

IMPROVING CHLAMYDIA SCREENING RATES AMONG ADOLESCENTS AT A SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER IN NEW ORLEANS

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BACKGROUND

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted infection in the U.S., and is most common among adolescents. In 2018, Louisiana ranked 1st in the nation for chlamydia infections among adolescent females and 2nd for adolescent males. In that same year, the New Orleans-Metairie Metropolitan Statistical Area had an overall rate (including adolescents and adults) of 827.6 cases per 100,000 residents, higher than both the state and national rates.¹

The School-Based Health Center (SBHC) at New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School (SciHigh) was selected to participate in a 7-month quality improvement (QI) project to increase chlamydia screening rates among adolescents, aged 11-24, in primary care practices. This project was supported by the National Quality Improvement Center and Louisiana Department of Health.

AIM

To increase the rates of sexual activity assessment and annual chlamydia screening among adolescent patients, aged 11-24, at the SciHigh SBHC.

METHODS

The SciHigh QI team participated in monthly technical assistance webinars and engaged in rapid testing of several interventions using PDSA cycles.

MEASURES

1. Increase by 10% the number of adolescent patients who have sexual activity status assessed and documented in their electronic medical record within the last 12 months (baseline =84%)
2. Increase by 10% the number of sexually active adolescents screened for chlamydia within the last 12 months (baseline =41%)

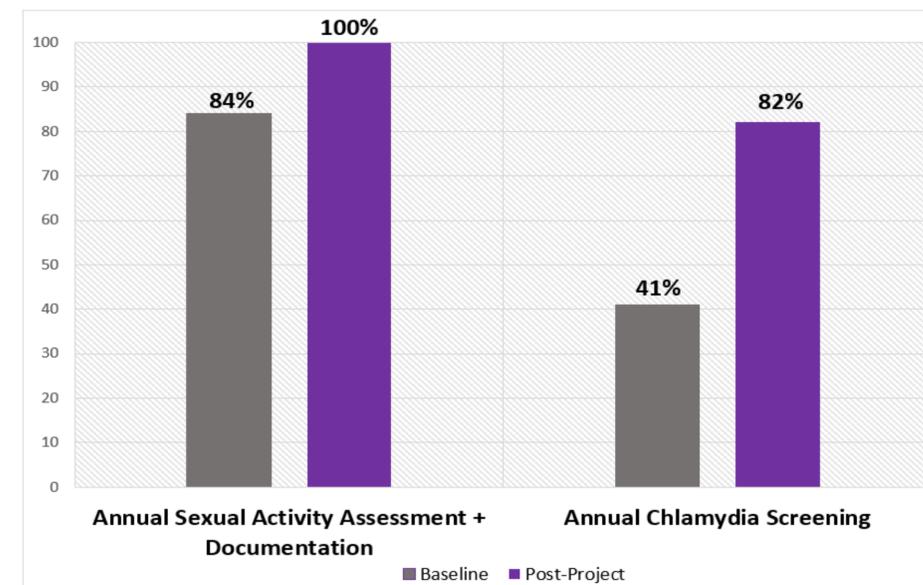
CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a brief sexual activity assessment and consistently conduct it during all sick and well visits
2. Consistently document sexual activity status in the same location in the electronic medical record
3. Offer chlamydia testing consistently during all sick and well visits

SEXUAL HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Have you had any type of sex (oral, vaginal, rectal)? Yes/No
2. Have you had any type of sex in the past year? Yes/No
3. When did you last have sex? Unknown/>2 months/< 2 months
4. Did you use protection (ex. condom) the last time that you had sex? Yes/No
5. Have you been tested for STIs since the last time that you had sex? Yes/No

RESULTS



The annual sexual activity assessment + documentation among adolescent patients increased from 84% at baseline to 100%. The annual chlamydia screening rate among sexually active adolescents increased from 41% to 82%.

CONCLUSIONS

Implementation of these changes led to significant improvements in both measures. From September 2019 to February 2020, the sexual activity assessment and documentation rate increased by 19%, and exceeded the long-term project goal of 90%. The annual chlamydia screening rate increased by 99%, and exceeded the long-term project goal of 80%.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. CDC. [Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2018](#). Atlanta, GA: Department of Health and Human Services; October 2019.