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Assets and Barriers to Infection Control on a College Campus

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The Problem:
Throughout history densely populated areas have been shown to be more susceptible to high rates of disease transmission.

• The U.S.’s largest Public Health campaign, the handwashing campaign, has lowered transmission rates, but college campuses still struggle with high transmission rates due to the density of the college population in small areas and lack of preventative vaccines.

• One case of a communicable disease can result in a ripple effect of contractions of the disease within the campus population.

• Handwashing is shown to be the most effective prevention method, but with the pace of today’s society, most college students may not have the time to frequently wash their hands. As a result, college students who do not wash their hands experience more occurrences of infectious diseases, medical visits, and absences from class (Prater, et. al, 2016).

• Hand sanitizer stations may help alleviate caseloads for infectious diseases. College students are shown to be less apt to get preventative vaccinations such as the flu shot (American College Health Association, 2015).

Research Methodology:
“Photovoice has three main goals:
(1) To enable people to record and reflect their community’s strengths and concerns,
(2) To promote critical dialogue and knowledge about important community issues through large and small group discussion of photographs, and
(3) To reach policy makers” (Wang & Burris, 1997).

Recommendations and Conclusions.
As mentioned, hand sanitizer stations are present on campus, but more would be beneficial to reducing transmission rates (White, et. al, 2003).

• The hand sanitizer dispensed should be 60% alcohol concentration according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

• More focus on and stressing the importance of proper hand washing methods would help alleviate disease transmissions on college campuses, and hand sanitizer stations should be checked consistently to ensure the stations are full of sanitizer.

References:

