Screening Venues: An Effective Method for Reaching Students Not Previously Utilizing Student Health Services

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Abstract
The use of nontraditional healthcare outreaches, such as pop-up sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening clinics done outside of Student Health offices, increases access to STI testing for students who may not previously sought care at Student Health. In this analysis, we demonstrate how these first contacts result in subsequently initiated medical care at Student Health. These non-traditional touch points can result in continuity of care, and lead to earlier disease detection, prevention, and harm reduction.

Background
The CDC estimates that half of all new STIs annually occur within the 15-24 year old age group. (1) Recent CDC studies also show that women aged 20-24 have the highest rates of chlamydia infection for any age group while men aged 20-24 had the highest rates of gonorrhea of any age group. (1) Given these statistics, screening, treatment and education regarding sexual and reproductive health on college campuses can have a significant impact on student well-being. Screening for STIs such as chlamydia has been shown to improve overall population health and be a cost-effective way to provide health care services. (3) However, barriers exist for students regarding STI testing. Some of these barriers include lack of health literacy and social factors such as shame or cultural beliefs regarding sexual and reproductive health. (2)

Methods
Improving college student’s health literacy, access to testing and treatment, especially with respect to sexual and reproductive health can have long-term benefits for both the individual student and the college community. In this poster, we show that the use of non-traditional testing spaces can increase access, meet the needs of students otherwise not accessing STI testing and result in an improvement in long-term healthcare maintenance. Rutgers Student Health Services and Health Outreach, Promotion & Education (HOPE) have historically collaborated on two STI clinics annually in the fall and spring semesters. These outreach clinics are staffed by medical clinicians, nurses, and health educators and were temporarily discontinued during the Covid pandemic during spring 2020 and academic year 2020-2021.

Results
STI CLINICS REACH A UNIQUE STUDENT POPULATION
Over half of students seen at STI clinics had no prior contact with Student Health

STI CLINICS ARE AN EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES AND RESULT IN LONGTERM HEALTHCARE CONNECTIONS

Future Directions

References

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