



2022

ANNEX
TEEN CLINIC

Annual Report

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2022 was a time of challenge, renewed commitment, and celebration. Together, we ensured access to non-judgmental sexual health services by and for youth. We stood up for bodily autonomy and young people's ability to make great decisions for themselves. We innovated, tried new things, and even found time to have a little fun.

The Annex has a special place in a lot of people's hearts. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community and thank you for continuing to walk beside us as we enter this new era of sexual healthcare.

-The Annex Staff



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Director's Team

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Executive Director

Molly Berg

Director of Clinical Services & Operations

Khadijah Cooper

Director of Sexuality Education

Holly Leppanen

Director of Development & Communications





Letter from the Executive Director

As I reflect on my past 30 years with the Annex Teen Clinic, I've witnessed incredible progress towards actualizing the values and goals of our mission to help young people take charge of their sexual health. I take great pride in the many ways the Annex and its large family of past and current staff, volunteers, and supporters have helped create communities that better understand and support young people and their sexual health.

It is encouraging to think about how far we've come in the past few decades. A concerted effort promoting Positive Youth Development frameworks has broadened community understanding that sexuality is an inherent part of everyone's life, including adolescents. We've learned that young people do want guidance about sexual health from parents and other caregivers. And it has become clear that young people are capable of making great decisions about their health when they have support and are provided with the information and care they need.

Over the past year we've been discussing our strategic priorities for the years ahead. We've crafted values statements that will guide our work providing excellent, accessible and impactful services and programming. We are looking forward to sharing more information about our new Adaptive Plan soon. While many of the ideas are consistent with how we've operated since our founding, they also reflect an increased awareness of how young people's lives have changed.

The Annex Teen Clinic is committed to advancing racial equity in recognition that sexual and reproductive health cannot exist without racial and social justice. We are committed to working in partnership with young people to make sure our services and programming are truly meaningful and relevant to their experience. And we are committed to assuring that the young people receiving clinical care at the Annex are guiding that care and learning how to advocate for their needs in other healthcare settings.

Unfortunately, we're once again seeing communities around the country who are unwilling to listen to young people and provide the support and care they are asking for and deserve. All of us at the Annex are dedicated to making sure the young people of Northwest Hennepin County continue to have access to high quality accessible sexual health care and education. We are so grateful that you, our supporters, continue to be incredible stewards who move our mission forward.

Thank you,

Brian Russ, Executive Director

Our Story So Far

The Annex Teen Clinic helps young people take charge of their sexual health by providing confidential health services and education.

Located in Robbinsdale, the Annex Teen Clinic was founded in 1971. The founders came together in response to the concerns of young people about a lack of access to quality sexual health services, especially STI testing and treatment. Later, the Annex became an independent nonprofit agency. The services were also expanded to include more comprehensive sexuality-related health services. Our founding coincided with the passage of Minor's Consent Legislation in Minnesota in 1971. This legislation guaranteed young people the right to access sexual health services confidentially and independently.

Today, the Annex provides comprehensive sexual healthcare and education to thousands of young people in Northwest Hennepin County and North Minneapolis each year. All services are confidential, low or no cost, fact-based, non-judgmental, and inclusive. True to our founding principles, young people continue to shape our programs and services as we strive to help young people take charge of their sexual health.

The Annex's goal is to create a community where all young people have the resources and support they need, allowing them to successfully make the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

"The Annex educators and clinic gave me opportunities that a lot of women across the world don't have. Now I feel empowered to make my own choices surrounding my life"



Mission in Action

Rosie Rowe is the Clinic Lead at the Annex Teen Clinic. She has been working at the Annex for over a decade. In that time, Rosie has seen thousands of young people visit our clinic to access sexual health services, and as time goes on, she has established strong connections with youth who have come to trust us as a resource they can rely on. Providing access to sexual healthcare is important to our staff, especially right now. Many young people have had bad experiences with healthcare in the past, especially our young people of color, our LGBTQ+ youth, and our youth who have disabilities.

