

## Thinking outside the clinic

Meeting the STD Screening and Treatment Needs of Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM)

David Ponsart  
Supervisor, Infectious Disease Prevention Program  
ACCESS Community Health and Research Center

## Background

- ACCESS Community Health and Research Center has been funded to provide highly targeted HIV prevention services for over 15 years
- ACCESSHIV is a one stop shop for HIV testing, Treatment, Prevention Education, Case Management, Mental Health Services & Substance Abuse Treatment

## Background

- MDCH laboratory validated rectal and pharyngeal swab specimens for GC/CT testing in 2010.
- (Summer) 2011 ACCESS requested technical assistance to integrate Chlamydia (CT) and Gonorrhea (GC) screening into 2011 National HIV Testing Day.
- (Fall) 2011 ACCESS was contracted through MDCH to provide Syphilis education, screening and treatment. HIV counselors trained in phlebotomy.
- (Fall)2012 ACCESS was contracted through MDCH to provide Hepatitis B vaccinations for adults.

## Service array

- Clients engaged in outreach are offered
  - HIV screening
  - Syphilis screening
  - G/C Urine, Pharyngeal, Rectal (based on age & risk)
  - Hepatitis B surface antigen & antibody testing
  - Hepatitis C screening
  - Hepatitis B vaccinations if Anti-HBsAg absent


## Branding and Collaboration

- ACCESS created the “Don’t Share Syphilis” and “ACCESSHIV” brands





## Create Partnerships

Spend 15 minutes with an ACCESS “sexpert” for a Friendly 15



**statussexy.com**



## Connect with the Community

- ACCESS partnered with agencies to provide complimentary services.
  - AIDS Partnership Michigan
  - Affirmations
  - StatusSexy.com
  - Mr. Friendly
  - Beautiful
  - Mpowerment Detroit
  - University Of Michigan Dearborn

## Destigmatize STD's

- Making Syphilis education appealing to youth

## Create Value Added Materials

**Our health needs are different!**  
Recommended screenings for men who have sex with men. Gay, bisexual and same-gender loving men have different needs when it comes to health. Use this card as a tool to start the conversation with your healthcare provider. Your body will thank you for it!

**GET THESE VACCINES!**

- Hepatitis A/B
- HPV (Human Papilloma Virus)

**Ask if You Bottom...**

- Ask for an **anal pap smear** at least once per year. Anal cancer is 20 times higher among gay men and 40 times higher in HIV positive gay men.

**ASK FOR THESE TESTS AT LEAST ONCE PER YEAR**

- HIV B Syphilis
- Gonorrhea/Chlamydia (urine, throat swab, rectal swab)

For More Information:

**Gay Men's Health**

**Syphilis is Back!**

**SYPHILIS FACTS!**

- Syphilis is spread through infection body contact including skin-to-skin contact as well as unprotected anal and oral sex.
- You may have syphilis and not know it. Some people develop visible symptoms of syphilis infection, but others don't.
- Among other things, syphilis can cause skin lesions, a rash, sores, and/or flu-like symptoms.
- Syphilis makes you more likely to contract HIV from sex partners.
- If you are sexually active, it is important to get tested for syphilis regularly. Tell your healthcare provider you want to have a syphilis test.
- You can get syphilis more than once.

**GET TESTED!**

- Without treatment, syphilis can make you very ill.
- Syphilis will not go away on its own.
- If you find out you have syphilis, it's important to get treated and then follow up with your healthcare provider to make sure the treatment worked.
- If you are a HIV sex partner, syphilis infection may take longer to both treat and cure.
- Syphilis may worsen your "AIDS" (A measure of HIV in your blood). This can speed up the rate at which HIV damages your immune system.

**GET TREATED!**

To find out more about syphilis and HIV, visit [www.CDC.gov/STD/syphilis/STISite.aspx#MSM](http://www.CDC.gov/STD/syphilis/STISite.aspx#MSM)

Customizable information cards distributed to community partners

## Promote your brand

## Get INTO the community not behind a table

## Conclusion

- Integrating STD screening with community based HIV testing identified significant undiagnosed infection.
- Clients were very receptive to STD screening outside their doctors office or health department
- Many of these clients would not have otherwise accessed pharyngeal or rectal GC/CT screening

## Outcomes calendar year 2013

### *Gonorrhea & Chlamydia*

- Screening and results include all risk categories.
- 309 Urine Screens
  - 38 positives – 12%
- 195 Pharyngeal swabs
  - 4 positives – 2%
- 38 Rectal swabs
  - 6 positives – 16%

## Outcomes calendar year 2013

### *Syphilis*

410 patients tested  
12 positives – 3%  
43 doses of bicillin administered

The number of doses administered includes patients and patient contacts referred from Wayne County and Detroit DIS

## Outcomes calendar year 2013

### *Hepatitis B*

625 patients screened for HBsAg & Anti-HBsAg  
25 HBsAg positive – 4%  
292 Anti-HBsAg positive  
333 patients negative for Anti-HbsAg  
209 doses of vaccine administered

## Outcomes calendar year 2013

### *HIV*

304 total tests administered  
6 confirmed positives – 2.6% (including unconfirmed)  
2 unconfirmed rapid positives  
194 conducted in the field (63%)  
208 MSM (68%)

## Implications

ASO's are trusted providers for the MSM community. Rising rates of syphilis/HIV co-infection, and the high number of GC cases identified in this project, call for strengthening partnerships between public health departments and ASOs to increase disease intervention for this high risk population.

## **The Team**

- David Ponsart – Supervisor, Infectious Disease Prevention Program
- Sam Harp – HIV & STD Prevention Counselor
- Randy Dowding – MSW, MPH University of MI intern
- Carson Phillips – University of MI summer intern
- Tyesha Rollie – University of MI volunteer
- Kamran Salari – Americorps AIDS United
- Nick Sielicki– Volunteer phlebotomist
- Dr. Hassan Dakroub MD - Infectious Disease Specialist
- Leigh Ford Clark, MSN, RN, FNP-BC - Nurse Practitioner