

UNC Center for AIDS Research Newsletter

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



The mission of the UNC CFAR is to provide a multidisciplinary environment that promotes basic, clinical, behavioral and translational research in the prevention, detection and treatment of HIV infection.

March 2014

Volume 5, Issue 2

Love The Glove – Making Condoms Accessible in the Triangle

The CODE Office is committed to creating and promoting opportunities for people to access tools that will increase safer sex practices. We are excited to introduce you to the “Love the Glove” Campaign this month!

The Triangle Empowerment Center (TEC) is a vibrant community – based non-profit organization in Durham. Founded in 2008, they currently provide a variety of services to individuals in crisis through assistance with substance abuse, job placement, empowerment programs, and other resources. They offer a safe space for people to meet and talk about social, community, and health issues. TEC works very actively in the Durham, Raleigh, and Triangle community to educate people about HIV/AIDS and provide support for persons living with HIV/AIDS. They offer

confidential HIV testing at their office Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm.

TEC recently received a generous supply of condoms from AIDS Healthcare Foundation’s Condom Nation Program; they have founded the “Love the Glove” campaign to provide condoms free of charge to businesses and organizations in the Triangle area. TEC is working to distribute condoms and other safer sex resources in venues frequented by individuals who are at high-risk for contracting HIV and other STIs, particularly those marginalized by social, economic, or structural conditions.

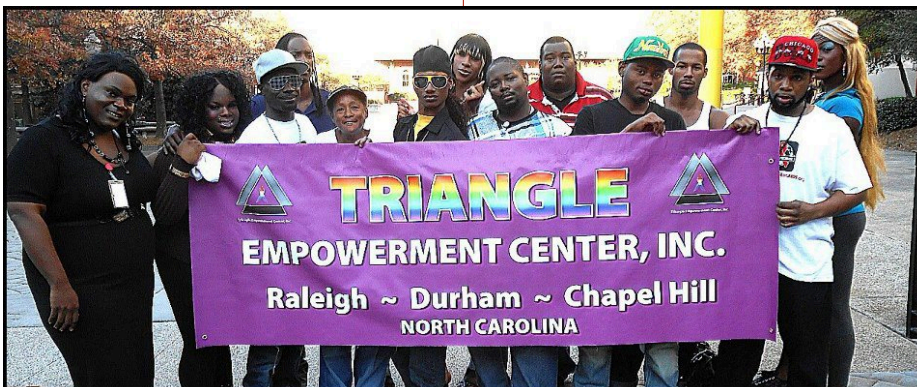
Terry Munn from TEC shared that this project allows them to “offer condoms in a more visible and affordable manner to those at-risk or in need of them”. They are working to partner with beauty parlors, adult



book and video stores, night clubs, taxi companies, shelters, and other local gathering places and businesses. For all venues that participate in the project, TEC offers education on condom distribution and use. The Center hopes to “integrate distribution program activities with other community-level intervention approaches” and programs “to promote condom use and safer sexual behaviors”. They are spreading the word about the project through the Orange County Health Department and the Orange County Homeless Providers Network.

Do you know of a business or venue that could be a participant in this project? You can contact the Center via email at

triangleempowermentcenter@yahoo.com OR by phone at 919-423-8902. Check out their Facebook page at Triangle Empowerment Center or explore their website at <http://triempowerment.org/> for updates on the project.



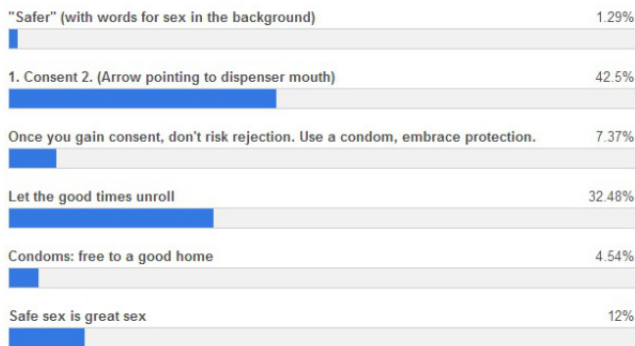
Condom Dispensers Go Live on UNC Campus

If you frequent the UNC Campus, you may have noticed something different on your bathroom breaks. UNC Student Wellness has installed free condom dispensers in the bathrooms of the Carolina Union, the Rams Head Recreation Center, and the Student Recreation Center. This project is part of a larger mission to encourage safer health behaviors among UNC students. We talked to Diana Sanchez, a Sexual Wellness Specialist at Student Wellness and a PhD candidate in the Department of Epidemiology at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, about this exciting new project. Diana is specifically interested in translating public health research into interventions to increase healthier sexual behaviors. She helped conduct the initial research and evaluation effort that informed this project, and assisted with design, partnership-building, logistics, and implementation.



Photo Credit: UNC Campus Health Services

College-aged students represent an increasingly at-risk group for sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies. Consistent, correct condom use affords dual protection against pregnancies and STIs and, as such, is a critical component of an STI risk reduction and pregnancy prevention strategy. Student Wellness at UNC has provided free safer sex supplies to students throughout Campus Health Services, residence halls, and at outreach events for over 25 years. However, in a 2011 survey of UNC students, Diana and her fellow specialists found that while 79% of students reported having vaginal sex in the last year, only 44% reported using a condom for vaginal intercourse. Of the 14% of students who had anal intercourse, only 25% of students reported condom use. For the 85% who engaged in oral sex, only 3% reported using a condom. Cost, stigma, embarrassment, availability and accessibility all contributed to this trend. Diana explained that “installing these newly designed dispensers provides students with an additional convenient way to access condoms, and reduces barriers such as availability, convenience and affordability”.



Students voted on a slogan for the dispensers.
Photo Credit: <http://healthyheels.wordpress.com>

Diana was happy to report that “the UNC campus community has shown overwhelming support for this initiative”. She says their main challenges in developing the project related to its “feasibility, logistics and sustainability”. In terms of feasibility and logistics, they “developed a system for refilling dispensers which reduces the administrative burden of sending refills”. To sustain the dispensers, they partnered with organizations on campus including the CFAR, Carolina Union, and Campus Recreation to keep them stocked. Student Wellness does not anticipate needing additional funds for the project – they are simply using existing funds for safer sex promotion in a way that may more efficiently reach students.

Diana explained that Student Wellness hopes “the dispensers will help promote a campus culture where safe, consensual sex is the norm”. She shared, “I think there’s something powerful about students seeing the message of safer sex in their day-to-day lives, and I hope that the condom dispensers help to take the embarrassment, stigma, and confusion out of safer sex behavior”. The whole project has been focused on empowering students to make healthy choices. UNC Student Wellness gave UNC students the chance to contribute a catch phrase to appear on the dispensers, and then the students got to vote on their top choice. They also polled students to determine which brand of condom they would prefer to see in a campus dispenser. Diana explained, “Our hope is that by involving students in the process directly, we could create a project that was relevant, accessible and empowering, and one they were truly invested in”.

The condom dispenser initiative is a collaborative effort on UNC’s campus that demonstrates the University is committed to making itself a safe and healthy place for all students. The team at CFAR applauds the efforts of UNC Student Wellness!

Join our facebook community to learn more about HIV- related news and events in the triangle:
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Come follow us on twitter for easy updates and news at: <http://twitter.com/#!/uncckfar>



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Happy Spring!!! Wishing you all warmth and sunshine!!!