

Nova Scotia Association for Sexual Health

Office Profile: Sheet Harbour Sexual Health Centre

Year founded:

- Established in 2000 as Planned Parenthood Sheet Harbour

Clients seen in 2000 and 2005:

- 2000: 40 clients (open 2 days / week)
- 2005: 72 clients (open 3 days / week) plus 29 presentations to 771 people

Staff complement:

- Full time: 0; part-time: 1; volunteers: 1-2 in summer; 6 volunteer board members

Total annual office budget in 2005:

- \$21,875.00

Most urgent sexual health issues facing community today:

- Many young women are afraid of the hormones in birth control pills and end up ignoring birth control thinking nothing will happen to them
- The lack of a permanent female doctor here means many women are failing to get annual pap tests

Most urgent sexual health issues facing community 5-10 years from now:

- Rise in unwanted teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as condoms and birth control are either avoided or seen as unnecessary
- Rise in cervical cancer rates from women not being screened via pap tests

Areas where office excels in serving community today:

- Working with partners in delivering youth programs
- Have valuable resources
- Distributing condoms to youth

Areas office is currently unable to adequately serve community today:

- Lack clinical services for HIV testing, STI screening, contraceptive prescriptions

Critical facts about office that are misunderstood or unknown locally that need clarification, correction or reinforcement locally:

- We serve ALL members of the community from birth to death, not just youth
- Correct misconception that we only supply youth with condoms – we do more
- Correct misconception that we promote abortion – we are pro-choice

Office claims to fame

- Have a woman doctor conduct a Well Women's Day covering pap tests, birth control prescriptions and breast exams every few months

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