

## Some "First" Sources of Sex Information as Reported by Ninety College Students

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### ABSTRACT

Ninety college students enrolled in a "Human Growth and Development" course in the College of Education were asked to state to the best of their ability the initial source of "information", whether accurate or inaccurate, on the following sex topics: Contraceptives, Venereal Disease, Prostitution, Masturbation, Intercourse, and Menstruation. As a further requirement each S was asked to indicate what could be done, on the part of parents or the schools, to improve instruction in the area of sex behavior.

Although our subjects were required to "reflect back" over a longer period of time than was the case in the somewhat similar Ramsey study, our data follow, in a broad sense, the trend shown by the Ramsey data. The effects of parents and the school are not great, at least with respect to acting as an "initia" source of sex information. Except for the factor of menstruation, our sample showed that girls received the greatest proportion of their sex information from their female companions and from "printed matter." In our sample of boys, which is a little small to permit too great a generalization, we see the same situation. Most of their information also was derived from their male companions and "printed matter". Interestingly enough, the father himself, in both the male and female cases, played almost no role in providing sex information.

In the part requiring Ss to indicate what they thought could be done, both sexes were unanimous in stating their eagerness for sex instruction both from their parents and in the schools in such general courses as biology, hygiene, or personality development.

Our data are certainly clear in pointing out that our youth are not, in effect, receiving adequate or accurate information, either at home or in the public schools, on the sex topics they are so interested in learning more about. It can be concluded that relative to proper sex information, the needs of our youth are not being adequately met either by the parents or the school.

### REFERENCE

- Ramsey, Glenn V. "The sex information of younger boys," 1943. *Amer. J. Orthopsychiat.*, 13:347-352.