An Exploration of Lactation Policy and Lactation Facilities Across US Higher Education Campuses (Wellness Rooms)
Society for College and University Planning (SCUP)

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS
% BY SCUP REGIONS

Respondents: 114

BACKGROUND
Access to appropriate lactation space is essential for new mothers to participate fully in work and study. The Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) and the University of Pennsylvania collaborated in a nationwide study to explore lactation policy and facilities in US colleges and universities. The Fair Labor Standards Act was amended in 2010 to require employers to provide reasonable break time and a private place for nursing mothers to express milk while at work. However, the levels, quality, and availability of lactation spaces and supports across campuses for staff, students, and guests have not been widely documented. This research is intended to help campuses identify best practices for planning policy, design, and amenities for lactation spaces. The American Institute of Architects also endorses a set of best practices for lactation space design and furnishings.

METHODS
An invitation to an online survey was emailed to 684 United States college and university campuses with one or more SCUP members. Campus representatives were chosen based on the most appropriate title for a response, but recipients could designate a knowledgeable colleague in any department to complete the survey. Individuals representing 114 campuses participated in the survey.

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Design & Graphics: IndigoJ/D Green Health
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LACTATION SPACES

DESIGN AMENITIES

- SELF-CONTAINED/DEDICATED SPACES
- ELECTRICAL OUTLETS
- IN ROOM LIGHT CONTROL
- HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
- ETHERNET PORT/WIFI ACCESS
- COUNTER SPACE/TABLE
- IN ROOM THERMAL CONTROL
- SOUND ISOLATION
- ART AND/OR MUSIC
- PRIVACY CURTAIN/SCREEN (MULTI-USER ROOMS)
- LOCKERS OR CUBBIES

LACTATION SPACES

HARDWARE

- 96% LOCKING MECHANISM
- 53% LOCKED ACCESS (KEY/CODE REQUIRED)
- 39% COAT HOOKS/HANGERS
- 4% FULL-LENGTH MIRROR

APPLIANCE/FIXTURE

- 50% WIPES/TOWEL DISPENSER
- 47% SOAP DISPENSER
- 40% SINK
- 23% REFRIGERATOR
- 4% MICROWAVE

PORTABLES

- 40% CONTACT INFO FOR PROBLEMS
- 10% PHONE
- 9% HOSPITAL GRADE PUMP
- 2% COMPUTER/LAPTOP

RECOMMENDED IN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (AIA) BEST PRACTICE
https://wellnessroomssite.wordpress.com/about/

Details: WWW.SCUP.ORG/WELLNESS


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PLANNING FOR LACTATION SPACES

- 76% Internal & External Physical Planning and Design Professionals
- 58% Human Resources
- 29% College/University Departments
- 29% Student Affairs
- 25% Other Internal Resources
- 18% Internal & External Lactation Expert

Entities Involved in Planning
EEO, Legal, Finance, College Nurse, Work-life Committee, Office of Diversity Initiatives, Student Advocacy or Academic Affairs, Lactating Women/Parent/Women’s Group

81% of respondents identified 2-6 of the entities above involved in planning lactation spaces.

FUNDING FOR CREATING AND/OR MAINTAINING LACTATION SPACES

- 55% Facility Planning and Design
- 33% College/University Departments
- 13% Student Affairs
- 36% Other Internal
- 21% Human Resources
- 1% Other External

Entities Involved in Funding
Capital Funds, Grants/Private Gifts, Work-life Committee, General Fund/Operation, State Health Department, Office of Diversity Initiatives

52% of respondents identified 2-4 of the entities above involved in funding lactation spaces.