

Assessment of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services on Martha's Vineyard

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Introduction

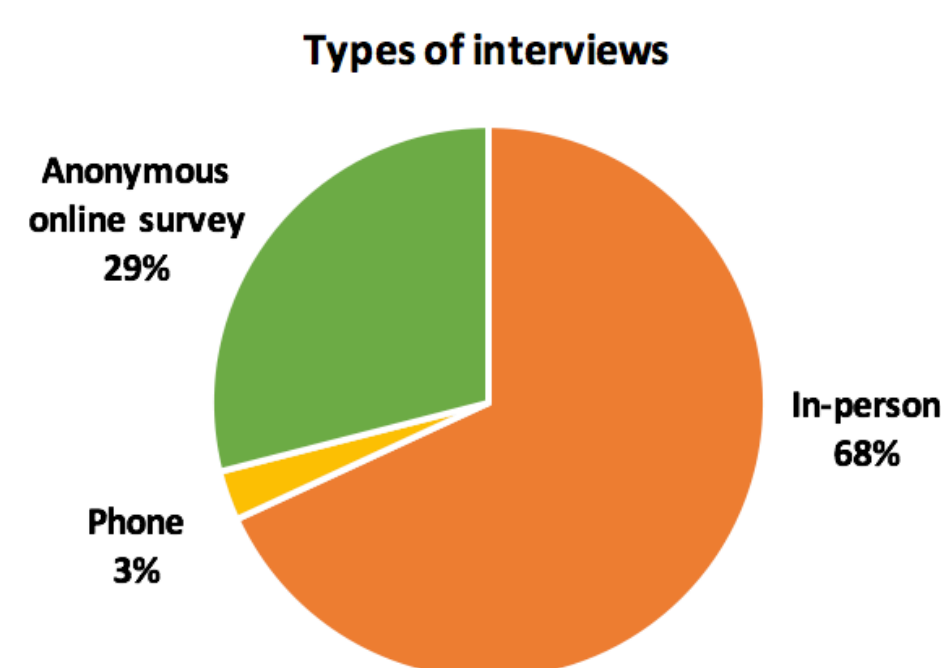
- Martha's Vineyard is part of Duke's County, which encompasses six towns on-island and the Elizabeth islands off Cape Cod
- The county is a rural the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy with a year-round population of 17,246.
- Martha's Vineyard, crucially, is deemed a medically underserved population by Governor's Exception, with both profound primary and dental care shortages.
- These shortages, combined with a lack of specialty care on the island, directly impact reproductive health care delivery, and access, on the island.
- Women from Martha's Vineyard can travel up to 90-101 miles to access abortion services off the Island, while 67% of women in the United States travel less than 25 miles to access abortion services nationwide.

Project goals

1. **Identify** the reproductive and sexual health services available on Martha's Vineyard (MV).
2. **Assess** the community's knowledge of the sexual and reproductive health resources.
3. **Evaluate** the current reproductive and sexual health services.
4. **Provide recommendations** for improvement.

Methods

- 69 participants were interviewed through in-person interview, anonymous online survey, or via phone conference.
- Participants included organization leaders, medical providers, and Martha's Vineyard community members.
- Questions covered reproductive and sexual health topics, including access to contraception, STI prevention and treatment, infertility counseling and treatment, resources for sexual assault, and domestic violence, and abortion access.



Age range	# of Participants
< 18	13
20-24	0
25-29	3
30-34	5
35-39	7
40-44	2
45-64	31
65+	7
Unknown	1

Results

Current Reproductive & Sexual Health Resources Available on Martha's Vineyard

SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION, PREVENTION, TREATMENT

Family Planning
(Health Imperatives Clinic)
517 State Road
Vineyard Haven
(508) 693-1208
Monday: 9am – 4:30pm
Tuesday: 11am – 4:30pm
Wednesday: 9am – 6:30pm
Thursday: 9am – 4:30pm
**Not Planned Parenthood (Does not perform abortions)*

Island Health Care (FQHC)
245 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road (At the Triangle in Edgartown)
(508) 939-9358
Mon—Thurs: 8am to 8pm
Fri & Sat: 8am to 4pm

These resources provide:

- Sexual health exams, birth control options, pregnancy testing, testing for sexual transmitted infections
- Services are given regardless of ability to pay
- Intérprete português

RELATIONSHIP AND GENDER/SEXUAL IDENTITY SUPPORT

Primary Care

Family Planning

Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS)
111 Edgartown Road
Oak Bluffs
(across from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School)
Services given regardless of ability to pay

Programs Offered:
Island Counseling Center
24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 508-693-0032
Office: 508-693-7900 x290

Transgender Support Group (run by Island Wide Youth Collaborative at MVCS)
111 Edgartown Rd
Vineyard Haven
508-693-7900 x400
Thursday 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Intérprete português

TRAUMA/ABUSE

CONNECT to End Violence (MVCS Program)
24/7 Hotline: 508-696-SAFE (7233)
Office: 774-549-9667
Free, confidential services, including short-term counseling, court advocacy, medical accompaniment

