

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the Seattle Indian Health Board's Urban Indian Health Institute received funding from the Office of Minority Health and Indian Health Services to implement the **Viral Hepatitis and STI Prevention Project**. Recognizing the need for integrated education and prevention efforts, the Viral Hepatitis and STI Prevention Project provides free technical assistance to urban Indian health organizations (UIHO) nationwide to address these health issues, and develops culturally appropriate health promotion materials targeted at urban American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Website:

The UIHI's Viral Hepatitis and STI Prevention website is an important resource that project staff will use to share information and communicate with UIHO. Please visit this website often for project related materials, links to helpful resources and information on project webinars.

<http://www.uihi.org/projects/viral-hepatitis-and-sti-prevention-project/>

Webinars:

A series of three Viral Hepatitis and STI Prevention webinars will be held this year. All webinars are free, open to the public and will be archived for future viewing. Webinars are intended to be an informational resource to support prevention, screening and treatment efforts for viral hepatitis, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Webinar topics were developed based on key informant interviews conducted with UIHO staff in April 2011. We thank the many UIHO who participated in the interviews and provided critical feedback that guided the development of these webinars.

Please see webinar schedule and descriptions to the right.

Individual Requests:

UIHO also are encouraged to contact the Urban Indian Health Institute at any time to request site-specific technical assistance, data or to discuss other program needs. Please contact Elizabeth Knaster at (206) 812-3032, elizabethk@uihi.org or Jessie Folkman at (206) 812-3033, jessief@uihi.org.

WEBINAR SCHEDULE

Webinar 1: Accessing and Using Viral Hepatitis and STI Surveillance Data

This webinar will share the latest information about the rates of Viral Hepatitis, HIV and other STIs in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities, and provide resources for urban Indian health organizations (UIHO) to access and use this information. Dr. Melanie Taylor, Medical Epidemiologist from CDC/IHS, will present the latest national data, discuss disparities in AI/AN rates relative to the general population and offer tips for accessing local data. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their specific data needs. UIHI project staff also will share information on upcoming webinars, online resources and other project activities.

June 22nd, 2011: 11 am Pacific Time

Webinar 2: Funding Opportunities for Viral Hepatitis and STI Prevention Activities

This webinar will review possible funding sources and opportunities for urban Indian health organizations (UIHO) interested in developing or expanding program efforts around viral hepatitis, HIV and STI prevention. Grant writing strategies also will be discussed. This webinar is intended to provide UIHO with resources and information that can be used for both immediate and long-term program development efforts.

October 2011 (Date and time TBD)

Webinar 3: Promising Practices in Viral Hepatitis and STI Prevention

This webinar will provide an opportunity for urban Indian health organizations (UIHO) to share promising practices around viral hepatitis, HIV and STI prevention activities. UIHO will be featured as guest speakers, with opportunity for question/answer and group discussion. We also will introduce the Viral Hepatitis and STI Prevention Project's new health promotion materials, provide information on how to request additional print copies of materials, and discuss ways that UIHO can use these materials as a part of their community education and outreach efforts.

December 2011 (Date and time TBD)



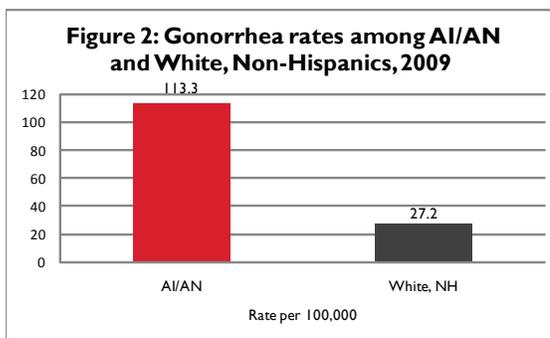
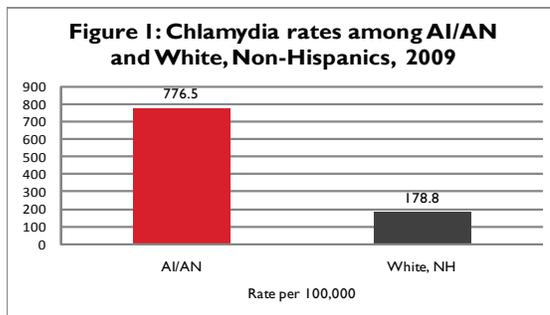
HEALTH PROMOTION MATERIALS

The Urban Indian Health Institute is developing new viral hepatitis, HIV, and STI outreach and education materials for use in urban AI/AN communities. Community testing of these materials is scheduled for summer 2011. Final products will include a poster and postcard version of the materials, which will be available to UIHO in electronic and print format. Look for these materials this fall and learn more about them during the December 2011 webinar.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION (STI) RATES:

STI rates remain high but fairly steady in the AI/AN population from 2008-2009:

- The rate of chlamydia among AI/AN rate is 4.3 times greater than the rate for white, non-Hispanics (776.5 vs. 178.8).
- The rate of gonorrhea among AI/AN is 4.2 times greater than the rate for white, non-Hispanics (113.3 vs. 27.2)
- The rate of syphilis among AI/AN is almost the same as that of white, non-Hispanics (2.4 vs. 2.1).



Reference:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2009. Atlanta: Department of Health and Human Services.

VIRAL HEPATITIS, HIV AND STI RISK FACTORS

Viral hepatitis, HIV and other STIs share many common risk factors. These shared risk factors are one reason why integrated education and prevention efforts can be an important and effective strategy to address these health issues at your clinic.

Factors that may increase the risk of STI/HIV/Viral Hepatitis include:

- **Having sex without using a condom.**
- **Having multiple sex partners.** The more people you have sex with, the greater your overall exposure is to STIs.
- **Having a history of one or more STIs.** Being infected with one STI can make you more susceptible to other STIs.
- **Abusing alcohol or using recreational drugs.** Substance abuse can inhibit your judgment, making you more willing to participate in risky behaviors.
- **Injecting drugs.** Needle sharing spreads many serious infections, including HIV and hepatitis B.
- **Trading sex for money/drugs.** People who trade sex for money or drugs may be less likely to be sufficiently empowered to negotiate safer sexual practices.

References:

Mayo Clinic. (n.d.). Sexually transmitted diseases (STD): Risk factors, Retrieved May 4, 2011, from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/sexually-transmitted-diseases-stds/DS01123/DSECTION=risk-factors>.

Park, Ina. (2010). Sexual Risk Assessment and Risk Factors for Sexually Transmitted Diseases. The IHS Primary Care Provider, 35(4), 77. Available at: http://www.ihs.gov/provider/documents/2010_2019/PROV0410.pdf

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTACT US

We welcome your feedback and questions. Please contact Elizabeth Knaster at (206) 812-3032, elizabethk@uihi.org or Jessie Folkman at (206) 812-3033, jessief@uihi.org.