Centering Student Experiences in Reproductive Health

Laurel Swanson
Introduction and background research
Why is reproductive health important?

- Affects a large portion of the student body
- Disrupting stigma
Seeking reproductive health care at the College brings confusion and frustration, some students say

Maria Lobato Grabowsky, Tali Natter, and Kitt Urdang
November 17, 2021
1 IN 10 girls and women aged 14 to 21 said they hadn’t been able to afford sanitary protection (out of 1000)

49% of 14- to 21-year-olds have missed an entire day of school because of their period – of which 59% made up a lie or an alternative excuse (out of 1000)

(BBC, 2017a; 2017b; Plan International UK, 2017a; 2017b)
One in four women report being sexually assaulted while in college.
Methods
Interviews 4
Focus Groups 4 & 3
Survey
n=24
Survey Demographics

83% AFAB

Senior
Sophomore
Freshmen
Junior

Male
Non-binary
Agender
Female
Limitations

Mostly AFAB

Low response rate

Selection bias
Findings
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Prior awareness of resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Condoms</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental dams</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency contraceptives (plan-B)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTI testing and treatment</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STD testing</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV testing</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pap smears</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth control prescriptions</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gynecological appointments</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support for health center website related proposals

- Expanding self-scheduling: 100%
- Creating a comprehensive resource base: 92%
Perceptions of stigma (AFAB)
Skipping periods

65%
Support for menstruation related proposals

- Trash bins in dorm stalls: 88%
- Tampon/pad vending machines: 92%
- Free products in bathrooms: 100%
Positive student perception of reproductive advocacy work

- Administration: 8%
- Faculty/staff: 17%
Conclusions
This school doesn’t seem to care!
How to improve...

- Listen to students
- Be transparent & communicate
- Implement change
Works cited


Infographics

