NSW Aboriginal Sexual and Reproductive Health Program


Background 1

- Median age first sex is 15 yrs for males; 16 yrs for females (GOANNA, 2014)
- One-third 16-19 yr olds report no condom at last sex (GOANNA, 2014)
- Condoms and oral contraceptive pills most common contraceptive choice (NATSIHS, 2005)

Background 2

- Higher notification rates of sexually transmitted infections (15-19 years) (Kirby Institute, 2014)
- Higher rates (6x) of adolescent pregnancy (AIHW, 2013)
- Teen childbearing can impact educational and employment opportunities (Fergusson, 1999 & Hofferth, 2001)
- Teenage mothers are also at higher risk of having low self-esteem and depression (Quinlivan, 2004 & Barnett, 1996)

NSW Aboriginal sexual and reproductive health program

- Eight (8) local Aboriginal SRH workers
- Formal training for SRH workers, and state-wide support
- State-wide campaign ‘It’s your choice! Have a voice!’ (AH&MRC)

Evaluation methods

- Clinic data (de-identified)
  - Before and after design
- Youth survey
  - N=248
Results from the clinic data

Clinic data (de-identified)
- Before and after design
- 6 ACCHS (15-24 year olds)
- Attendance
- Chlamydia testing

Number of youth attending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Before program-6 months (mean per month)</th>
<th>During program-36 months (mean per month)</th>
<th>P *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>0.035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*t test

Number of people getting chlamydia tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Before-6 months (mean per month)</th>
<th>During-36 months (mean per month)</th>
<th>P *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*t test

Results from the youth survey

Aboriginal youth survey (n=248)
- Cross sectional design
- Aboriginal youth aged 16-25 years
- Distributed by SRH workers during activities and at ACCHS using iPads/paper-based, target 50 per clinic
- Self report participation in activity versus no activity groups
- STI and contraception knowledge, STI testing/vaccination, contraception use, and sexual behaviour
Results from the youth survey: Females discussing sexual health issues

- With anyone about prevention/contraception: Participated 78%, Not participated 74%
- With ACCHS staff about prevention/contraception: Participated 78%, Not participated 30%
- With AHW about prevention/contraception: Participated 33%, Not participated 5%
- With AMS for STIs advice: Participated 58%, Not participated 27%

Participated: 78%, 78%, 33%, 58%
Not participated: 74%, 30%, 5%, 27%

Percentage p<0.001 p<0.001 p=0.001 p=0.640

Results from the youth survey: Males discussing sexual health issues

- With anyone about prevention/contraception: Participated 59%, Not participated 33%
- With ACCHS staff about prevention/contraception: Participated 30%, Not participated 5%
- With AHW about prevention/contraception: Participated 18%, Not participated 3%
- With AMS for STIs advice: Participated 30%, Not participated 24%

Participated: 59%, 30%, 18%, 30%
Not participated: 33%, 5%, 3%, 24%

Percentage p=0.002 p=0.021 p=0.491 p=0.013

Results from the youth survey: Females who were tested or vaccinated

- Chlamydia test (last 12 months): Participated 36%, Not participated 37%
- Last chlamydia test at AMS: Participated 81%, Not participated 52%
- Pap test (last 2 years): Participated 45%, Not participated 43%
- HPV vaccination: Participated 69%, Not participated 63%

Participated: 36%, 81%, 45%, 69%
Not participated: 37%, 52%, 43%, 63%

Percentage p=0.103 p=0.662 p=0.581 p=0.932

Results from the youth survey: Males who were tested

- Chlamydia test (last 12 months): Participated 24%, Not participated 27%
- Last chlamydia test at AMS: Participated 44%, Not participated 46%

Participated: 24%, 44%
Not participated: 27%, 46%

Percentage p=0.551 p=0.560

Results from the youth survey: Females knowledge of contraception

- Emergency contraception is available at the chemist: Participated 81%, Not participated 56%
- Emergency contraceptive pill is still effective 48 hours after sex: Participated 41%, Not participated 7%
- Parental consent not required for contraceptive prescriptions for those aged less than 18 years: Participated 9%, Not participated 5%

Participated: 81%, 41%, 9%
Not participated: 56%, 7%, 5%

Percentage p=0.001 p=0.002 p=0.002

Results from the youth survey: Males knowledge of STIs

- STIs can be asymptomatic: Participated 72%, Not participated 52%
- Chlamydia affects both men and women: Participated 74%, Not participated 61%
- Guidelines recommend annual sexual health check: Participated 92%, Not participated 77%

Participated: 72%, 74%, 92%
Not participated: 52%, 61%, 77%

Percentage p=0.002 p=0.003 p=0.019
NSW Aboriginal Sexual and Reproductive Health Program

Results from the youth survey:
Males knowledge of STIs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Participated</th>
<th>Not participated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STIs can be asymptomatic</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia affects both men and women</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines recommend annual sexual health check</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from the youth survey:
Females contraceptive usage and condoms - current

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Participated</th>
<th>Not participated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using at least one form of contraception</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using condoms</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from the youth survey:
Males contraceptive usage and condoms - current

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Not participated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using at least one form of contraception</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using condoms</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from the youth survey:
Females contraceptive use - current

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Participated</th>
<th>Not participated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contraceptive pills</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraceptive injection (Depo Provera)</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraceptive implants (Implanon)</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intrauterine device-RIS (Mirena)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from the youth survey:
Females knowledge of STIs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Participated</th>
<th>Not participated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhoea</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichomoniasis</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from the youth survey:
Males knowledge of STIs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Participated</th>
<th>Not participated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhoea</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichomoniasis</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSW Aboriginal Sexual and Reproductive Health Program

Limitations

Survey
- Single time point could not measure behaviour change
- Did not capture <16 years, or those not attending ACCHS/ community events
- Small sample

Clinic data
- Patients could be tested elsewhere, e.g. Sexual health clinic

Evaluation
- Differences may have been influenced by external factors

Conclusions
- Large number of diverse SRH activities implemented by local-based SRH workers
- Program activities led to:
  i. Increased health care access (attendance and STI testing)
  ii. Improvements in seeking advice by young people
  iii. Improvements in SRH literacy (chlamydia, contraception, testing guidelines)
- Program successes may be attributed to:
  i. Extensive planning and consultation with community
  ii. Aboriginal governance

Acknowledgements

- NSW Aboriginal SRH workers
- Seven ACCHS located throughout NSW
- Evaluation investigators and reference group
- Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW
- Family planning NSW
- NSW Ministry of Health
- Kirby Institute ATSIHP team
- Megan Tapia (Kirby Institute)