



*Sexual Health and Safety Products
Initiative (SHSP), Pilot Study*

Spring 2008

*Student Health Center in collaboration
with Residential Life*

Project Description

- This survey was designed to assess the sexual behaviors and attitudes of college students living in the residence halls as well as rate students satisfaction with the Residence Hall Sexual Health and Safety Products initiative.



Program Description

- This campus-wide, student-driven initiative was created in an effort to meet the needs of MU students. Student voices have been heard and have been involved throughout the planning and implementation of this important public health initiative. Similarly, it will be the students who determine the success and future of this worthy program.



Project Purpose

- To offer safety products to students living in the residence halls at various locations across campus at a free or reduced cost, accompanied by education and resources
- Values driving the program planning:
 - **Inclusive** – **Affordable** – Safe – Educational

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- The following data was collected to establish a foundational knowledge of residents' sexual health behavior and attitudes related to the Sexual Health and Safety Products Initiative.
 - This information is the property of the University of Missouri, Student Health Center. Any information used must be appropriately referenced or will be considered plagiarism.
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Reference:

- Sexual Health and Safety Products Survey, University of Missouri, Student Health Center/Department of Residential Life, Spring 2008.

Methodology

- Pilot test, launched Monday, April 7, 2008 (closed April 30)
- Sample: all students living in the residence halls
- Student Voice- personalized, one reminder with the opportunity to win 1 of 5 gifts of \$50 gift card, surveyed all residents (n=5,321), n=963

Gender

- 30% Male
- 69% Female
- 0.3% Transgender*
- **a person whose self-identification challenges traditional notions of gender and sexuality. Transgender people include transsexuals and others who do not align with traditional understandings of labels like male or female or heterosexual and homosexual (MU, LGBT web site, 2008)*

Gender Identity (Defined)

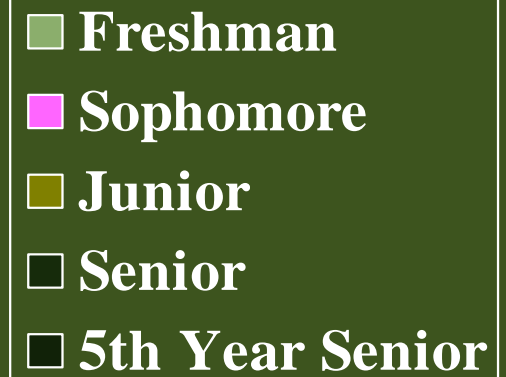
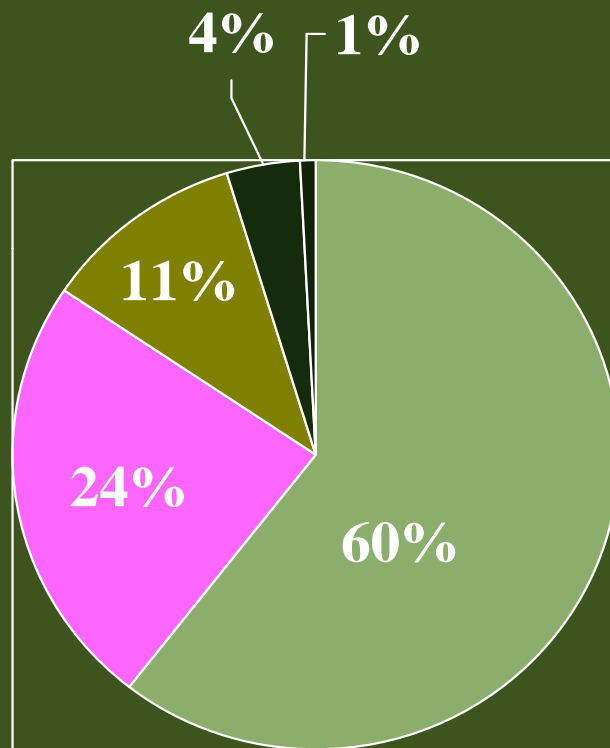
- *Regardless of physical appearance or sexual orientation, gender identity one's psychological sense of oneself as a male or a female*

– MU, LGBT Website, 2008

How Students Identify

- 93% Heterosexual
- 2% Gay
- 1% Lesbian
- 2% Bisexual
- 0.2% Queer*
- **Originally a derogatory label used to refer to lesbian and gay people or to intimidate and offend heterosexuals. More recently, this term has been reclaimed by some lesbians, gay men, bisexual people, and transgender people as an inclusive and positive way to identify all people targeted by heterosexism and homophobia*
- *(MU, LGBT Website, 2008)*

