

2019-2020 Safer Sex Initiative Report
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Introduction

Throughout the 2019-2020 academic year, Pace's University's newly named LGBTQA Center continued to advocate for safer-sex practices by the continuation of dispersing internal and external condoms and lube around the New York City campus. On a bi-weekly basis, these safer-sex supplies were distributed to 14 locations (the LGBTQA Center's spaces in 902 and 903, the 9th floor hallway in 41 Park Row, the 9th floor all-gender restroom in 41 Park Row, the lounge of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the lounge of the Student Development and Campus Activities department, Dyson Advising's Lounge, Career Service's restroom, the 1st floor all-gender restroom of 41 Park Row, the Office of Student Success, the Writing Center, the Center for Community Action and Research, the 5th floor all-gender restroom of One Pace Plaza, and the Counseling Center) around the various buildings of Pace NYC.

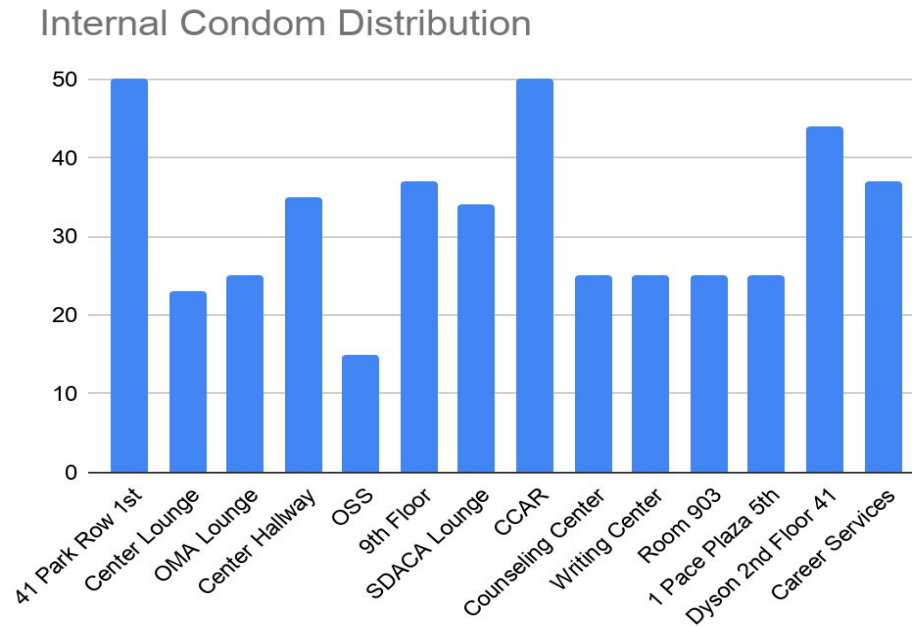
Unfortunately, due to unforeseen and unpredictable circumstances, the safer-sex initiative had to be ended early for the 2019-2020 academic year due to the Pace University becoming virtual study because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, internal condoms and lube became unavailable for the Center to receive during this distribution process. Nevertheless, the LGBTQA Center valued the data we received and has still analyzed the data from this academic year in order to document both the amount of safe sex supplies used in total as well as the variance in traffic from all locations. Note

Method

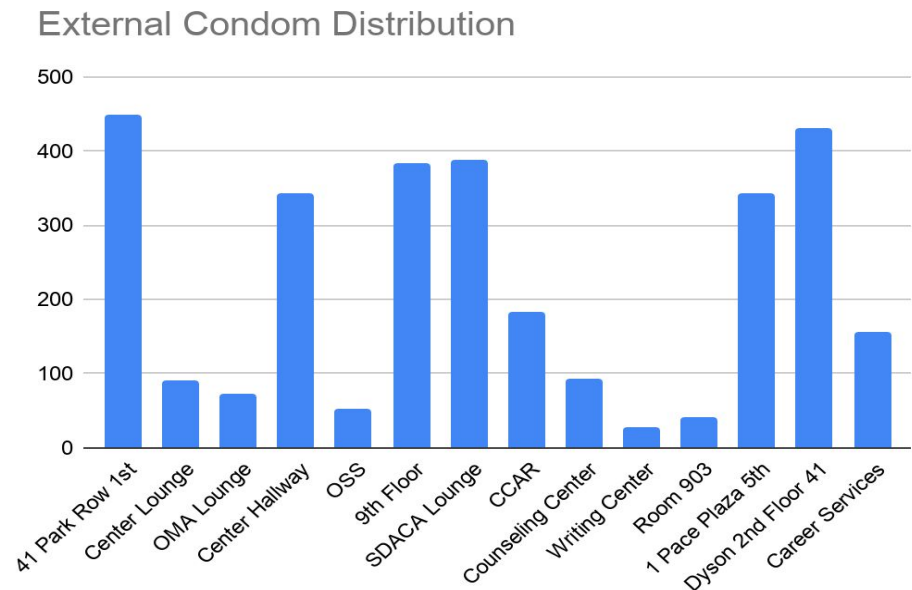
The data from each of the locations was recorded every other week, by returning to where the safer sex supplies were placed in each location and replenishing the containers to their starting amounts. The amount of safer sex supplies were then documented into a google sheet with each location having its own table to ensure that no information would be put into the wrong location table or lost and then replenished to their initial starting amount.

