Eastern Oregon Modernization Collaborative, Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center and Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living partner to address rise in STIs.

As partners part of the Eastern Oregon Modernization Collaborative (EOMC), Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center (YTHC) and Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living (EOCIL) have been working to address the rise in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) rates in Umatilla County.

In 2008 Umatilla County had received 191 Chlamydia reports comparable to 2017, rates had increased to 323 positive cases. Between 2008 and 2017 over 2628 total cases of Chlamydia have been reported.

In 2008 Umatilla County had received 7 Gonorrhea reports comparable to 2017, rates had increased to 67 positive cases. Between 2008 and 2017 over 334 total cases of Gonorrhea have been reported.

While all sexually transmitted infections are preventable and treatable, it's important to get tested because often times there are no symptoms. Ask your provider about testing.

Initial efforts were made during Pendleton's Round-Up week. One strategy implemented was to increase condom availability. Educational outreach, preventatives and a follow-up throughout the week to refill the condom dispenser boxes would all be provided by employees from the three organizations.

Twenty-three businesses primarily 21 years of age and older was contacted. Four locations of the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds were also a point of placement for the condom dispenser boxes. Six out of the 23 businesses supported the effort, accepting condom distribution boxes, posters, flyers and postcards. Over 13 condom dispenser boxes were placed in female and male public restrooms. Three businesses wanted only the educational outreach that included 4X6 postcards provided by Oregon Public Health Epidemiologists' User System (ORPHEUS).

Orpheus is a joint database development and integration effort co-sponsored by the Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention (ACDP) and the HIV, Sexually Transmitted Disease and Tuberculosis (HST) Programs within the Oregon Public Health Division.

Another resource included the GYT: Get Yourself Tested campaign a youthful, empowering social movement to encourage young people to get tested and treated, as needed, for STDs and HIV. The campaign is a partnership between the American College Health Association, Kaiser

Family Foundation, National Coalition of STD Directors, MTV, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Technical consultation for GYT is provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center has utilized GYT materials in the past 2 years during outreach efforts to prevent the further spread of STIs. Making condoms more accessible will decrease the spread of STIs. For tribal members please contact 541.966.9830 to see if you qualify for free testing.

Through this partnership, over 1600 condoms were distributed. Businesses have shown future interest. Mission Market, The Saddle and The Frontier Tavern have agreed to be permanent sites.

As a business if interested in partnering or supporting in the future contact Nora Zimmerman, MPH Regional Systems Liaison, Eastern Oregon Modernization Collaborative, Cell: (541) 993-2326.

A special thank you to the businesses of the community that supported this effort in making our community a healthier place.

Submitted by,

Natasha Herrera

Community Health Representative

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