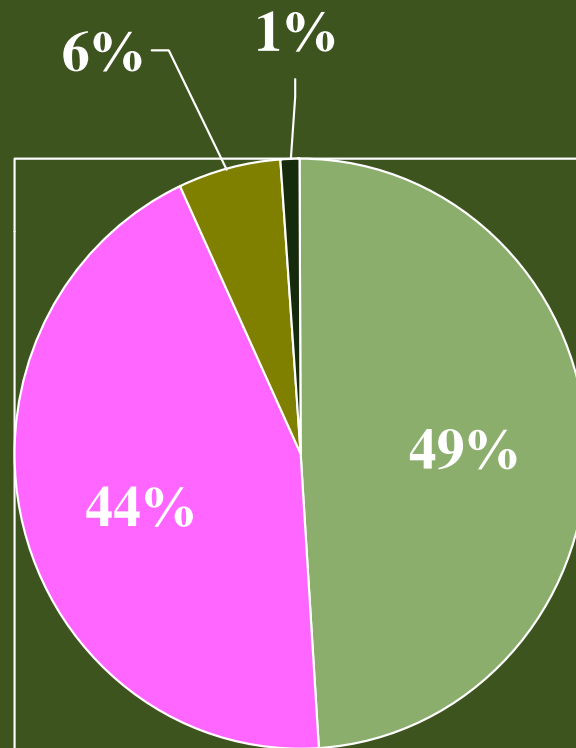
Year in School



Ethnicity

- 88% European American
- 5% African American
- 3% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 2% Hispanic/Latino
- 2% Other

Relationship Status



- Committed
- Single
- Casual
- Partnered

Programmatic Implications

- 44% were satisfied with the way the university had approached the SHSP program
- 54% would use the SHSP program
- 48% would feel comfortable (not embarrassed) accessing the SHSP vending machines

Programmatic Implications-cont'd



- 67% would recommend the program to friends (10% would not)
- 80% would not be offended by the machine in residence halls
- 36% would be afraid of what people might think if they accessed the safety products machines

Where Students Obtain Protection

- 54% had obtained protection from their partner
- 37% had bought the product themselves
- 5% had obtained the product from an office on campus such as the *Student Health Center*, *Women's Center*, *LGBTQ Resource Center*

Sexual Behavior

- Of the students who reported engaging in sexual activity in their lifetime, 72% had done so in the last 30 days (49% oral, 44% vaginal, 8% anal)
- Of the students who reported engaging in sexual activity in the last year, 62% were freshmen

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- 52% of students reported having used a barrier method (e.g., male condom, female condom, dental dam) the last time they had engaged in sexual activity (defined as oral, anal, or vaginal)
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Top five reported reasons for not using a barrier method

- Being in a monogamous relationship (65%)
- Knowing their partner was “safe” (58%)
- Using another form of birth control (49%)
- Having no condoms/dental dams available (20%)
- Having been tested for sexually transmitted diseases (18%)

Unprotected Sex

- Of those who had unprotected sex in the last 30 days,
 - 75% were in committed relationships
 - 15% were single or in casual relationships
 - 57% were freshmen, 24% sophomores, 35% juniors, remaining were seniors

Prevention

- Of the 232 students who reported having unprotected sex in the last 30 days, only 6% had been tested for a sexually transmitted disease

Actual Vs. Perceived

- Student respondents perceived their peers as being more sexually active than they actually were
- Conversely, student respondents underestimated the frequency of sexual activity in the last 30 days (17% of respondents reported having sex 11 or more times)
- More students had used a barrier method in the last 30 days than what was perceived

Sexual Attitudes

- The majority of respondents felt comfortable speaking with their partner about using a form of birth control and providing a barrier method if their partner did not have one

Satisfaction with Barrier Protection

- The majority of students reported feeling *relieved* if someone they were sexually active with suggested using a condom/dental dam
- The majority of student respondents perceived people who carry protection as being *sexually responsible*

Perceived Risk

- 82% reported they did not have sex with someone who was at risk for HIV/AIDS
- 84% did not think they were at risk for HIV/AIDS

Protective Attitudes

- 63% of respondents felt comfortable abstaining from sexual intercourse in a relationship
- 90% of respondents felt comfortable being in a monogamous relationship
- 86% of respondents felt comfortable speaking with a partner about birth control

Protective Behaviors

- 77% of respondents felt comfortable asking a partner about their past sexual history
- 68% of respondents felt comfortable asking a partner if they have been tested for a STD