

Reducing STDs

The Sutter County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) health priority workgroup aimed at reducing STDs in Sutter County convened Thursday, January 26th, 2023. During this meeting community partners reviewed national and local strategies to reducing STD and discussed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and reducing STDs Sutter County. The condensed three overarching visions are as follow:

1. Reduce stigma around sexually transmitted diseases
2. Increase **access** and **reduce barriers** (including language barriers) to STD testing and treatment.
3. Increase **contact tracing/follow-up** of sexual partners of confirmed cases

Objectives

Next, this workgroup began creating SMART Objectives. Objectives are:

- Measurable statements of the specific desired change/end state.
- Describe the steps that will take place to achieve the change(s) described in the goal/overarching vision.
- Are **SMART**:



- **Sample Objective:**
 - **Priority Area:** Reduce sexually transmitted diseases
 - **Overarching vision Statement:** Increase contact tracing/follow-up of sexual partners of confirmed cases.
 - **SMART Objective:**
 - By 2025 link 50% of identified gonorrhea sexual contacts to treatment and testing services.

What's Next?

- Create 1-3 SMART objectives with your zoom breakout group and then present to the larger group
- For each objective, create 1-3 strategies and actions with the same zoom breakout group.
 - **Strategies:**
 - General approach or collection of actions to achieve a desired goal or overarching vision.
 - Provides a clear roadmap: smaller steps along the way to achieving an objective.
 - **Example: Improve and strengthen school-based sex education.**
 - **Actions:**
 - Specific programmatic, policy or other action that implements or "operationalizes" the strategy.
 - **Example: Review and update current sex education curriculum to align with equitable, stigma-free, and evidence-based strategies.**

Relevant Strategies to reference:

- National
 - CDC Approaches
 - Objective: Reduce syphilis among people of reproductive age to prevent cases of congenital syphilis.
 - Monitor adherence to syphilis testing and treatment recommendations during pregnancy and subsequent testing for those at high risk, and address identified testing and treatment barriers using economic, health services, and policy-focused interventions.
 - National Strategic Plan for the United States (2021-2025)
 - Objective: Reduce stigma and discrimination associated with STD
 - Examples strategies:
 - Support and encourage training of health care and health systems personnel in cultural sensitivity, bias, discrimination, and disparities associated with STDs.
 - Expand and encourage self-collected testing, opt-out testing for STDs, and other approaches that promote sexual health and STD testing in health care delivery.
- State - 2022-2026 California Department of Public Health Statewide Strategic Plan: Ending Epidemic
 - Offering more routine, opt-out, HIV, HCV, and STI testing and linkage to care in emergency departments, hospitals, primary care clinics, and jails.



- Expanding access to HIV, HCV, and STI treatment, especially through non-traditional care settings.
- Improving outreach and provider training to make it easier for people to access post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and initiate and adhere to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Promoting comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality education and condom access in schools.
- Local
 - Public Health outreach by providing education materials and resources.
 - Nurses conduct targeted education events in high-risk populations throughout the community (e.g. Homeless, Transition Age Youth, School Nurses).
 - School "Sex Ed" curriculum.

References:

1. Source: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) National Strategic Plan for the United States: 2021-2023. HHS. Accessible at: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/HHS-STI-Vision-Goals-Objectives-Strategies-Populations-Indicators.pdf>
2. How You can Prevent Sexually Transmitted Diseases. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website*. Accessible at: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/default.htm#:~:text=Correct%20and%20consistent%20use%20of,latex%20condoms%20can%20be%20used>. Updated March 23,2022

