

# Chlamydia Screening in a Charter School: Components of a Successful Collaboration

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## Introduction

As a part of the Region VI Infertility Prevention Project, the Texas IPP collaborated with a central Texas charter high school and People's Community Clinic (PCC) to determine Chlamydia positivity rates and risk factors in a charter school student population. Two separate mass screening events were held on campus coordinated by a team consisting of Texas IPP, PCC, and Texas Department of State Health Services staff. The urine Aptima test for Ct and GC used for the screening was supplied by Gen-Probe.

## Background

Texas has 241 charter schools with over 60,000 students enrolled. Although Texas is similar to the nation regarding highest Ct positivity rates in those 15-19 years of age, there is limited data on this specific population.



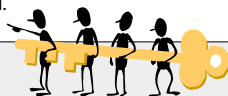
## Objectives

Determine feasibility and methods for Chlamydia (Ct) screening in charter schools and assess Ct positivity among charter school youth.

## Method

Prior to the screening events, a letter to parents of students was sent out by the school to inform them about the "STD screening" to take place on campus. The screening team also met with school staff to answer any questions they had about the screening. The week prior to the events, team members visited each classroom to advertise the testing opportunity to the students. The students were told they could visit with a non-school staff counselor on the screening day to ask questions and receive STD information. At that time they could choose whether or not to test for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. Students that chose to test went through a brief counseling session to obtain demographic and behavioral risk factor information. The student then signed a consent form and was escorted to a restroom. After giving a specimen, the student would return to class.

Test results were given face-to-face to all students the week following the testing. When test results were given, positives were treated and referred for a full STD exam. The importance of testing and treating partners was also discussed.



### TEAMWORK

Working with an established school clinic  
Small, community-based charter school  
Buy-in of school staff  
Outreach  
Test turnaround time

*Keys to Success*

## Client Background, n=176

Measure	Percent
<b>Sex, male</b>	56%
<b>Age, years</b>	
16	20%
17	38%
18	21%
19	11%
20+	11%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
White	34%
Black	15%
Hispanic	49%
Other	2%

Measure	Percent
<b>Visit type</b>	
Symptomatic	5%
Pregnant (total n=77)	8%
<b>Behavioral risks, past 60 days</b>	
Multiple sex partners (SP)	24%
New SP	31%
Symptomatic SP	4%
SP monogamous	59%
<b>STD history, past 12 months</b>	
Chlamydia	6%
Gonorrhea	3%
Other STD	1%

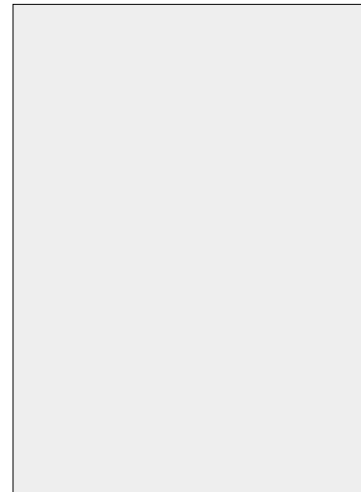
## Results

A total of 176 students were tested—approximately 50% of the students attending school on the screening dates. Eighteen Ct positives were detected and 1 Ct/GC co-infection, an overall Chlamydia positivity rate of 10%, but a limited GC positivity (1%). Male and female clients were comparable in terms of: race/ethnicity, age, self-reported symptoms; new sex partner (SP), symptomatic SP, monogamous SP; history of CT, GC or other STD. Sex differences were found for multiple SPs in the past 60 days (males 30%; females 16%). The only factor associated with CT positivity was age—being 16 or 17 years of age. No positives were detected in 18 and older students.

Measure	% CT Positive
<b>Age, female clients</b>	
16	23%
17	27%
18 and older	0%
Total female	17%
<b>Age, male clients</b>	
16	9%
17	10%
18 and older	0%
Total male	5%
<b>Total positivity</b>	<b>10%</b>

## Screening Day Forms

Screening Consent  
Demographic/Behavioral Data Collection  
Lab Requisition  
Full Exam/Partner Referral  
Result Appointment



"Goody" Bag contents: safer sex kit, STD brochure, specimen collection cup, results appointment card, referral form

## Conclusion

The project demonstrated a high need for STD testing in this student population with an overall Chlamydia positivity rate of 10%. Additionally, the screening events linked students to other clinic services, such as pregnancy testing and prenatal care.

## Implications

Demonstrated a successful collaboration between public health and school setting as well as affirming the feasibility of outreach to this population.



- Gen-Probe
- People's Community Clinic
- American YouthWorks
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Center for Health Training
- DSHS Women's Health Laboratory

## Epilogue

The screening event was repeated February 5, 2008 and February 11, 2008 on the same charter school campus. The CT positivity was 8%, one co-infection, with 96 students tested.