

Title of Study: Sexual Health of RIT Students

Principal Investigator: Deirdre Schlehofer, E.D.D.

Rochester Institute of Technology Departments: NTID and Computer Science.

Introduction: This letter describes a research study that researchers from the Rochester Institute of Technology are conducting. This study is intended to show that online social networks such as Facebook can be used to study the sexual health of college students. We estimate that approximately 400 people will take part in this study. You will be asked to complete a survey. This should take up to fifteen minutes.

Payment: You will receive \$5 in online credit at Amazon.com for completing the survey.

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. You are free not to participate or to withdraw at any time, for whatever reason without penalty.

Privacy: All the information we receive from you, including your name and any other identifying information, will be strictly confidential. In order to protect your privacy, your individual responses will not be shared with anyone. Only summarized data that is pooled from all participants will be presented at meetings or in any publications. Information regarding your personal identity will not be used, nor would any information be shared that would make it possible for anyone to identify you or your responses.

We are using a secure online connection to minimize any risk to your privacy from un-authorized parties (e.g. computer hackers). While we are taking steps to prevent it from occurring, you should be aware that there is a small possibility that responses could be viewed by unauthorized parties because your responses are being communicated over the web and stored on a web server. There are no other expected risks to you for helping with this study. There are also no expected benefits for you.

We will keep what we learn about you private, but we may have to share this information with Rochester Institute of Technology monitors or the Department of Health and Human Services. While they normally protect the privacy of this information, they may not be required to do so by law. Results of the research may be presented at meetings or in publications, but your name will not be used.

By law, we have to get your authorization to use health information we collect from you. We will use your responses to the survey questions, including your age range, gender, and sexual behavior, to conduct the study. This information may be audited to make sure we are following regulations, policies and study plans.

Your Authorization for this study will not expire unless you tell us you want to cancel it. We will keep your responses to the survey questions indefinitely. However your name and other personal information will be discarded as soon as possible after the conclusion of the study, once all participants have received payment. If you cancel your Authorization, you will be removed from the study and your information will be destroyed.

More Information: For more information or questions about this research you may contact Dr. Deirdre Schlehofer at (585) 286-5591. If you have questions, concerns or complaints about your rights as a research subject you may contact, anonymously if you wish, the RIT Institutional Review Board at 1 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY, 14623-5603, Telephone 011(585) 475-2167. You may also call these numbers if you cannot reach the research staff or wish to talk to someone else.

Sincerely yours,

Deirdre Schlehofer
Associate Professor
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Rochester Institute of Technology