Many young people who have a bad experience with their doctor they won't go back and may delay care all together. Negative experiences stick with youth for a while, and if they avoid care, young people may experience worsening symptoms and unnecessary suffering that harms their health. Knowing this, Annex staff work extra hard to build a supportive environment where young people can feel safe and heard. That's why spaces like the Annex are so important. Annex staff, like Rosie, relate to our patients. She understands them and they feel like they can talk to her because she goes out of her way to make them feel comfortable. Rosie shows young people that they matter and that she trusts them to make good decisions about their bodies. Thanks to your support, over 1570 young people have accessed sexual healthcare at our clinic this year. Here is one of their stories:

Growing up, I never really trusted doctors. I came to the Annex because a friend told me I could get birth control with them and I knew I didn't want to get pregnant. The first time I came to the Annex everything changed. From the first appointment, I could tell everyone genuinely cared about my health and wellbeing. The people I saw were so understanding and they listened so well and were very compassionate. I never felt judged and was given the opportunity to choose what I wanted. Having a clinic I could trust truly changed my life, and I'll always be grateful.*

*Story adapted from anonymous patient feedback



Mission in Action

Haven Davis is an Annex Health Mentor located at Armstrong High School. The Annex Teen Clinic Health Mentors are responsible for providing a range of sexuality education programming and serving as a resource and support for young people and school staff around sexuality issues. They deliver classroom education, facilitate small groups including youth leadership groups, engage in one-to-one education with young people, and provide support for school staff.

When we create a safe, trauma informed space where teens can feel comfortable, they respond positively to that care. In their work one-on-one with students, Health Mentors use their expertise in positive youth development to build trust and allow students to identify their needs and have them met. We help define the standard of care that young people can define as “normal” or “acceptable” and prepare youth to better advocate for their needs in the future. During the school year Haven hosts “open office hours” on Tuesdays. Each week, 50 to 70 students attend the office hours to meet with her, retrieve supplies, or have a safe space to hang out in between classes. Haven recalled one instance where a group of four students entered her office together, all clearly nervous. After working to make them feel welcome and reminding them that what they share with Annex staff will remain confidential, the students finally shared that one of them needed emergency contraception.

When a person unexpectedly needs emergency contraception, they can feel panicked about the possibility of an unplanned pregnancy and not know what to do. In unexpected and tough situations, we often turn to the people we trust the most for advice and support: our friends. This group of young people came together to support their friend, show care for one another, and work together to figure out problems as they arise. They were smart and resourceful and displayed large amounts of self-awareness and compassion.

Thankfully, because sexual health services from the Annex are so easily accessible, this group of young people didn’t need to face this challenge alone. By connecting the group to the Annex, a young person who was in need of assistance was able to access it confidentially and without judgement. Access to emergency contraception has a significant impact on young people’s lives.

When young people don’t have access to resources, decisions are taken away from them. Your investment in the Annex has allowed young people to have bodily autonomy, support each other, and build a community where people have control over their own reproductive health and the ability to make informed decisions about their future.



Hear From Young People

"I've been seeing y'all here for 4 years now, and every time I come you comfort me and make me laugh. Best clinic ever!"



"While I was here, I also got some really valuable counseling/advice. Thanks for being there!"

Hear From Young People

**"Thank you Annex
for making young
people's lives so
much more
enjoyable, less
stress! Love this
inviting
atmosphere!"**



