



Hot off the press! New article in the *Journal of American College Health* includes insights on sexual health promotion efforts at community college campuses.

Findings from the Community College Health Study were recently featured in the *Journal of American College Health* in a new article entitled "Examining resources to promote sexual health and address sexual violence at community colleges across the United States: a qualitative study." **In this brief update, we will give you exclusive access to the article and highlight important findings from our research with community college personnel (i.e., faculty, staff, and administrators).**

The new article reports on a qualitative study conducted as part of the Community College Health Study that aimed to better understand the perspectives of community college personnel who work to promote the sexual and relationship health of students at their campuses. Findings provide unique insight into the existing resources and approaches that community colleges use to promote student sexual health and prevent sexual assault.

The article was authored by researchers on the Community College Health Study team, including Drs. Christina Dodson, Reina Evans-Paulson, and Tracy Scull.

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

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## Article Highlights

The Community College Health Study team conducted in-depth interviews with 33 community college personnel from across the United States that are involved in sexual and relationship health promotion efforts at their campus. College personnel were asked about the sexual and relationship health promotion and sexual violence prevention resources and programming available to students at their campus.

*Qualitative data from these interviews showed that...*

### 1. Sexual and relationship health resources available to students often mirror what is available in the broader community.

On-campus sexual and relationship health resources (e.g., health centers, clinical counselors) are often limited at community colleges, so many college personnel refer students to resources off campus. This means that students in communities with limited sexual and relationship health services, namely rural areas, face significant barriers to accessing resources and care related to pregnancy, STIs, and sexual assault.

### 2. Community college personnel often see themselves as a bridge for connecting students to sexual and relationship health resources.

College personnel often play an active role in helping students find resources related to pregnancy, STIs, and sexual violence. Personnel often work closely with students to inform them of resources that are available to them on and off campus, help them access these resources, and help them determine which resources they may need to support their health and wellbeing.

### 3. Community college personnel sometimes form highly collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations to provide sexual and relationship health resources to students.

Some community colleges form collaborative partnerships with organizations in their community in order to utilize available sexual and relationship health resources to promote student health, beyond just referring students to local resources. For example, some colleges host sexual health trainings and events for students on their campus with visiting organizations. Other organizations, such as local hospitals or medical clinics, have a continual presence on college campuses to provide students with accessible STI testing.

### 4. Successful sexual and relationship health resources are relatable and accessible to students.

While there are many characteristics that community college personnel believe to make a sexual or relationship health resource valuable for students, most personnel agree that a resource must be accessible and relatable to students to be successful. For example, some personnel noted that sexual and relationship health resources are particularly helpful to students when they have advocates that are able to be on campus, working with students regularly.

### 5. Community college personnel are often mindful of providing students with sexual and relationship health resources that are respectful of students' autonomy.

When able, community college personnel prefer to provide students with options for sexual and relationship health resources, so students can make choices about their health for themselves. For example, college personnel may inform a student facing an unplanned pregnancy of resources related to abortion, adoption, and raising a child, rather than directing the student to only one type of resource.

### 6. Many community colleges lack clear procedures for providing students with sexual and relationship health resources related to pregnancy or STIs.

While community colleges often have clear procedures and resources for assisting students that have experienced sexual or relationship violence, they often do not have clear protocols for assisting students who are facing an unplanned pregnancy or STI contraction. Therefore, community college personnel that work with students who experience an unplanned pregnancy or STI contraction often have to take initiative to find relevant resources to provide to their students.

## Key Takeaways

These findings indicate that **many community colleges face significant barriers to providing their students with high-quality sexual and relationship health resources.** Limited sexual and relationship health resources on community college campuses and in their surrounding communities, as well as a lack of clear procedures within community colleges for providing students with resources, may make it difficult for on-campus advocates to connect students with the resources they need.

Despite these challenges, many community college personnel are dedicated to helping their students access high-quality resources for their health and make concerted efforts to create partnerships and seek out resources to promote students' health and wellbeing.

## 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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### Spread the Word

The Community College Health Study aims to share information and resources to help colleges provide high-quality resources for their students. To help us spread information and resources to help colleges, you can share the form below with college personnel you know, so they can be added to the listserv and receive future newsletters.

[Sign Up](#)

### Learn More

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



### Christina Dodson, PhD

*Co-Investigator*

Over the past ten years, Dr. Dodson has conducted rigorous research on health communication and professional with a focus on the sexual and relationship health of adolescents and young adults. She has been a co-investigator on several grants from the NIH to develop and test theory-based interventions to promote adolescent health. Dr. Dodson's work has been published in numerous academic journals and presented at national and international conferences. She received her doctorate in mass communication and a certificate in interdisciplinary health communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and holds a master's degree in communication management from the University of Southern California.



### Elizabeth Porter

*Content Marketing Specialist*

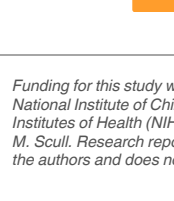
Elizabeth Porter studied communication media, rhetoric, and professional writing at North Carolina State University, and she is passionate about creating content that is relevant, engaging, and helpful for others. She has experience in marketing, writing, social media management, web content creation,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



### 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.



### 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](#)