

## AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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### I. Introduction

The sexual revolution on the American campus has, in one respect, caused the present generation of college students to be unique. Although, as various studies have pointed out, there has been little change in the sexual behavior of college students since the early twentieth century, there has been a revolutionary extension of sexual freedom long afforded to men to include women as well.

Growing recognition of this fact has led to increased pressure for the expansion of family planning services as an integral part of student health programs in institutions of higher education. For example, the Council on Population of the American Public Health Association (APHA) has proposed that the APHA recommend that college health services offer confidential medical consultation and service on birth control methods, on the diagnosis of pregnancy, and on the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease.

The American College Health Association (ACHA) has conducted two surveys--one in 1966 and one in 1970--of the practices and policies of college health services in dispensing contraceptives. While the 1966 survey was limited and included only the 458 institutions which were members of ACHA, the 1970 followup survey of 2,558 colleges represented virtually the entire universe of institutions of higher education, including both ACHA (555) and non-ACHA (2,003) members. When the results of these two surveys are compared, it appears that within this short period of time, there has been a substantial increase in the number of colleges providing this service. For example, between 1966 and 1970 the number of college pharmacies prescribing oral contraceptives for unmarried students who had attained majority increased from 4 percent of ACHA responding members or 13 institutions to 59 percent or 158 institutions. This includes 118 ACHA members and 40 non-ACHA member institutions. While in 1966 only 12 colleges reported that they would prescribe contraceptives for unmarried minors, 125 or 47 percent of the responding institutions in the 1970 survey reported the provision of such service. An increase in the number of institutions reporting the provision of contraceptive prescriptions to married students also occurred, with 45 percent of the schools reporting this service in 1966 in contrast to 82 percent of the respondents in 1970. The number of schools which referred students to off-campus physicians for family planning services also seemed to increase significantly--from 6 percent of the respondents in 1966 to 74 percent in 1970.

Although caution must be used in drawing conclusions from these surveys due to their response rates (74 percent in 1966 and 31 percent in 1970), these data nevertheless reflect growing recognition of the need for contraceptive information and services as an integral part of college health programs. They seem to indicate that the most

significant change since 1966 was the expansion of services available to unmarried students whether or not they had attained majority. Even if these conclusions are warranted, it is evident that a large number of sexually active unmarried college students--both minors and those who have attained majority--remained unserved in this critical area of need as the 1970's began.

### II. Methodology

As part of its responsibility to provide baseline statistics on the health resources of the nation, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of all facilities in the United States which provide family planning services. This list will provide the basis for a National Inventory of Family Planning Clinics, and the data it contains will be updated through annual surveys.

Many sources were contacted in the compiling of this list. One obvious source was all the colleges and universities in the nation. Therefore, in the spring of 1973, NCHS conducted a mail survey of all college and university health units or infirmaries to ascertain the availability of family planning services on campus.

The universe for this survey consisted of all institutions of higher learning which met the academic and administrative requirements for inclusion in the 1972-73 Directory of the United States Office of Education. The one adjustment made to the universe concerned the 58 Roman Catholic seminaries, which were excluded from the mailout, thereby reducing the total institutions surveyed from 3,042 to 2,984.

The survey utilized a one page letter initially followed by one mail followup to those institutions which did not respond after three weeks. The definition of family planning services for the purposes of this survey was as follows: those medical, social and/or educational services which are primarily concerned with the regulation of conception. Institutions were requested to check the one box in the letter which was most appropriate to them. There were three choices, as follows: (1) no family planning services provided at this institution; (2) students referred to other source for these services; (3) some type of family planning services provided at this institution. Those institutions which did refer students to other sources for family planning services were asked to list these sources as a check on the completeness of the National Inventory of Family Planning Clinics.

The returned letters were sorted into two major groups--providers (those offering family planning services) and nonproviders (those not offering such services). All providers were added to the computer file of family planning facilities being developed by NCHS.

Table 1. Number and percent of colleges and universities providing family planning services, by sex of student body and type of institution.

Type of college or university	Sex of Student Body									
	Total		Male		Female		Coed		Coordinate <sup>1/</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total colleges	2,984	100.0	92	3.1	159	5.3	2,719	91.1	14	.5
Responded to survey	2,753	100.0	71	2.6	131	4.8	2,539	92.2	12	.4
Provide family planning	578	100.0	6	1.0	23	4.0	547	94.7	2	.3
Do not provide family planning	2,175	100.0	65	3.0	108	4.9	1,192	91.6	10	.5
Did not respond to survey	231	100.0	21	9.0	28	12.1	180	77.9	2	1.0

<sup>1/</sup>Includes those institutions which have programs whereas their students can also attend courses at another related institutions.

