

In 1996 all seven Local Education Authorities (LEAs) provided data on their schools, such as free school meals, staying on rates etc. (see Table 2).

During 1997 and 1998 a range of data was collected, the exact timing was dependent on when schools timetabled sex education within the school year.

Limited resources led to selection of only 15 schools for observations of sex education lessons, though the choice was made to be representative in terms of school level deprivation. In total 41 teachers were observed teaching sex education, there was no attrition and we never intended to cover all 25 schools.

58 in-depth teacher interviews (at minimum, the teacher responsible for sex education in each school). There were no refusals to be interviewed, but this number was what was possible given timetabling constraints between teachers' and researchers' timetables.

Teacher questionnaires completed by 151 Personal and Social Education Teachers (these were completed after teaching of sex education, thus the number returned reflected how many staff were deployed by the 25 schools to teach sex education. We were aware that some were not returned, reflecting teachers moving jobs and roles between and within schools). Across the 25 schools a mean of 6 teachers returned questionnaires, the standard deviation was 2, the minimum returning from any school was 2 and the maximum was 10.