



# ASK. TEST. TREAT.

## Addressing the STD Epidemic

### BACKGROUND

Dakota County Public Health Department (DCPH) conducted activities from January 1, 2015 through June 30th, 2016, aimed at reducing sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in Dakota County.

DCPH developed a workplan and a multi-unit work team to complete the activities. Work teams included staff from Disease Prevention and Control, Child and Teen Checkups and Family Health Home Visiting.



Provider Conference



Education & Outreach



No cost HPV Vaccination



Nursing Consultation



Training, Tools & Strategies



### Activity 1: Held STD Provider Conference and School Nurse Webinar



On October 28, 2015, a conference was held for healthcare providers at the Fairview Ridges Hospital to address best practices in STD risk assessment, testing and partner therapies. There were 48 attendees who listened to speakers from Minnesota Department of Health, primary care and community clinics and local public health. Topics included current STD testing and treatment guidelines, Expedited Partner Therapy (treating partners through point of care antibiotic prescription and dispensing) and strategies to implement STD assessment in primary care clinics. A live interactive webinar was held on February 28, 2016 with school nurses. The webinar provided information on current trends and recommendations for STDs and resources available for free and low-cost testing. A follow-up packet of education and low-cost testing resources was mailed to participants.





### ACTIVITY 2: Provided STD education and outreach to post-secondary students

Staff attended five community college health fairs at Dakota County Technical College, Inver Hills Community College and Brown College during 2015 and 2016 to do STD outreach and education. Staff designed games, stand-up banners and flash drives with STD educational materials. Prizes were used to draw in students. The booths were well attended and a total of 347 attendees participated in the activities.

### ACTIVITY 3: Provided no-cost human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations



Public Health purchased HPV vaccine and conducted several outreach activities to reach adolescent and young adults who met criteria for HPV vaccination. Adolescents who did not finish the HPV vaccination series from an August, 2013 clinic were contacted for follow-up. Nurses offered free HPV vaccine at the community college health fairs in 2015 and 2016. Nurses administered free vaccine on-site at Dakota Woodlands Homeless Shelter. A total of 19 doses of HPV were administered through the grant activities.



### ACTIVITY 4: Provided nursing consultation related to STDs, at the Juvenile Services Center and adolescent and young adult women shelters

STD education and consultation sessions were conducted by nurses with residents of temporary housing shelters including Dakota Woodlands and Harbor Shelter. Staff provided health education sessions to at-risk youth at the Dakota County Juvenile Service Center. Staff met with the clinical staff to provide STD materials and resources for use with residents. Family health nurses held an education and information session on STDs to a Public Health sponsored teen-parenting group. A total of 125 at-risk youth and young adults participated in nurse outreach and education activities at shelters, the juvenile service center and teen-parenting groups.

### ACTIVITY 5: Developed and trained staff on a standardized sexual health screening tool and strategies for prevention and treatment



Family Health home visiting program developed an STD assessment tool and incorporated it into the patient electronic health record (PH-Doc). The assessment tool was based on the CDC 2015 STD guidelines. The STD assessment tool was piloted by the Family Health unit and training was provided to staff on how to incorporate a sexual health assessment as part of standard nursing care. An in-person half-day training was held for DCPH public health staff on STD updates and resources. The STD workgroup assembled "STD Kits" containing teaching materials, resources and a low-cost clinic list. The STD Kits were distributed at the training to all the public health nurses to use for in-home visiting.



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