Sexual Health Resources at Normandale

Students interviewed on campus (N=16*) recognize that providing on-site clinic services is not feasible for Normandale Community College.

“...but being able to tell students where the community clinic is, how to get there, what hours they're open and who they need to talk to about their problem, I think that's vitally important for sexual health in the school.”

At the same time, they do see an important role for the college to play:

“...and just being able to tell students where they are and what they need to do to get there and what they need to say...I think that's vitally important for sexual health in the school.”

Normandale students say ...

Praise
Normandale students praise the college’s efforts to create a safe and caring environment that positively promotes sexual health.

“Because at Normandale I feel cared for as a student...being cared for, I think, is just someone acknowledging you and saying this is a better way of living your life and being healthy...”

Normandale students also remarked on how the college and staff support students that frequently encounter stigma and marginalization.

“In high school there was a lot of teasing people that were gay. Here we don’t. I’ve never seen it, at least. We’re pretty comfortable with everybody here.”

Keep us informed
Students believe that Normandale can improve communication about and access to sexual health resources.

“The misconception I had was that a counselor was a guy that I just come to if I need help selecting my classes. That’s the mistake a lot of students make.”

“...obviously the information is available, although I learned today that it’s a little hard to get to...there needs to be an easier way to get ahold of the information...”

Suggestions
Students also made specific recommendations on how Normandale could better inform students about the College’s sexual health services.

- Promote information sharing between Health and Student Life
- Inform information desk/counselors about available sexual health resources and referrals
- Publicize resources
- Address student interest in sexual health topics:
  - Applying for public insurance
  - Finding free/low cost health care and contraception
  - Learning basic sexual health facts (STD prevention, pregnancy options)

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*16 Normandale students interviewed: 9 men and 7 women; 7 caucasian and 9 individuals of color.

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(2) 2010 College Student Health Survey Report: Health and Health-Related Behaviors University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Students. Boyton Health Service, University of Minnesota.