

Oregon HIV and STD Program Prevention Briefs

SUMMER 2021

Important Information—please read and share



Working to End Health Disparities

In order to reduce HIV and STD transmissions in Oregon, we need to address health disparities. One way to start this is to face the ways in which white supremacy is embedded in our culture. [This list of attributes of white supremacy culture, created by Tema Okun](#), also lists antidotes, or suggestions to reduce the impact of white supremacy on our program culture. Facing these truths might be uncomfortable or even feel threatening. We might consider these attributes to be “normal” or “just the way we do things.” But please keep an open mind and ask yourself why you feel so uncomfortable. Take time to review the suggested antidotes, and consider whether some of these suggestions might actually help our colleagues and clients feel more comfortable accessing our services or suggesting improvements to our program.

Have resources that you’ve found helpful in facing and dismantling white supremacy? [Share them with us!](#)



HIV Prevention Essentials Training

Have you checked out the new [HIV Prevention Essentials training](#)? The training includes new information about HIV testing and prepares staff to offer accurate information and key messages about a variety of topics, including HIV basics, sexual orientation and gender identity, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and risk reduction strategies for people who use or inject drugs. Survey feedback from prevention partners who have completed the training strongly agree that language used to discuss sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity and drug use is inclusive and trauma informed. Responses also highlighted why prevention work matters in helping our communities address and eliminate HIV + stigma, help PLWH improve their quality of life and educate all sexually active people with the knowledge necessary to prevent HIV and live healthier lives. Let us know what you think of the new training and what motivates you in our work to end HIV!

Communicable Disease Dashboards

Monthly and weekly communicable disease reports are now available on the [OHA website](#). Select monthly or weekly, then filter by disease to see details.

September Orpheus DUDE Training Webinar

The topic for the 9/1 Orpheus DUDE training webinar is STD cases. Click [here](#) to register for the Orpheus DUDE training webinar series to be sure you don’t miss it!

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Special Needs Funding — Updated Application

Our updated special needs funding (SNF) [application](#) is now available! SNF is additional HIV and STD funding for local health departments to cover extra costs associated with cluster or other unusual case investigations. Health departments can apply for up to \$10,000 at a time and can apply more than one time per event. SNF is a useful tool for jurisdictions that don't receive regular HIV prevention funding to put out money and increase capacity. Funds can be used for anticipated expenses for staffing, supplies, incentives, advertising, etc. The application process requires submission of a two-page application plus a brief budget template. Contact [Javier Saucedo](#) with any questions!

HIV/Syphilis Care Incentive Program

Our [HIV/Syphilis Care Incentive Program](#) is a low-barrier resource, separate from SNF, available to all counties. This program enables pregnant individuals to receive non-cash incentives (e.g., gift cards to local stores) to support engagement in HIV/syphilis medical care and adherence to antiretroviral therapy and/or syphilis treatment regimens and reduce the risk of perinatal infection. Incentives are purchased by the county and reimbursed by the state HIV/STD program. Contact [Jillian Garai](#) with any questions!

HIV Continuum of Care Conference

If you haven't already, be sure to register for the [2021 HIV Continuum of Care Conference](#). This conference will take virtually on October 5 and 6, 2021. A pre-session PrEP Connect Pre-Conference will take place on October 4, the day before the conference.

CDC 2021 STI Treatment Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released their 2021 STI Treatment Guidelines. Recommendations for specific STIs are linked from each infection's page on the [OHA website](#), and you can review the full guidelines on [the CDC website](#).

HIV and STD Testing During COVID

Many Prevention staff members have noticed lower numbers of clients coming in for HIV and STD testing in the past year and a half. Dr. Tim Menza dug into this phenomenon and tracked the numbers of tests submitted to the Oregon State Public Health Lab (OSPHL). On the next page are three charts that track the numbers of HIV, gonorrhea/chlamydia, and syphilis tests processed by OSPHL during four different time periods: pre-COVID (January 2019–March 2020), Oregon's initial stay-at-home order (March–June 2020), reopening (June 2020–January 2021) and vaccination (January–May 2021). Testing numbers decreased dramatically following the initial stay-at-home order, and have not yet returned to their pre-COVID rates, which indicates the need for increased messaging around the importance of routine HIV/STI screening as we reopen for services. If OHA can support or help your team with this at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the staff people listed in this newsletter. We're all in this together!

