

INCREASING CONDOM AVAILABILITY
IN HIGH IMPACT AREAS OF SELECT

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HIGH
SCHOOLS

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MPH Program

Capstone Project

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Introduction

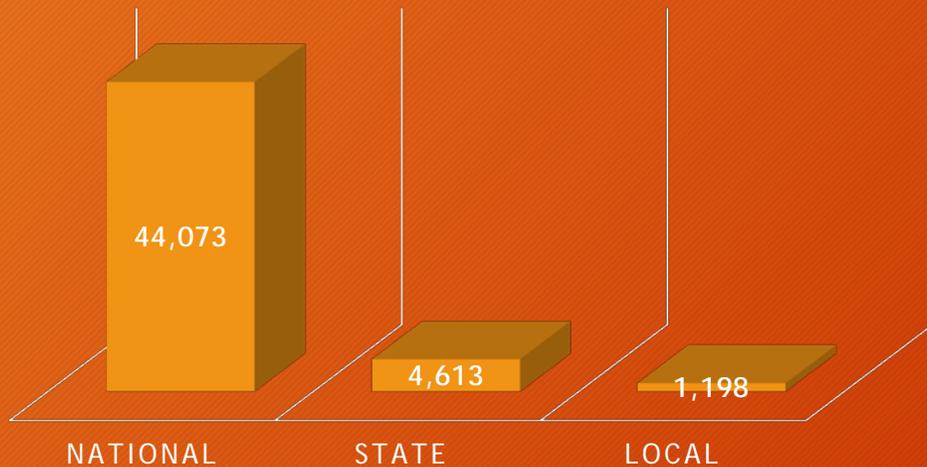
- Miami-Dade County is the epicenter for new Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) in the state of Florida.

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.

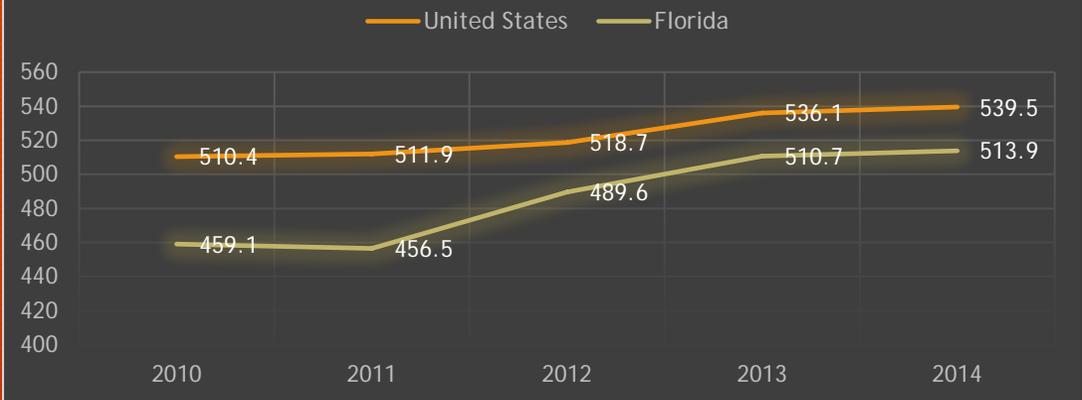
Introduction (cont.)

2014 NEW HIV DIAGNOSES



- 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.

Total Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and Chlamydia Reported Rates in Miami-Dade County vs. Florida 2010-2014



- 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.

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