

April 2024 STI/HIV Prevention Updates

(Crawford, Erie, Huron, Knox, Ashland, Richland, Seneca, Wyandot, Marion Co.)

Clinical

- STI testing has been steady throughout April and the beginning of May. We are seeing individuals walk in to both Marion and Galion clinics with active symptoms of syphilis—these symptoms are often not what would resemble a ‘typical STI.’ Rashes, sore throats, fatigue, vision and hearing loss.
- We have been working to distribute provider education folders throughout Region 2 to promote testing, adherence to CDC recommended STI testing and treatment guidelines and recognition of syphilis.
- Our current partnership with Q Care Plus, a Telehealth HIV prevention (PrEP) service has 66 clients from all over Ohio that actively receive prescriptions to stay HIV negative. Additionally, 42 clients are managed between the GCHD and Marion clinics. **Over 100 individuals that are being routinely tested for STIs & HIV, while staying HIV negative in Ohio!**
- Aware, an at-home STI and HIV testing platform was rolled out by the Ohio Dept of Health in April. Any Ohioan can order a test kit, at no cost, shipped to their home.

Region 2 HIV and Syphilis Management

- HIV testing events held during April: Huron Co. Health Department (Willard Site)
- Abby Volk has continued to move into the role of full-time Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS). We have received praise from our state level consultant for her management of cases, documentation, and professionalism in this role.

Grant Management/Budget, Other Grant News

- Program staff completed part 2 of 2 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion training on April 11, 2024.
- 1 full-time, 100% grant-funded DIS/Health Educator position was terminated from GCHD 4/22/2024
- Program staff attended the state-wide DIS meetings April 22 and 23rd in Columbus.
- Financial/Grant Updates to be provided by Leanna Purdue, with assistance from S. Miley.
- STI Awareness Week was April 14-20, 2024. Social media posts, promotion of Aware Home testing throughout Region 2 were goals of STI Awareness week.
- We are working to partner with Crawford Co Public Health to provide male and female condoms to stock the Harm Reduction Vending machines.

Respectfully submitted,

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