MV Hospital, Emergency Department
1 Hospital Road, Oak Bluffs
508-693-0410

State Police
508-693-054

PREGNANCY

MV Hospital, OB/GYN Department
1 Hospital Road, Oak Bluffs
508-693-0410
Physicians and certified nurse midwives
Intérprete português por telefone

Vineyard Birth Collective*
vineyardbirthcollective.org
Community and Support
Schedule of Island's Classes and Programs
**check with your medical provider before making changes to your treatment*

BUYING FRESH, NUTRITIOUS FOOD

Women Infants and Children (WIC) at Family Planning
In-take interview every other Friday

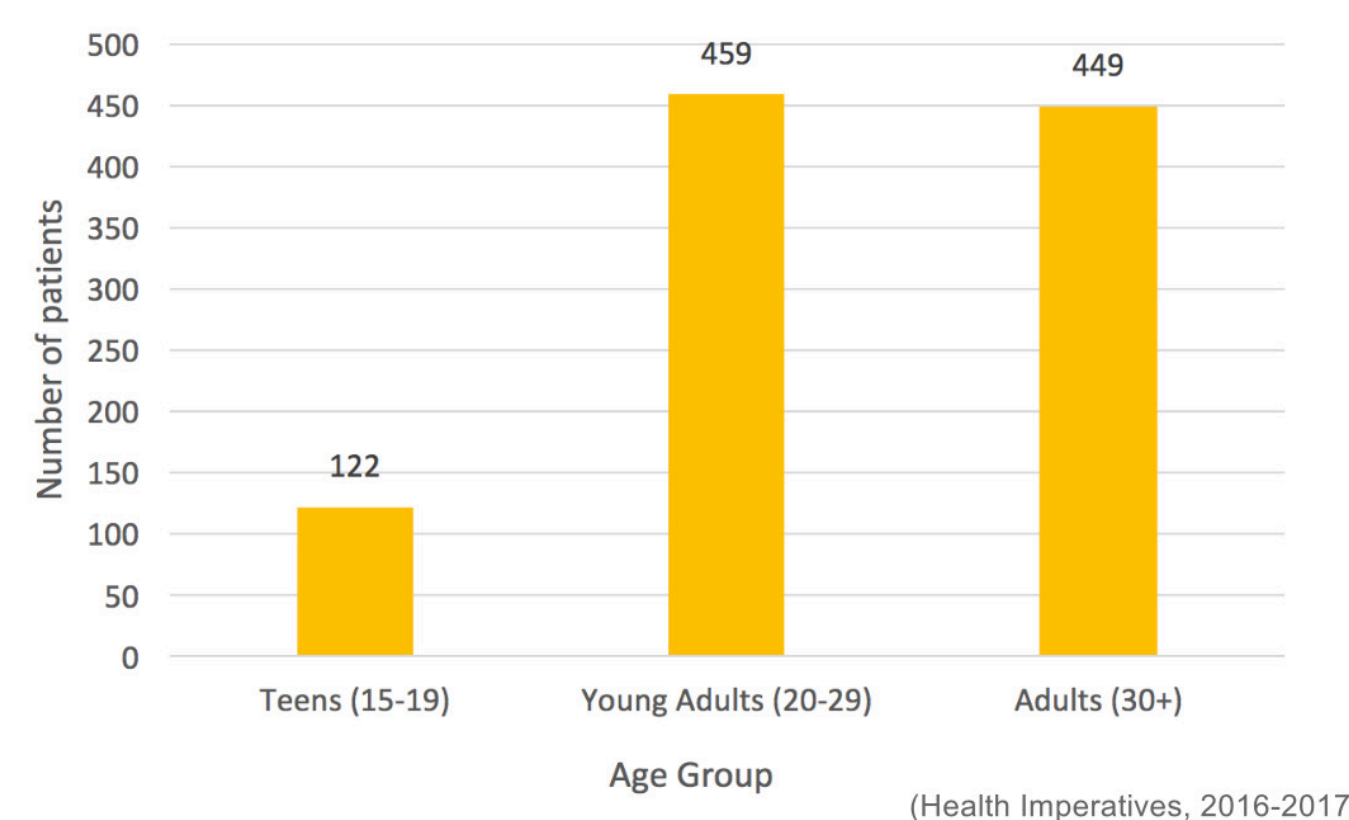
HEALTH INSURANCE

Health Care Access
114 New York Ave
Vineyard Haven
508-696-0020
Monday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday and Saturdays by appointment
Obtain and keep health insurance
Intérpretes portugues

