

Sex and Contraception Among College and Graduate Students During COVID-19

Poster Authors*: Emily Chen¹, Lauren Holt, Sydney Morrow, Grace O'Leary, Rachel Proudman, Emily Sen, Andrew Shin, Lucy Zheng
 Additional Team Members: Becca Lane, Clarice Hu
 Faculty Team: Jonas Swartz, MD, MPH²; Adam Hollowell, PhD³; Keisha Bentley-Edwards, PhD⁴; Evan Myers, MD, MPH²

Objectives

- Study the impact of COVID-19 on sexual activity and contraception use among undergraduate and graduate students within North Carolina
- **Hypothesis:** Students have less access to their preferred method of contraception as a result of the pandemic. Disparities to access will be consistent with existing racial and ethnic disparities.

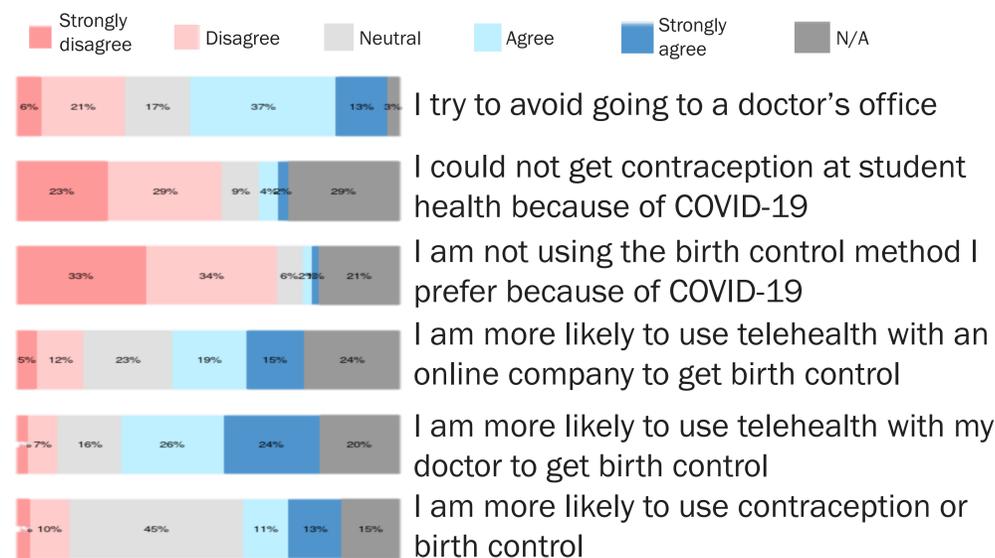
Methods

- Cross-sectional study of college and graduate students within North Carolina aged 18-30
- Participants recruited using Instagram ads
- 71-item electronic survey about sexual practices, sexual health, contraception, and COVID-19 experiences and risk
- Data collected over the course of 9 days

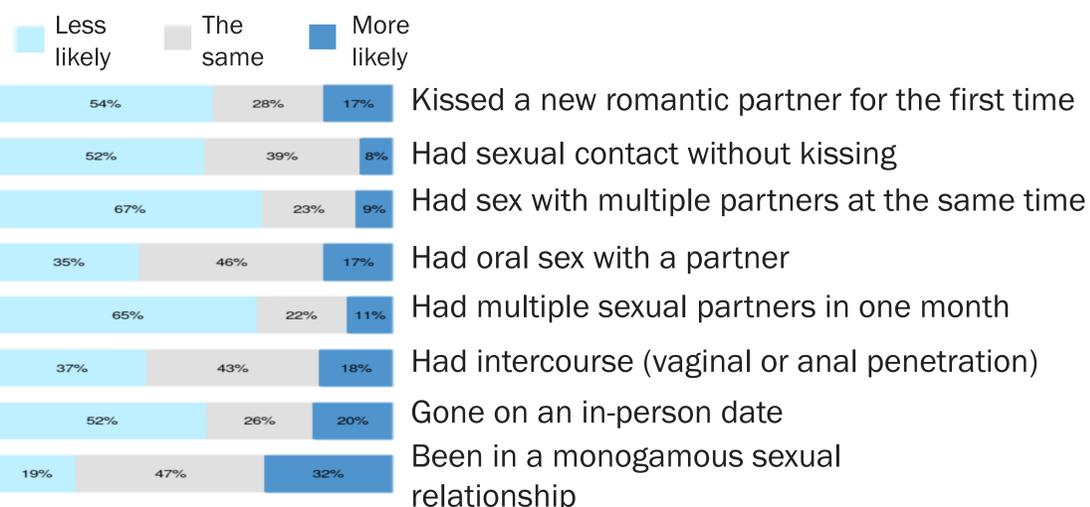
Preliminary Findings

- The advertisements were displayed 45,054 times, viewed by 28,719 Instagram users, and clicked by 2,542 users. 1,002 of 2,035 respondents met eligibility criteria.
- 996 of 1,002 eligible participants completed the survey for a 99.4% completion rate.

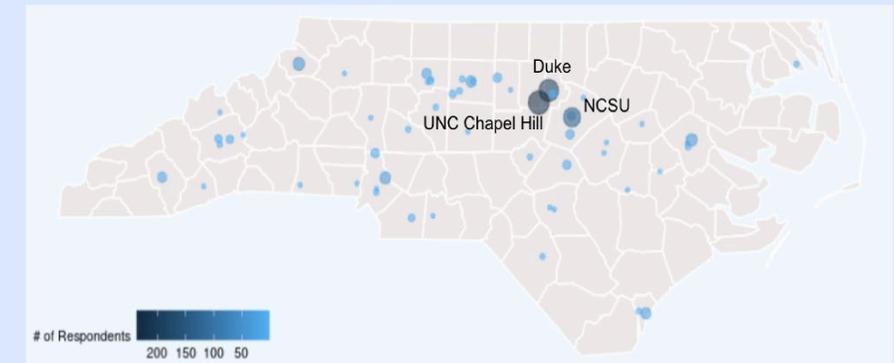
Because of COVID-19...



Compared to before COVID-19, how likely are you to have done the following?



Distribution of respondents at post-secondary schools across North Carolina



Respondents from 62 schools with majority of responses from Duke, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Discussion

- Contrary to our hypothesis, students reported continued access to their preferred contraception, through telehealth and student health.
- Students reported an increase use of online/video platforms for dating and sex but continued to have in-person sexual encounters.

Next Steps

- Finalize analysis to identify risk factors for poor access to contraception.
- Continue to partner with student health at local campuses to learn about service changes with the pandemic and disseminate results.

*All authors have contributed equally

[1] Project coordinator; Medical student, School of Medicine [2] OBGYN, School of Medicine [3] Samuel Dubois Cook Center on Social Equity, Sanford School of Public Policy [4] Samuel Dubois Cook Center on Social Equity and Dept of Medicine, School of Medicine