

TITLE: The Use of Non-Traditional, Peer-Led Education to Eliminate Access to Care Barriers in Adolescents

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Youth Program Developers, Educators, Health Promotion Specialists

ABSTRACT: The Reproductive Health Coalition of Washington County (RHCoWC) created goals and objectives to break down barriers for adolescents access care, as seeking reproductive health is often a person's first introduction to health care access. The RHCoWC chose to pilot a free, peer led, adolescent only training called the 'Access Ambassador' workshop. This was an educational intervention led by Planned Parenthood's Teen Council and the Student Health Advisory Committees (SHACs) of Washington County meant to educate and empower adolescents to make good health choices, encourage self-efficacy to access care and share this knowledge with their communities. 56 students from around Washington County attended. Outcomes were measured using Pre and Post Knowledge/Efficacy Surveys and a Program Evaluation. At the end of the workshop 96% of participants responded Strongly Agree/Agree to After the training, I am confident in my ability to be a resource for friends/family needing reproductive healthcare. There was a 54% increase regarding knowledge of how to access care. These results reflect an increase of knowledge and the benefit of nontraditional, peer led education. Adolescents exchange information with their peers/families and it is important they are provided with accurate information regarding access to care through programs like the 'Access Ambassador' workshop.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe ways peer led educational/behavior interventions are beneficial. Explain how non-traditional education approaches are used to effectively engage youth.