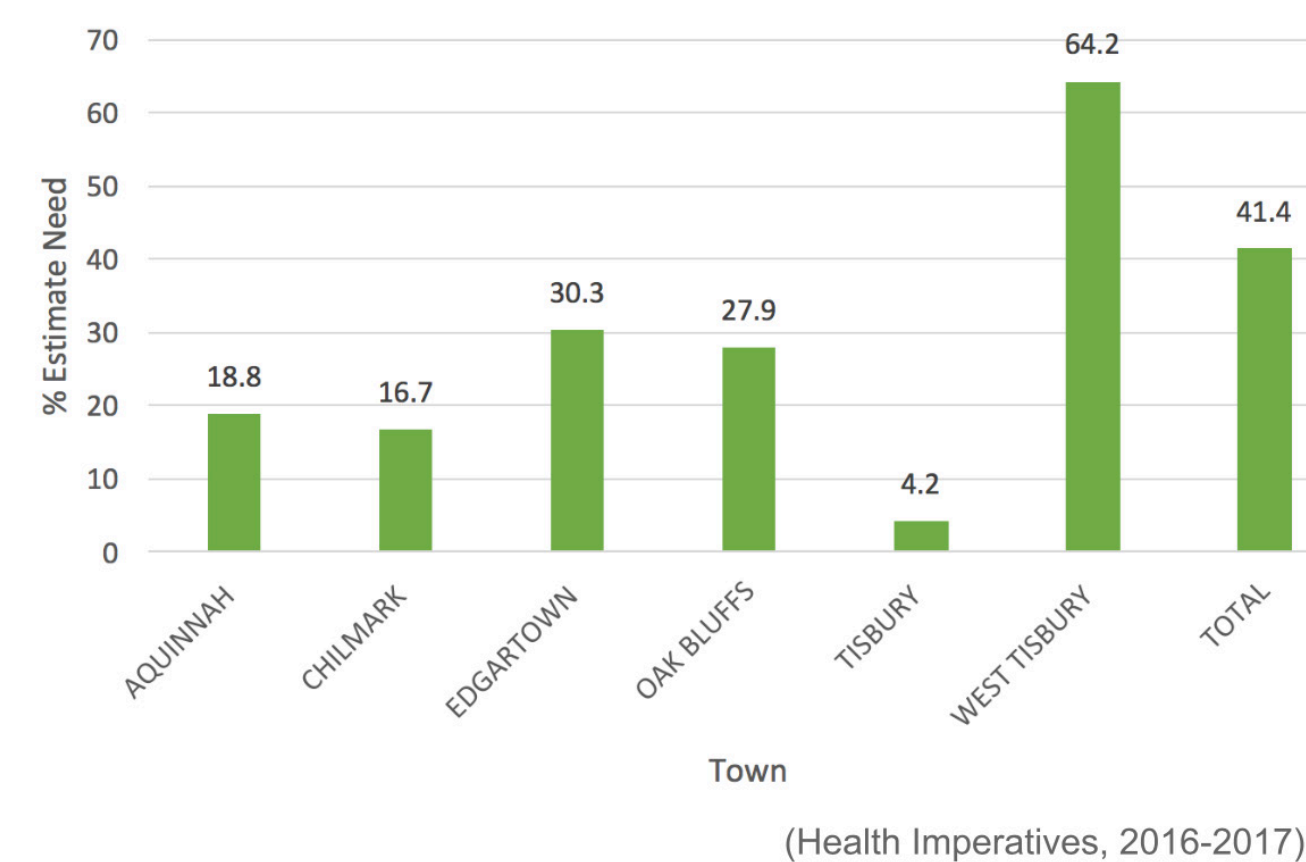
MALE SEXUAL HEALTH

Family Planning
Male reproductive health exams

Off-island
Urology
Fertility



Ages of patients visiting Family Planning in 2016-2017.



Percent of eligible individuals utilizing WIC program by town in 2016-2017.

Acknowledgements

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Recommendations and Conclusions

1. Integration of Care

- Improve, integrate, and standardize communication between Family Planning (FP), Friends of Family Planning, and the community about the services that FP offers
- Standardized screenings for depression and anxiety for perinatal and postpartum women
- Have a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) nurse available for patients who have experienced sexual assault

2. Education and Prevention

- Early, comprehensive sex education in the high school
- Curriculum that includes current resources available on the island, and how to access them
- Efforts to destigmatize Family Planning and educate students on services provided
- Integration of education into fundraising events including greater emphasis of services provided by FP
- Increased presence of FP staff at fundraiser
- Increased availability of translated materials on resources for sexual and reproductive health, especially at culture events and school events, where in-person interpreters are present.
- Translated material should use simple, non-medical language

3. Improve Visibility of Available Reproductive Resources

- Create a website with comprehensive information on all reproductive health services available on the island
- Organize community engagement events focused on reproductive and sexual health education

4. Outreach to Vulnerable Populations

- Allocation of funds for off-island travel to specialty appointments and procedures that utilizes an income-based eligibility system
- Outreach to underserved populations with mobile health clinic that provides screening and prevention services across all towns and populations
- Increased training for medical providers on delivering culturally humble care for LGBTQA community via online continuing education
- Engage LGBTQA community members by creating welcoming clinical spaces with community symbols

References

Guttmacher Institute. (2014, March 03). One-Third of U.S. Women Seeking Abortions Travel More Than 25 Miles to Access Services. Retrieved October 26, 2017, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2013/one-third-us-women-seeking-abortions-travel-more-25-miles-access-services>

Limitations of Reproductive Health Needs Assessment:

- Few interviews with underrepresented groups
 - Brazilian population, Wampanoag tribe, LGBTQA community
 - Most interviewees were over the age of 45
- Did not conduct any interviews with representatives from Alex's Place, a youth support group
- Possible selection bias – connections to the healthcare community