INCREASING CONDOM AVAILABILITY IN HIGH IMPACT AREAS OF SELECT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS

Douglas Durley, Jr.
MPH Program
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Faculty Advisor: Dr. Alan Wells
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Introduction

- Miami-Dade County is the epicenter for new Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) in the state of Florida.
  From 2013-15:
  - 10,946 average annual cases of chlamydia
  - 2,469 annual cases of gonorrhea
  - 446 annual cases of infectious syphilis
- Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (FDOH-MD) has seen a significant increase in STI rates among high school students through the Healthy Teens Initiative Expos.
- In 2015-16, FDOH-MD conducted testing in 21 high schools within high impact zip codes.
As of 2014, Miami-Dade County ranks 1st among Florida counties for the highest number of new HIV/AIDS cases.

Miami-Dade County accounted for 25% of Florida’s new HIV diagnoses, and 2% of new cases in the US.

From 2010-14, there has been a constant increase in reported STIs in the state of Florida.

The number of reported STIs in Florida is similar to the rates for the entire United States.
Introduction (cont.)

2014-15 Healthy Teens Expo Data
• 1,733 students tested for HIV, 1 positive case linked to care
• 1,113 students tested for chlamydia, syphilis, and gonorrhea
  ➢ 78 tested positive for chlamydia
  ➢ 8 tested positive for gonorrhea
  ➢ 2 tested positive for syphilis
Purpose/Aim

The project has two primary aims:

• To explore and describe local factors and reasons for student’s behaviors in negotiating and engaging in sexual activity that contributes to the STI rates in Miami-Dade County public high schools.

• To increase condom availability to high school students by recruiting businesses nearby high schools in high impact areas.
Methods

• Business recruitment surrounding five previously identified priority high schools in high impact areas.
• Provide condoms and STI educational materials to recruited businesses.
• Generate survey for students at annual Healthy Teens Expo.
• Follow-up evaluation of recruited businesses including but not limited to a condom count.
Results

Priority high schools in high impact areas:
- Booker T. Washington Senior High School
- North Miami Senior High School
- North Miami Beach Senior High School
- Turner Technical High School
- Southridge Senior High School
Results

- Surveys were collected at two Expos and business recruitment was conducted around five priority high schools.
- A total of 99 surveys were collected from students.
- A total of 13 businesses were recruited.
- 2,222 out of 3,250 condoms distributed to business were provided to customers.
- Businesses reported many students picking up condoms.
- Students were not requesting additional STI/HIV materials or inquiring about additional condom distribution locations.
Discussion

• Project need for condom availability around selected high schools in high impact areas of Miami-Dade County.
• 2014-15 Healthy Teens Expo identified a number of students who tested positive for various STIs.
• Survey data helped stimulate conversation to understand why students may be hesitant to use condoms.
• Survey data indicated that students had a high level of comfort with picking up free condoms from teen friendly venues, but some female students were opposed due to embarrassment.
• A delay in the survey approval process and a smaller turnout at Expos were two major project limitations.
Conclusion

• Lack of education and access to prevention materials (eg. condoms) are key contributors to increasing STI rates among high school students.

• Students were educated on misconceptions regarding modes of transmission and risk factors and provided with resources for engaging in safer practices.

• Condom availability was increased surrounding 5 out of 10 priority high schools through the recruitment of 13 teen friendly businesses.
Future Recommendations

• Create intervention programs that focus on STI/HIV education in high schools to increase awareness and promote prevention.
• Continue to focus on recruiting businesses in high-risk areas based on surveillance data.
References


• CDC. Florida 2015 state health profile. [https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/stateprofiles/pdf/florida_profile.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/stateprofiles/pdf/florida_profile.pdf)


• Florida Department of Health. 2015 Healthy Teens Expo Initiative. Miami-Dade public schools.
