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A MORE COMPREHENSIVE TOOL FOR THE DETAILED EVALUATION OF SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMMING IN THE UNITED STATES Lauren Gleave (Akiko Kamimura) Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates, teen pregnancy rates, and unwanted pregnancy rates are accessible ways to evaluate the efficacy of sex education programs. However, this data may not always reveal the full impacts of a given sex education program. Additionally, legislators in a position to enact sex education policies may not find this data sufficient or usable in the process of policy formulation. Following a review of existing measures, a new survey instrument was developed to comprehensively evaluate the quality of existing sex education programs. The study produced a five-page survey instrument divided into four measurement categories; these categories are demographic factors, perceptions of sex education, sex myth knowledge, and sexual behaviors. Utilization of this tool in state and local contexts may provide a more multidimensional picture of sex education program impacts and lead to specific guidance on program improvement.