

Upcoming Presentations Summaries
Clark County Public Health, Infectious Disease Program
Spring 2018

Expedited Partner Therapy in Clark County, Washington: Baseline Rates, Provider Experience, and Implications for Provider Education

June – Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) National Conference

Primary Presenter: Dr. Bernadette Zakher

Co-Authors: Derel Glashower, Kari Haecker, and Madison Riethman

- Expedited partner therapy (EPT) refers to the practice of providing medications to sex partners of patients diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease without a medical examination, and has been shown to increase partner treatment and reduce reinfection with gonorrhea and chlamydia.
- The Washington State Department of Health provides EPT partner packs for partners of heterosexual persons diagnosed with chlamydia and gonorrhea that can be prescribed by providers and picked up from select pharmacies across the state.
- This project explored rates of EPT use in Clark County and barriers to the prescribing of EPT.
- Investigators interviewed 237 newly diagnosed chlamydia cases from June to September 2017, and found that EPT had been offered by a provider in 48% of cases
- An online survey completed by providers demonstrated familiarity with EPT; concerns about liability and the possibility of an adverse drug reaction were the most commonly reported barriers to prescribing. This information was used to inform outreach and education strategies targeted towards Clark County healthcare providers.

Program Evaluation and Enhanced Surveillance Among Syringe Exchange Clients at a County-Sponsored Harm Reduction Center: Optimizing Services with Special Populations

April – Oregon Epidemiology Conference

June – Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) National Conference

Primary Presenter: Madison Riethman

Co-Authors: Derel Glashower, Kari Haecker, and Sandi Kendrick

- The primary aim of this project was to evaluate the overarching healthcare needs of Clark County syringe exchange clients, specifically related to STDs, HIV, and Viral Hepatitis, as well as to identify gaps in the provision of services, strengthen the healthcare referral process, and determine how best to allocate program resources in the future.
- Among surveyed individuals, 65% reported no access to a primary-care provider, 51% had unstable or no housing, and 53% utilized the emergency department or urgent care as their main source of health services.
- Although 96% of Hepatitis C positive individuals reported having health insurance, over half had not received any medical follow up for their positive test.
- The results of this project provide a timely, data-driven means of program evaluation at the HRC, and testify to the continued need for improved linkages to health care resources in the community, which may facilitate treatment, disease management, and harm reduction for those individuals with Hepatitis C, HIV, or other communicable diseases.

Quad County DIS Panel: Cross Jurisdiction Collaboration in STD Case Investigations

April – Oregon Epidemiology Conference

Primary Presenters: Kari Haecker, along with LHJ partners from Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties

- Clark, Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington County STD Programs participate in quarterly meetings to discuss best practices, resources, and case reviews.
- This presentation will focus on 2 separate clusters of syphilis cases that involved each county and reflect on how the counties worked together to take care of clients.

Appropriate transfer of recovering influenza patients from hospital to long-term care and influenza-like illness outbreak management: a collaborative approach to education and material development

June – Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) National Conference

Primary Presenter: Vivian Hawkins, WA State DOH

Co-Authors: Dana Nguyen and Madison Riethman, along with various Washington State DOH and LHJ partners

- The 2016-2017 influenza season was particularly severe in Washington state, with 278 lab-confirmed influenza deaths and 235 influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks in long-term care facilities.
- Following this season, the Washington State Department of Health convened a workgroup comprised of select local health jurisdiction partners, licensors, and other healthcare facility representatives, to identify and address concerns regarding caring for recovering influenza patients and to update and improve available guidance, documentation, and educational materials.
- This presentation will focus on the unique, innovative ways in which this workgroup allowed for public health agencies to learn more about the barriers and challenges faced by healthcare organizations during influenza season, and facilitated the development of targeted resources that could most readily support these partners.