Analysis and Observations

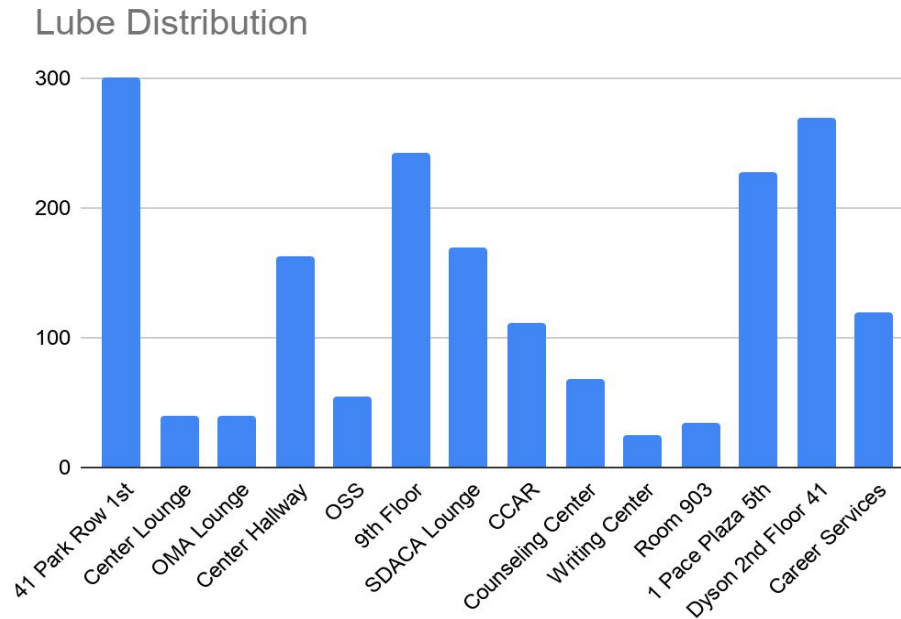
Below are three graphs (Internal Condom Distribution, External Condom Distribution, and Lube Distribution) that have been created after all data was input into the google sheet:



This graph above shows that most of the locations had a similar amount of internal condoms being replenished and that a lot of the higher replenishing numbers were from more locations that tend to be more discrete (i.e. bathrooms, offices).



In regards to external condom distribution, most public places received significantly less replenishment in comparison to more private locations.



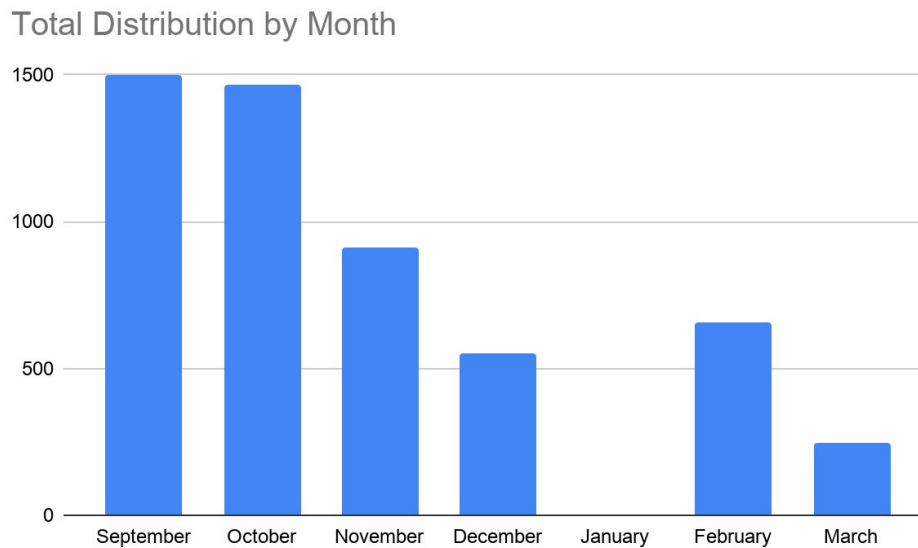
The resupplying of lube mimics the same distribution as external condoms. However, it can be seen in comparison that the ratio of total lube being taken to total external condoms being taken is about 3:5.

