resolved, and a coding dictionary was developed. The third author then coded the remainder of the responses, and the first author reviewed these codes; any differences were resolved by the two coders.

RESULTS

Respondent Characteristics

A majority of the 1,284 sampled parents were female (75%) and aged 30–49 (67%—Table 1). The largest racial or ethnic subgroups were Hispanic (46%) and white (38%); 67% of interviews were conducted in English, and 33% in Spanish. Twenty-eight percent of parents had earned a high school diploma or GED, and 37% had at least a college degree. Household income varied; 35% reported income of less than $40,000, and 38% reported $60,000 or more. A majority of parents were born in the United States, and 30% were born in Mexico. Catholics made up 45% of the sample, and 19% of parents identified as born-again or evangelical Christians. A quarter of parents reported attending religious services once a week, and one in 10 attended more often; nearly three in 10 attended rarely or never. Thirty-seven percent of parents identified themselves as somewhat or very conservative, 27% as moderate and 24% as somewhat or very liberal.

Support for Comprehensive Sex Education

*Breadth.* Overall, 82% of the sample reported a policy preference for abstinence-plus-protection sex education, 7% for protection-only and 11% for abstinence-only. Thus, 89% supported comprehensive sex education.

Levels of support for comprehensive sex education were uniformly high across regions (87–93%), differing only within the expected range of random sampling error (Figure 2). In addition, large proportions of parents from all racial or ethnic groups preferred comprehensive sex education: 92% of whites, 90% of Hispanics, 89% of blacks, 82% of Asians and 79% of parents identified as other (not shown). Asian parents had reduced odds of supporting comprehensive sex education compared with all other parents (0.5), and parents identified as being of other ethnicity had reduced odds compared with everyone else (0.4).

Parents in all age-groups showed high levels of support for comprehensive sex education (86–94%); the highest level of support was among those younger than 30, and they were more likely than older parents to express such support (odds ratio, 2.0). Similarly, respondents of all education levels preferred the comprehensive approach (84–93%). The lowest level of support was found among parents with less than a high school education, and they were less likely than other parents to prefer this approach (0.5). Support for comprehensive education did not vary significantly across income levels (87–92%).

The level of preference for comprehensive sex education did not differ between born-again or evangelical Christians and others (86% vs. 91%), and it showed little variation by frequency of attendance at religious services. High proportions of respondents who rarely or never attended and those who attended 1–3 times a month preferred the comprehensive approach (95–96%), and these subgroups were more likely than others to prefer this approach (odds ratios, 3.8 and 2.8, respectively). Although both those who attended religious services once a week and those who attended more than once a week were predominantly supportive of comprehensive education.