexuality education, most of which target underserved or at-risk groups of youth. There are also radio and TV programmes about sexuality, such as those developed by 'Amaltea' (Institute of Sexology and Psychotherapy).



Challenges

Sexuality education in Spain has many detractors, especially among conservative groups (political parties, religious groups, family groups, etc.). The main arguments against sexuality education are that sexuality education should take place within the family, and that messages provided during workshops by organisations defending sexual and reproductive rights can affect the morals of the young people.

Good-practice example

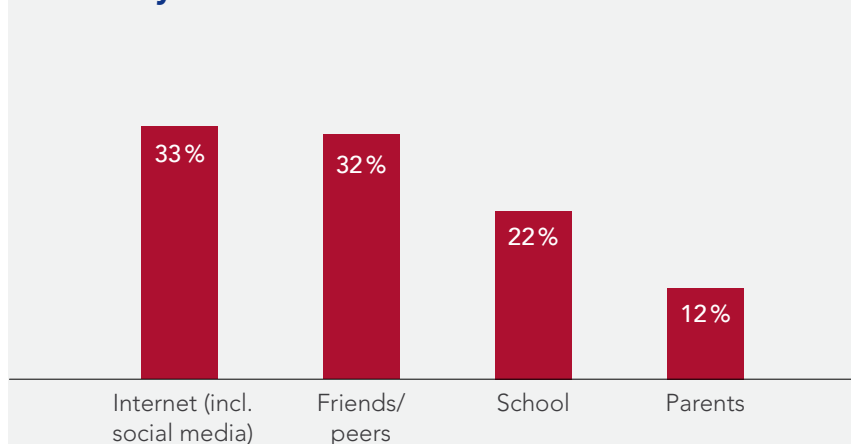
- ‘Harimaguada’ is an organisation of professionals who perform research and promote sexuality education in Spain. It developed the first guidelines aimed at teachers and it continues to develop important materials and guidelines, e.g. the ‘Sexpresan’ guidelines.
- ‘Asexórate’ (a member association of the FPFE) conducts sexuality-education workshops in which prevention of gender violence plays a fundamental role. They have published a guide for young people ‘Don’t love me so much, love me well’, complemented by numerous prevention activities.

Data

→ STIs

Data from the survey 2013 show that 13% of the 14 – 18-year-olds had a sexually transmitted infection.

Most important sources of information about sexuality⁴



According to a 2013 survey among 14–18-year-olds

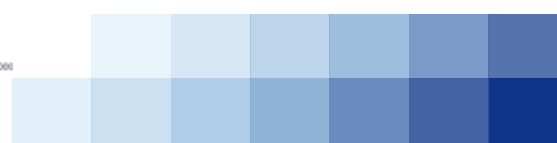


Spain

Country facts

Total population ⁵	46 512 000
Population aged 15–19 years (% of 15–19-year-olds in total population) ⁵	2 140 000 (5.1 %)
Government expenditure on education (% of GDP) ⁶	4.3
Youth unemployment rate (% of labour force aged 15–24 years) ⁷	49.4
Gender Inequality Index rating ⁸	0.081
Births per 1 000 women aged 15–19 years ⁹	8
% of 15-year-olds who have had sexual intercourse ¹⁰	boys: 24 % girls: 19 %
Average age of mother at birth of first child ¹¹	30.4

For references go to last page



References / Definitions

- 1 Ley Orgánica 2/2010, de 3 de marzo, de salud sexual y reproductiva y de la interrupción voluntaria del embarazo [Organic Law No. 2/2010 of 3 March 2010 on sexual and reproductive health and termination of pregnancy] (BOE-A-2010-3514). Boletín Oficial del Estado, No. 55, 4 March 2010 (<https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2010/BOE-A-2010-3514-consolidado.pdf>, accessed 25 March 2017).
 - 2 Ley Orgánica 8/2013, de 9 de diciembre, para la mejora de la calidad educativa [Organic Law No. 8/2013 of 9 December 2013 on improving the quality of education]. Boletín Oficial del Estado, No. 295, Section I, p. 97858, 10 December 2013 (https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2013-12886, accessed 25 March 2017).
 - 3 **Learner**: a child or young person who is enrolled or attends classes in school, including primary (basic/elementary), secondary (middle) and high school.
 - 4 Relaciones afectivas y sexualidad en la adolescencia. Madrid: Liga Española de la Educación; 2014 (<http://www.fundadeps.org/recursos/documentos/626/relaciones-afectivas-y-sexualidad-en-la-adolescencia.pdf>, accessed 25 March 2017).
 - 5 Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence, 2016 [online database]. New York: United Nations Statistics Division; 2017 (<http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=POP&f=tableCode%3A22>, accessed 25 March 2017).
 - 6 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
 - 7 Human development data, 2015 [online database]. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2017 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>, accessed 25 March 2017).
 - 8 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
 - 9 Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1 000 women ages 15–19). Washington (DC): World Bank; 2016 (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT>, accessed 25 March 2017).
 - 10 Growing up unequal: gender and socioeconomic differences in young people's health and well-being. HBSC 2016 study report (2013/2014 survey). Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2016 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/growing-up-unequal.-hbsc-2016-study-20132014-survey>, accessed 25 March 2017).
 - 11 Women in the EU gave birth to their first child at almost 29 years of age on average. Luxembourg: Eurostat; 2015 [2013 data] (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/6829228/3-13052015-CP-EN.pdf/7e9007fb-3ca9-445f-96eb-fd75d6792965>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Government expenditure on education**: current, capital and transfer spending on education, expressed as a percentage of GDP. Range in the region is approx. 2.0–8.5.



This fact sheet is based upon a joint research project of the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN) and the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA), a WHO Collaborating Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health. The data of this research were collected between October 2016 and July 2017 by means of written expert interviews with representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations in 25 countries and collection of available data from international information sources. **More information is available on <http://www.bzga-whocc.de/en/home/>**

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