

4.4.2 Sexual education

Sexual education can effectively improve adolescent sexual behaviours (Kirby, Laris, & Roller, 2007). Half (50%) of the Nunavik population aged 16 to 30 years old reported having had sexual education at school (Table 10). Those who had completed secondary school and those living in large communities were more likely to report having received sexual education at school than other Nunavimmiut (69% vs. 46% for those who had attended but not completed secondary school and 58% vs. 40% for those living in small communities). No differences were observed according to sex, age, coastal region or other sociodemographic indicators.

As part of sexual education, learning to talk openly about sex with family members also contributes to better decision making and avoidance of adverse outcomes. Among participants aged 16 to 30, one out of four (24%) had “openly talked about sex with their parents or other adults in their family” at one point in their lifetime (Table 10). Those living in large communities (28%) were more likely to experience talking openly about sex with family members compared to those living in small communities (19%). Talking openly about sex with family members was also associated with greater emotional support (Table O, Appendix B).

Table 10 Sexual education by sociodemographic characteristics (%), men and women aged 16 to 30 years old, Nunavik, 2017

	Sexual education (%)	
	Sex education at school	Talking about sex with family
Total	49.6	23.9
Sex		
Men	52.7	23.6
Women	46.4	24.2
Age group		
16-20 years	49.9	22.2
21-30 years	49.4	25.0
Coast		
Hudson	49.3	23.3
Ungava	50.0	24.6
Marital status		
Single	50.0	25.3
Married or common law	49.6	22.1*
Separated, divorced or widowed	NP	NP
Education		
Elementary school or less	NP	NP
Secondary school not completed	45.5	23.3
Secondary school or higher	68.7 ¹	29.1
Employment		
Employed	47.1	23.8
Not employed	54.6	24.6
Income		
Less than \$20 000	46.7	22.7
\$20 000 or more	56.9	30.0
Community size		
Large	57.6	28.2
Small	39.5 ¹	18.6 ¹

NOTES

1. Statistically significant difference observed using the 5% threshold compared to the other group.

* The coefficient of variation is greater than 15% and lower than or equal to 25%. The proportion should be interpreted carefully.

NP: This value is not presented since some categories have less than 5 respondents.