Table 2. Number and percent of colleges and universities providing family planning services, by control and type of institution.

Type of college or university	Control of Institution									
	Total		Public		Private					
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Religious		Independent		State <sup>1/</sup>	
					Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total colleges	2,984	100.0	1,447	48.5	787	26.4	744	24.9	6	.2
Responded to survey	2,753	100.0	1,386	50.4	685	24.9	677	24.6	5	.2
Provide family planning	578	100.0	335	57.9	91	16.0	150	26.0	2	.3
Do not provide family planning	2,175	100.0	1,051	48.3	594	27.3	527	24.2	3	.1
Did not respond to survey	231	100.0	61	26.4	102	44.2	67	29.0	1	.4

<sup>1/</sup>These are colleges that are privately administered, but publicly funded.

Table 3. Number and percent of colleges and universities providing family planning services, by highest degree offered and type of institution.

Type of college or university	Highest Degree Offered									
	Total		Less than 4 years		B.S. or B.A.		Advanced Degree		Non-Degree	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total colleges	2,984	100.0	1,158	38.8	875	29.3	946	31.7	5	.2
Responded to survey	2,753	100.0	1,088	39.5	783	28.4	878	31.9	4	.2
Provide family planning	578	100.0	106	18.3	151	26.1	321	55.6	0	0
Do not provide family planning	2,175	100.0	982	45.1	632	29.1	557	25.6	4	.2
Did not respond to survey	231	100.0	70	30.3	92	34.8	68	29.5	1	.4

Table 4. Number and percent of colleges and universities providing family planning services, by student enrollment and type of institution.

Type of college or university	Student Enrollment																			
	Total		Under 200		200-499		500-999		1,000-2,499		2,500-4,999		5,000-9,999		10,000-19,999		20,000 or more		Enrollment Unknown	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total colleges	2,984	100.0	276	9.2	418	14.0	613	20.5	753	25.2	355	11.9	275	9.2	157	5.3	66	2.3	71	2.4
Responded to survey	2,753	100.0	243	8.8	375	13.6	565	20.5	703	25.5	335	12.2	264	9.6	154	5.6	65	2.4	49	1.8
Provide family planning	578	100.0	15	2.6	31	5.4	87	15.0	137	23.7	80	13.8	93	16.1	79	13.7	47	8.1	9	1.6
Do not provide family planning	2,175	100.0	228	10.6	344	15.8	478	22.0	566	26.0	255	11.7	171	7.9	75	3.4	18	.8	40	1.8
Did not respond to survey	231	100.0	33	14.3	43	18.6	48	20.8	50	21.6	20	8.7	11	4.8	3	1.3	1	.4	22	9.5

Table 5. Number and percent of colleges and universities providing family planning services, by HEW Region and type of institution.

Type of college or university	HEW Regions																							
	Total		01 <sup>1/</sup>		02 <sup>2/</sup>		03 <sup>3/</sup>		04 <sup>4/</sup>		05 <sup>5/</sup>		06 <sup>6/</sup>		07 <sup>7/</sup>		08 <sup>8/</sup>		09 <sup>9/</sup>		10 <sup>10/</sup>		Unassigned 11/	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total colleges	2,984	100.0	255	8.5	332	11.1	354	11.9	506	17.0	570	19.1	257	8.6	220	7.4	103	3.5	279	9.3	104	3.5	4	.1
Responded to survey	2,753	100.0	229	8.3	297	10.8	329	12.0	467	17.0	520	18.9	237	8.6	209	7.6	102	3.7	257	9.3	102	3.7	4	.2
Provide fam- ily planning	578	100.0	54	9.3	72	12.5	61	10.6	85	14.7	99	17.1	40	6.9	44	7.6	23	4.0	75	13.0	25	4.3	0	0
Do not pro- vide family planning	2,175	100.0	175	8.0	225	10.3	268	12.3	382	17.6	421	19.4	197	9.1	165	7.6	79	3.6	182	8.4	77	3.5	4	.2
Did not respond to survey	231	100.0	26	11.3	35	15.2	25	10.8	39	16.9	50	21.6	20	8.7	11	4.8	1	.4	22	9.5	2	.8	0	0

<sup>1/</sup> Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes Delaware, Washington, D. C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia.

<sup>4/</sup> Includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.

<sup>5/</sup> Includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin.

<sup>6/</sup> Includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

<sup>7/</sup> Includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska.

<sup>8/</sup> Includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming.

<sup>9/</sup> Includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada.

<sup>10/</sup> Includes Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.

<sup>11/</sup> Includes American Samoa, Canal Zone, Guam, Micronesia.