



# Community College Health Study

Hot off the press! New article in the *Journal of American College Health* features findings from the Community College Health Study.

In this brief update, **we will give you exclusive access to a new article in the *Journal of American College Health*** which outlines findings from the baseline survey that students completed when they first joined the Community College Health Study. **More specifically, the article describes the sexual health outcomes of community college students with respect to gender and sexual identity.**

The article, entitled “An examination of the sexual health behaviors and cognitions of young U.S. community college students with respect to the intersection of gender and sexual identity,” was authored by researchers on the Community College Health Study team, including Drs. Reina Evans-Paulson, Tracy Scull, Katie Stump, and Christina Dodson, as well as former team member, Megan Armstrong.

To access a free online copy of the article, click the button below to read it on Taylor & Francis Online.

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\*Please note that a limited number of online copies of the article can be accessed through the link above. If you are unable to access a copy through the link above, please email [CCHStudy@iRTinc.us](mailto:CCHStudy@iRTinc.us), so we can provide you with an alternative link.

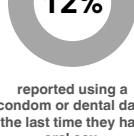
## Article Highlights

Young adults attending community college may be at risk for negative sexual health outcomes for a few different reasons, including:

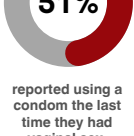
1. Community colleges often have fewer financial resources than four-year colleges and, thus, are less likely to provide on-campus health services to their students
2. Community college campuses are often nonresidential, so students spend less time on campus, making it difficult to connect students to in-person sex education programming and other resources

## Sexual Health Outcomes of Young Adults Attending Community College

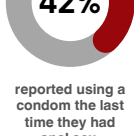
Of all sexually active students who completed the baseline survey, only...



reported using a condom or dental dam the last time they had oral sex.



reported using a condom the last time they had vaginal sex.



reported using a condom the last time they had anal sex.

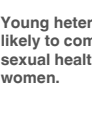
Only **52%** of students reported that they have talked to a medical professional about sexual health.

## Differences in Outcomes According to Gender and Sexual Identity

While all community college students are at risk for negative sexual health outcomes, specific subpopulations of students may experience unique barriers to engaging in healthy sexual behaviors.

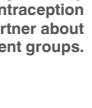
### Amongst Young LGBTQ+ and Heterosexual Men

Based on data collected from the baseline survey completed by students...



Young men, including both heterosexual and LGBTQ+ men, were less likely to communicate with a doctor about sexual health than young women and nonbinary students.

Young heterosexual and LGBTQ+ men were less likely to communicate with a partner about sexual health than heterosexual and LGBTQ+ women.



Young heterosexual men had significantly more negative attitudes toward contraception and communicating with a partner about sexual health than all other student groups.

### Amongst Young Heterosexual Women

Based on data collected from the baseline survey completed by students...

Young heterosexual women were significantly less likely to use a condom at last vaginal sex than heterosexual men.



Young heterosexual women were less likely to use a condom during anal sex compared to LGBTQ+ men and LGBTQ+ women.

Heterosexual women reported more negative attitudes toward condoms and contraception compared to LGBTQ+ women and LGBTQ+ nonbinary students.



## A note on terminology:

In this newsletter, we use the term LGBTQ+ to refer to young adults with a sexual identity other than heterosexual.

## Key Takeaways

Findings from the baseline survey, outlined in the recent article published in the *Journal of American College Health*, point to the need for sexual health programming and resources that are tailored to the unique needs of community college students.

More specifically, community colleges are in **need of accessible, targeted resources for students that help them build more positive attitudes towards communicating with a healthcare provider about sexual health and using protection (e.g., condoms, dental dams)**, as well as more confidence in their abilities to do so.

Sexual health resources, specifically resources for young men, should **emphasize the importance of communicating with a partner about sexual health and using contraception**. Also, resources should **emphasize the importance of using protection and contraception**, specifically resources for young women.

## What Can I Do Next?

### Read the Article

If you would like to read the full article with more findings published in the *Journal of American College Health*, click the button below to access a free online copy on Taylor & Francis Online.

[Access the Article](#)

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### Explore Programs

*Media Aware* is an evidence-based comprehensive sexual and relationship health promotion program designed to fill gaps in previous sex education and meet the unique needs of young adults.

[Explore Media Aware](#)

### Learn More

Find more information about the Community College Health Study and view our previous newsletters on our website.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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Questions? You can email our study team at: [CCHStudy@iRTinc.us](mailto:CCHStudy@iRTinc.us).

## Meet the People Behind This Newsletter



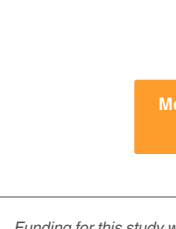
**Reina Evans-Paulson, PhD**  
*Senior Author and Project Director*

Dr. Evans-Paulson conducts research related to adolescent and young adult health with a focus on implementation and evaluation of sexual health interventions, parent and family influences on adolescent sexuality, and sexual communication. Dr. Evans-Paulson has published in esteemed peer-reviewed journals such as *JAMA Pediatrics*, *Journal of Sex Research*, and *Pediatrics*. She received her doctorate in applied social and community psychology from North Carolina State University.



**Elizabeth Porter**  
*Content Marketing Specialist*

Elizabeth Porter studied communication media, rhetoric, and professional writing at North Carolina State University, and she is passionate about creating content that is relevant, engaging, and helpful for others. She has experience in marketing, writing, social media management, web content creation, email design, and editing.



**Tracy Scull, PhD**  
*Senior Author and Principal Investigator*

Over the past 16 years, Dr. Scull has conducted rigorous research on child, adolescent, and family health, with specific focus on promoting sexual health and preventing substance abuse. Dr. Scull has secured over 10 million dollars in federal funding for her research and has published her work in esteemed peer-reviewed journals such as *Pediatrics*, *Developmental Psychology*, and the *Journal of American College Health*. She holds a doctorate in developmental psychology from Duke University.

[Meet the Community College Health Study Team](#)

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