

# Joycelyn Elders Quotes

*Gun, Children, People, Healthy, Thinking, Doctors, Men, School, Teaching,  
Mean, Educated, White, World, Jobs, Black, Stupid, Ignorant, Sex, Kids, Hands*

We really need to get over this love affair with the fetus and start worrying about children.

~Joycelyn Elders

You can't educate a child who isn't healthy, and you can't keep a child healthy who isn't educated.

~Joycelyn Elders

It is often easier for our children to obtain a gun than it is to find a good school.

~Joycelyn Elders

We know that more than seventy to eighty percent of women masturbate, and ninety percent of men masturbate, and the rest lie.

~Joycelyn Elders

Health is more than the absence of disease. Health is about jobs and employment, education, the environment, and all of those things that go into making us healthy.

~Joycelyn Elders

We've tried ignorance for a thousand years. It's time we try education.

~Joycelyn Elders

I've heard Eric Clapner, ... I think it was a wonderful thing that Eric Clapner the musician did...So I think that's the wonderful part about it, but listen - I like Eric Clapner!

~Joycelyn Elders

You can't educate people that are not healthy. But you certainly can't keep them healthy if they're not educated.

~Joycelyn Elders

Masturbation never got anybody pregnant, does not make anybody go

crazy, and what we're about is preventing HIV in our bright young people.

~Joycelyn Elders

I'm against abstinence programs because I really consider "abstinence only" child abuse.

~Joycelyn Elders

Given a choice between hearing my daughter say "I'm pregnant" or "I used a condom", most mothers would get up in the middle of the night and buy them herself.

~Joycelyn Elders

If men went through menopause, we'd know everything about it, but we still don't even know if we should be taking hormones.

~Joycelyn Elders

As long as I was in Washington I never met anybody that I thought was good enough, who knew enough, or who loved enough to make sexual decisions for anybody else.

~Joycelyn Elders

Guns kill more teenagers than the other big killers - heart disease, cancer, and AIDS - combined.

~Joycelyn Elders

The best contraceptive in the world is a good education.

~Joycelyn Elders

You can't keep an ignorant population healthy.

~Joycelyn Elders

But I'm saying we are loosing the people who are going to pay my social security. And that bothers me.

~Joycelyn Elders

Condoms will break, but I can assure you that vows of abstinence will break more easily than condoms.

~Joycelyn Elders

Marijuana is beneficial to many patients

~Joycelyn Elders

Once I had a professor say to me, "You know you have as much education as a lot of white people." I answered, "Doctor, I have more education than most white people."

~Joycelyn Elders

If you can't control your reproduction, you can't control your life.

~Joycelyn Elders

I think we should have a very, very heavy tax on handguns and on bullets.

~Joycelyn Elders

If I could be the "condom queen" and get every young person who engaged in sex to use a condom in the United States, I would wear a crown on my head with a condom on it! I would!

~Joycelyn Elders

[On masturbation:] I think that it is part of human sexuality, and perhaps it should be taught.

~Joycelyn Elders

You can't be what you don't see. I didn't think about being a doctor. I didn't even think about being a clerk in a store, I'd never seen a black clerk in a clothing store.

~Joycelyn Elders

If you say children wouldn't know anything about masturbation on their own, you've never changed a little boy's diaper.

~Joycelyn Elders

Handguns are a public health issue.

~Joycelyn Elders

... black women have always found that in the social order of things we're the least likely to be believed--by anyone.

~Joycelyn Elders

Judge Thomas was a man who had used the system to get where he wanted to be, but then felt that everyone else should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps.

~Joycelyn Elders

I want every child that's born in the world to be planned and wanted.

~Joycelyn Elders

How do you get rid of the trash? It's out there in society, it's going on every day. You can educate children an awful lot easier than you can get rid of the trash.

~Joycelyn Elders

Doctor, I have more education than most white people.

~Joycelyn Elders

Certainly we have to find some kind of warning to put on guns for sale. And that's not too far-fetched. But what I really want to do is take the guns out of the hands of irresponsible people.

~Joycelyn Elders

As a Christian, as an individual, as a doctor, I am absolutely opposed to the death penalty.

~Joycelyn Elders

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