Sexual Health Inventory: Attitudes, Perceptions, and Experiences of College Students Texas State University IRB Proposal

Brittany Rosen, Principal Investigator

1. Surveys will be administered with instructor's permission to students enrolled in University Seminar (US) 1100 courses at Texas State University-San Marcos. There will be an estimated 35 sections with an estimated 30 students in each section utilized to administer the survey. US 1100 instructors will be contacted and will agree to allow trained administrators to administer the survey in the section(s) they teach.

2. With permission of the US 1100 instructors, participants will be recruited during a class meeting by a trained administrator. Trained administrators include Julie Eckert, the Health Education Coordinator at the Alcohol and Drug Resource Center at Texas State University, Brittany Rosen, a graduate health education student and primary investigator, and other health education graduate students who have completed training on administering the survey. Information about the survey will be provided to participants through the consent form of the survey. Trained administrators will read the consent form (a copy will be provided to participants) aloud to the participants. Written consent will not be obtained from the participants because they will be clearly informed that their participation is voluntary and participants have the option to not complete the survey. Therefore, consent is implied if the student completes and returns the survey to a trained administrator. All survey data will remain anonymous between researchers, Brittany Rosen, Julie Eckert, David Wiley, Ph.D., Professor of Health Education at Texas State University, and Brittany Rosen’s thesis committee members, Kelly Wilson, Ph.D. and Emilio Carranco, M.D.

3. The researchers will obtain permission from University Seminar instructors to use a class meeting to administer the survey. The survey will be hard-copy paper and responses will be indicated on a Scantron sheet provided for participants. Participants will receive one envelope and will be instructed to remove the survey and Scantron. The administrator will read the consent form aloud to the participants, instruct the participants that they are ***not*** to identify themselves in any way on the survey or Scantron, and offer to answer any questions from the participants. The participants will place the survey and Scantron in the envelope and will drop the envelope into a secure box/container. After all participants have returned their envelopes into the sealed box/container, the administrator will collect the secure box/container and return it to the principal investigator, Brittany Rosen. Students who choose not to participate in the study will be asked to remain at their seats and work on other activities while the survey is being administered.

4. There are no potential physical risks for the participants. The survey does not involve any form of treatment, coercion, deception, or invasive procedures. There are no legal risks for participants because there are no items on the survey involving legal issues. The social risks of this study are minimal. A participant might be concerned about the confidentiality of his/her responses. Because of this potential risk participants will be informed that all information will remain confidential and participation in the survey is voluntary. The data collected will be stored in the principal investigator’s office in a locked filing cabinet until January 2010 when the Scantron sheets will be shredded. The psychological risk of participating in the survey is minimal. The survey may cause participants to reflect on their attitudes, perceptions, behaviors, and personal experiences associated with sexual health issues.

5. Procedures for minimizing risks will include utilizing individual envelopes to help ensure the privacy of the participants’ responses, clearly stating in the consent form that all information will remain anonymous, allowing participants to voluntarily stop the survey at any time, and providing handouts about how to seek additional information and services related to sexual health issues.

6. Potential benefits gained by the participants will include the opportunity to express personal opinions about sexual health issues. Few studies have been conducted concerning this topic, thus there is little information on college students’ attitudes, perceptions, and experiences about sexual health issues. Based on the data collected, Texas State University could benefit from this study by providing direction to the *Network*, the student peer education group on campus, in developing programs to address student sexual health issues. The data could impact academic courses that involve sexual health issues or University Seminar topics. The Texas State University Student Health Center also has an interest invested in the study because the data could be utilized to create better sexual health services at the Student Health Center. Ashley Dozer, Health Educator Coordinator at the Student Health Center, provides sexual health presentations to Texas State University students and University Seminar courses and the data could assist in creating a contemporary presentation of sexual health issues for students. Other universities across the state and nation could benefit from the study by using data to address sexual health issues on their respective campuses.

7. After completion of the study, participants will have the opportunity to contact the primary investigator, Brittany Rosen, to receive the results of the study. Her email address is provided in the consent form, which the participants will be allowed to keep for their records.

8. The potential risks involved in this study are virtually none and the anticipated benefits to the participants, society, and the health education field are considered relevant and contemporary. The data gathered from this study will provide insight into college students’ attitudes, perceptions, and experiences regarding sexual health. Data can be utilized to better develop educational interventions that address specific sexual health issues on college campuses.

9. There are no sites/agencies used in this study.

10. The relationship of this proposal to the Health Education program at Texas State University is the study is focused on sexual health issues and the results will be used to improve the health education of students at Texas State University. This proposal is also related to the *Network*, coordinated by Julie Eckert, because of the *Network*'s presentations to Texas State University students regarding sexual health topics. The data of this study will be utilized by Julie Eckert to improve the *Network*'s presentations to impact students' attitudes and perceptions to participate in healthy sexual behaviors thus leading to a healthier student body. The supervising faculty member of this study is Dr. David Wiley, Professor of Health Education in the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department (HPER) at Texas State University.

11. Dr. David Wiley has approved all documents submitted to the Institutional Review Board at Texas State University.

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The other committee members, Kelly Wilson, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Health Education in the HPER Department at Texas State University, and Emilio Carranco, M.D., Director of Texas State University Student Health Center, have approved the study.

12. This study has not been reviewed or approved by another IRB.

13. Individuals who will have access to the results during the study are Kelly Wilson, Emilio Carranco, Brittany Rosen, David Wiley, and Julie Eckert. Julie Eckert will have access to the results because of her role as the Coordinator of the *Network*. Her ability to access the data will provide opportunities to improve the programs presented by the *Network* to Texas State University students about sexual health. After completion of this study the results will be submitted for peer-reviewed publications and professional conference presentations/symposia.