The LGBTQA Center has noticed that locations that either receive a lot of day-to-day traffic or are more discreet than other locations tend to have more items being taken. Due to the ability for restrooms to be less populated and more private, it can be inferred that people feel safer and more comfortable when they are less likely to be noticed by others. 41 Park Row's 1st floor All-Gender Restroom has had the most traffic this academic year with 450 external condoms, 50 internal condoms, and 330 packets of lube. Additionally, it should be documented that the Writing Center received no traffic throughout the documentation period. This can be understood by the orientation of their office and how someone is always around and at the front desk where the safer sex supplies are located.

The LGBTQA Center has also noticed that the amount of lube being taken does not equal the amount of condoms. Many groups that promote safe sex recommend using lube when having

sex to increase the amount of safety. In order to ensure that the Center is doing all that it can to promote safe sex, giving students more information about lubricant and why one should use it should be considered as this initiative develops.

Below is a breakdown of distribution by month:



Throughout the distribution period, it seems that a lot of the LGBTQA Center supplies were taken a lot during the start of the academic year in September and October with 1,500 supplies and 1,465 supplies, respectively, but slowly depreciated. January had no items dispersed due to break, and March is so low presumably due to the inability for students to return to campus. In interest to increase outreach that continues throughout the year, it may be in the Center's best benefit to post fliers or some other form of communication in each building that states where supplies can be found for that building in order to let students, faculty, and staff know that safer sex supplies are present for them to take if needed.

Results

Throughout the 2019-2020 academic year, the LGBTQA Center distributed a total of 3,055 external condoms, 450 internal condoms, and 1,864 packets of lube. As this program grows, the Center should begin to think of new locations around campus and that safer sex supplies can be placed that will also serve as a safe space for students, faculty, and staff to feel comfortable with taking what they need. It may also be beneficial for the Safer Sex program to utilize all of Pace University's all gender restrooms on the New York City campus because it can be hypothesized that more people will feel comfortable with taking anything that they need when they are in a more discrete environment.

In consideration of the data that has been received, it is apparent that some spaces are not as valuable to this program as others, and the Center should strive to reach out to these locations and talk about potentially finding a better place in each specific location for the safer sex supplies to be placed so that students will either be able to find them or so that students feel like they have privacy when taking what they need. If there is not a means of having a location for the supplies to be more approachable by students in the current spaces that the Center has places to distribution boxes, further analysis will need to be taken to determine if the boxes should be moved to a newer location that students will find easier to take from.

Conclusion

As shown by the data, the Safer Sex Initiative by the LGBTQA Center continues to show itself as beneficial to the Pace community. As this program grows, we hope to see students, faculty, and staff becoming more informed about the importance of safer-sex as a means to lower the spread of STIs and HIV / AIDS. The CDC has researched that almost half of the 20 million

sexually transmitted infections each year are found in people ages 15-24¹. Because of this, it is crucial that Pace University promotes safer sex among its students especially. Limiting the spread of STIs ultimately helps reduce a person's chance of contracting HIV or AIDS².

The LGBTQA Center appoints one staff member every year to devote time on their shift to replenish the safer sex supplies around campus in order to attempt to suppress the spread of STIs and HIV / AIDS within those in the Pace community. Without this initiative, many students, as well as faculty members and staff, are at a higher risk of contracting a sexually transmitted infection due to many factors from expenses to convenience. The Center understands that this initiative may not reach the entire Pace community, but having these supplies for those who need them is enough to keep this program running, and hopefully as it grows, the Safer Sex Initiative will reach more and more people in the Pace community every year.

¹ College Health and Safety - Family Health - CDC." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, August 9, 2016.
<https://www.cdc.gov/family/college/index.htm>.

² "STD Facts - HIV/AIDS & STDs." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March 30, 2020.
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/hiv/stdfact-std-hiv.htm>.