**"I've been coming
here since I was 16.
I tell everyone to
come here!!! Love
you guys so much"**

The Year in Numbers

6021

young people
participated in
sexual health
presentations

4279

people talked with
Annex staff at
outreach events

1570

young people
accessed
healthcare services

471

caregivers and
professionals
received health
education

The Year in Numbers

89%

of patients were
low income

24%

of patients
identified as
LGBTQ+

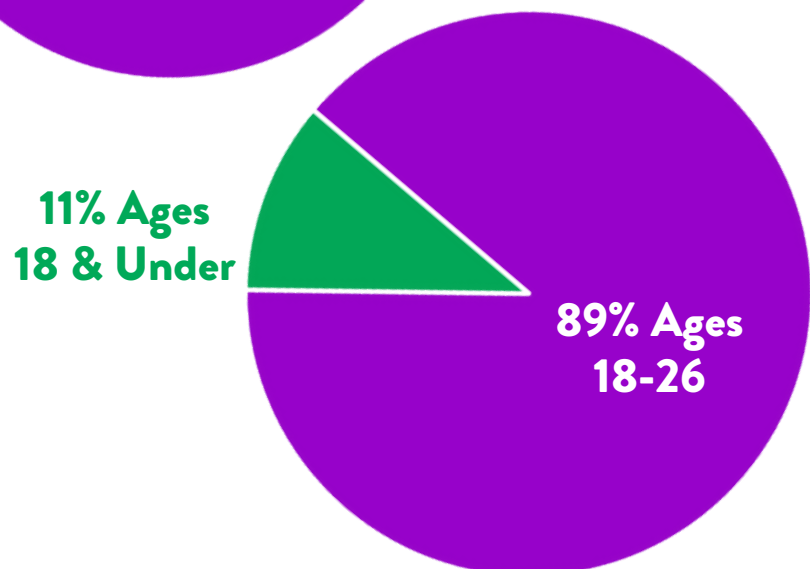
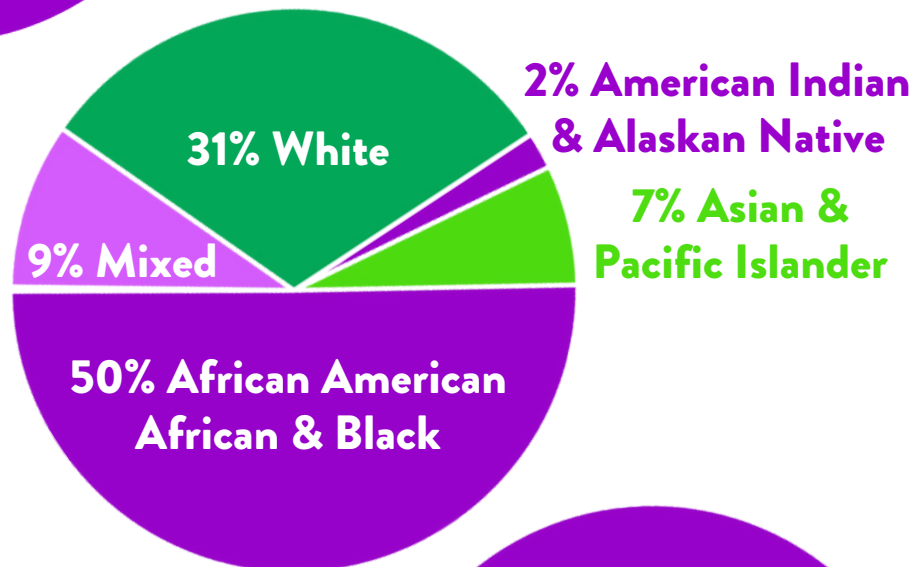
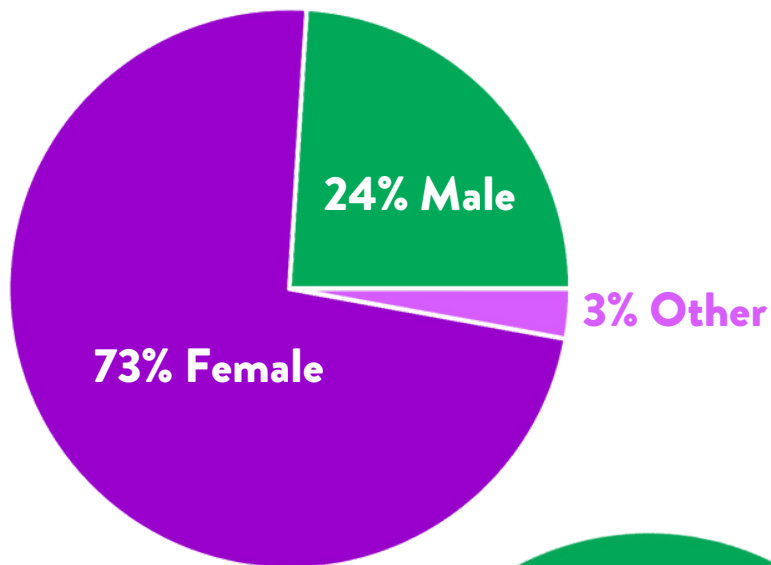
16%

of patients
identified as
Latino/a/x

7%

of patients visited
the Annex from
Greater Minnesota

Patient Demographics

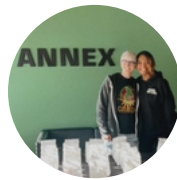


Thank You Annex Supporters

"Thank you. Having access to healthcare changed my life. Sometimes you don't feel comfortable talking about things with your guardians or parents so it is great to have the Annex around!"

"The Annex helped me realize that I was important and focusing on my health is okay. So I wanna say Thank You!"

"I have been coming to the Annex for 4 years now and everyone working here has made it the most comfortable and open experience I've ever had at any clinic. Thanks for your support!"



Stay in Touch!

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