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Sexy (and Educational!) Pictures: A Visual Ethnography on the Educators at Planned Parenthood of Illinois

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Poster Presentation P37

**SEXY (AND EDUCATIONAL!) PICTURES: A VISUAL ETHNOGRAPHY ON THE
EDUCATORS AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF ILLINOIS**

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Planned Parenthood Federation of America has been providing education and resources to women for over seventy years. While most of the news about Planned Parenthood is dominated by their pro-choice stance on abortion and other family-planning services offered at local clinics, this visual ethnography delves into the educational components of one such clinic, Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIL). Through interviews with the educational programming coordinator and several paid high school volunteers at PPIL, I discovered how important it is that women are not just treated, but also educated. Using presentations, personal contacts, and printed material, the educators at Planned Parenthood of Illinois struggle to provide comprehensive sexual education. Providing information about sexuality-related topics is not just a job to these educators; in the words of one highschool-age volunteer, “it is a lifestyle.” The poster displays the resources and camaraderie essential to this lifestyle of sexual information-sharing, and portrays the commitment to each other and to privacy that the educators at Planned Parenthood of Illinois value in their crusade to provide answers and choices to their clients.