



Reducing inadequate treatment of gonorrhea infections in Marion County, Oregon

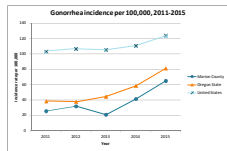
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Background

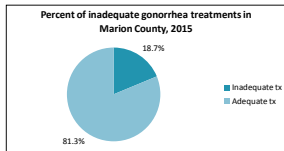
STI investigation: role change at state & local level
 •In 2015, the State Disease Intervention Specialist role to investigate sexually transmitted infection (STI) cases and contacts was transferred to local health departments. At that time, Marion County was only responsible to provide diagnosis and treatment services.
 •To fulfill this new role Marion County Health Department (MCHD) added an additional public health worker to complete gonorrhea investigations and trained communicable disease nurses to complete syphilis investigations
 •To address increasing gonorrhea rates, MCHD applied for and was awarded a CDC Public Health Associate. The associate was assigned to complete an assessment and use the findings to plan and implement processes intended to reduce STI rates

Increasing STI rates during this transition
 •Between 2011 and 2015 the incidence rate increased from 25.5 per 100,000 to 78.0 per 100,000. This is a 154.9% increase in incidence per 100,000 over a 5 year period.



Change in STI screening and treatment guidelines during this time
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/>

STI assessment
 •MCHD found that **18.7%** of gonorrhea cases in 2015 were inadequately treated
 •Assuring adequate treatment became a priority for MCHD
 •There is a low resistance profile in the county and we want to prevent the spread of resistant strains before it is a problem



Problem

In 2015, 18.7% of gonorrhea cases were not treated per updated CDC treatment guidelines. To reduce this percentage the Marion County Health Department prioritized provider outreach to increase awareness of and adherence to the updated CDC treatment guidelines.

Methodology

- Using ORPHEUS (the Oregon Public Health Epidemiologic User System) we calculated the percent of gonorrhea cases reported by each provider in Marion County
- We then extracted provider information from our own inadequate treatment surveillance system (Excel Spreadsheet) and ranked providers based on what percentage of inadequate treatments they were responsible for
- This allowed us to prioritize all of our provider outreach to where the problems were
- Providers that were on the top of the list for both greatest percent of cases *and* inadequate treatments were given top priority

Gonorrhea 2015 (n=252)			Gonorrhea Inadequate Treatment 2015 (n=47)		
Rank	Provider Name	% of all cases	Rank	Provider Name	% of all inadequate tx
1	MCHD	19.2%	1	B	17.0%
2	B	11.0%	2	K	14.9%
3	C	10.5%	3	C	8.5%
4	D	7.3%	4	J	6.4%
5	E	6.8%	5	D	6.4%
6	F	5.9%	6	F	4.3%
7	G	4.1%	7	L	4.3%
8	H	3.7%	8	M	4.3%
9	I	2.7%	9	N	4.3%
10	J	2.3%	10	H	4.3%

*Left hand side shows top 10 providers seeing gonorrhea cases in Marion County
 *Right hand side shows top 10 providers recorded as inadequately treating gonorrhea cases
 *Real as "Provider B sees 11% of all cases in Marion County, and is responsible for treating 17% of all recorded inadequate treatments in the county"

Resources/ Participants

- Health Officer
- Communicable Disease Team
- Health Educators
- Public Health Division Director
- STI Clinic Program Supervisor

Intervention

Intervention Goals:
 •Reduce the percent of inadequately treated gonorrhea cases by the end of 2016

- Increase practitioner knowledge of:
 -STI incidence rates in the community
 -new screening and treatment guidelines

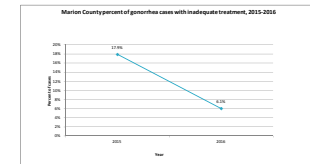
Individual messaging:
 •Notification letters were sent along with updated CDC treatment guidelines to providers who prescribed inadequate gonorrhea treatment

- Public health nurse followed up with providers who received inadequate treatment letters to answer additional questions and provide public health context

Group messaging:
 •MCHD Health Officer or health educators presented the latest data and treatment recommendations and answer questions at larger facilities like hospitals as well as smaller facilities like clinics.

Outcomes

- From January to December 2016 inadequate treatments decreased by 65.9%.
- Marion County is currently ranked number 1 in the state of Oregon for the highest percent of adequate treatments in a county with greater than 15 cases of Gonorrhea annually.



Next Steps

- Monitor – MCHD added adequate treatment rates to our performance measures. Further outreach to providers will be determined based on data
- Re-evaluate the outreach plan and consider formation of a collaborative to address STI rates as a community

Contact information

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