

Condom Use and STD Prevention in Rochester, NY



Kelsey Miller, MD

Faculty Mentor: Andrew Aligne, MD, MPH

The Hoekelman Center
“Connecting, Advocating, Researching, and
Educating in our communities to do what
works for health”

BACKGROUND:

Chlamydia, often co-transmitted with gonorrhea, is the most commonly reported STD in New York State. Chlamydia is often asymptomatic in up to 70% of females and 50% of males. In addition it can have long term sequelae of infertility and pregnancy loss. In 2009, Monroe County gonorrhea rates were almost twice the US average and our chlamydia rate was 1.5 times greater than the national average and these rates have been increasing since 2001.

Condoms reduce the risk of STDs. The United States rates are 33 times higher than in some European countries, where condom use is higher.

Little is known about the most effective ways to increase condom use among sexually active teens in the United States. Using principles from public health and behavior change science, we plan to pilot new methods of counseling and distribution in primary care clinics.

GOALS: To decrease gonorrhea and chlamydia rates in Monroe County

OBJECTIVES:

Primary Measurable Outcome:

- Gonorrhea and Chlamydia rates in Monroe County

Other Objectives: Increase rates at which Adolescents report using condoms

METHODS:

1. Working with local schools and community organizations to help promote education about condom use and increase access to condoms
2. Compare gonorrhea and chlamydia rates in Monroe County

OBSERVATIONS/ CONCLUSIONS:

This project should show that providing access to educational materials, testing, and treatment for gonorrhea and chlamydia in schools will decrease the rate of positive tests. In addition, having these services free and readily available will decrease barriers to treatment including a lack of follow-up after testing.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS: .

- Look further into how we provide STD education and condom distribution in our primary care clinics
- Further assess the best way to provide these services to adolescents with low attendance rates or those that have dropped out of high school.
- Help provide access to free condoms and education at other outlets beyond schools, such as community centers.

REFERENCES:

1. Advocates for Youth. Adolescent Sexual Health in Europe and the United States. www.advocatesforyouth.org
2. Am J Nurs. (2017 January). Nurses on the Front Lines: Improving Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Across Health Care Settings: An evidence-based guide to delivering counseling and services to adolescents and parents. 117(1):42-51
3. NYS Department of Health, Bureau of STD Prevention & Epidemiology. STD Statistical Abstract 2009. <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/diseases/communicable/std/>

