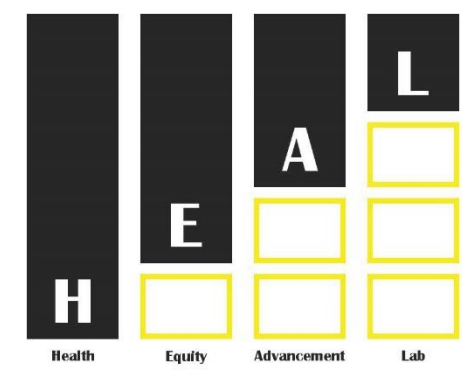


# Where Expectant and Parenting Community College Students Seek Information: Implications for Community College Programming



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## BACKGROUND

- Expectant and parenting (EP) community college (CC) students are a population with unique needs that are not entirely understood.
  - Population is at a disadvantage:
    - Academically, socially, and financially<sup>1</sup>
- To alleviate these disadvantages and promote health equity, understanding where this population seeks information could help CC staff to better target information dissemination and program design.

## OBJECTIVES

- To find out where EP students seek health information.
- To find out what information EP students are most in need of.

## METHODS

- A needs assessment was conducted at three Midwestern CCs.
  - EP students were asked about areas in which they needed support and sources of information they use.
- Topics included: health care, substance abuse, pregnancy, breastfeeding, child care, child's education, parenting, time and stress management, mental health, and healthy relationships.
- A total of 608 EP students responded and frequencies were generated for each information-seeking question to identify sources to which students turn.

## RESULTS

The following graphs indicate the percentage of respondents in each category to the question "If you were looking for information about (topic), where would you go to look?":



## CONCLUSIONS

- Knowing where EP students seek information is crucial in developing effective programs and interventions to target this population.
- CCs are in a position to provide students with resources yet they are often the last place this population reported as a preferred information source.
- CCs need to focus on making referrals to outside resources, namely medical professionals, in order to best serve EP students and promote health equity on campus.

## HEAL Principles

### Capacity Building

- CCs have the opportunity to provide students with the information they need so by identifying what students look for and where, CCs can work with their students to provide them with information and resources they need.
- CCs will learn more about their students and better be able to suit their needs.

### Social Justice Foundation

- By providing EP students with the supplemental information and resources they need, CCs can continue to promote health equity and ensure that all students are receiving the proper support to succeed.

### References

1. Peterson, S. (2016). Community college student-parents: Priorities for persistence. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 40(5), p. 370-384. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/10668926.2015.1065210>