

TITLE: Examining the Impact of Self-Referral STI Testing on a College Campus

AUTHOR(S): Marissa Song Mayeda, Amanda Stevens, Mark Hornabrook

PRESENTER(S): Marissa Song Mayeda

STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Program developers

ABSTRACT: Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among college students are a large health concern on college campuses. Although there is no specific data regarding the incidence of STIs among college students, they are considered part of the 'young adult' population. Despite young adults accounting for one-third of the sexually active population, they contribute to about half of the STI incident cases. Additionally, young adults have low rates of STI testing. Many college campus initiatives are in place to promote 'safer sex' practices, which include sexual health education and Student Health Services. In order to be STI tested, students typically have to see a clinician and then be referred. To reduce barriers to STI testing, Oregon State University's Student Health Services (SHS) has implemented self-referral testing, which allows students to request testing directly from the laboratory. Self-referral testing has historically been used in high-risk populations for HIV testing in order to increase accessibility. SHS implemented self-referral testing because college students are considered a high-risk group for STI incidence. Since implementation, SHS has seen increased self-referral testing and STI testing in general. Widespread implementation across college campuses may be useful in increasing STI testing and therefore decreasing STI incidence rates.

OBJECTIVE(S): Differentiate between self-referral testing and clinician-referred testing.

Explain the effects of self-referral testing on accessibility for STI testing.
