

**August 2023 BOH Updates**

**STI/HIV Prevention Program**

**Clinical**

- Testing continues to be well attended at all three sites in Galion, Marion and Richland counties. We have seen an increase in Marion clients of 44% from July to August.
- To date, we have 48 active clients in PrEP between Galion, Marion and Richland Counties (in-person test sites). Since January 2023, a 42% increase in these clients.

**Region 2 HIV and Syphilis tracking**

***Crawford, Marion, Richland, Ashland, Knox, Erie, Wyandot, Seneca, & Huron Counties***

- Syphilis cases continue to be of highest burden throughout our region with the greatest concentration of cases falling in Marion, Erie and Richland Counties. We do have sporadic new HIV+ cases to investigate. Individuals presenting with these infections are increasingly difficult to locate, interview and elicit partners from. This is likely due to the nature of the how these infections are being spread—in communities of individuals with co-existing drug use, anonymous and multiple sex partners.
- Community engagement was completed in August at the OSU Involvement Fair (8/23/2023) and the Mansfield Pride event (8/5/2023). Both events were well attended, and we were able to provide accurate information and prevention related tools to individuals residing in and around Region 2.
- No outreach HIV/Syphilis/CTR events were completed in August due to two staff vacations. In September, we have weekly testing events scheduled.

**Grant Management/Budget**

- The 2024 STI Grant is being submitted Sept. 11, 2023. The total requested amount is \$271,373. This will begin 2/1/2024 and end 1/31/2025. We had approximately 4 weeks to complete the entire process.
- We DO NOT have specifics on the HIV Prevention Grant, but have been told even funding will be extended through 5/31/2024 and a continuation (not competitive) will be coming for the remainder of 2025 and beyond.
- This is the first year that these grants have not aligned. This is related to funding from the CDC that trickles down to each state, and beyond. It has been more difficult for budgeting, etc. Please contact me if you have specific questions regarding this.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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