ENSURING LINKAGES AND REFERRALS TO YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Bronx Teens Connection Clinic Linkage Model: Connecting South Bronx Youth to Care

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Teen Pregnancy in the Bronx

Pregnancy Rates Among NYC Residents Ages 15-19, by Borough, 2000-2011

Note: Population estimates are updated to reflect the best information available at the time and may result in differences compared with previously published rates.
Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, prepared by the Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health
Bronx Teens Connection

- Funded by CDC/OAH through September 2015
  - Builds on previous DOHMH efforts
- Goal: 10% reduction in births to 15-19 year-olds in Hunts Point and Morrisania by 2015
  - Build model replicable throughout NYC (and beyond)
- Community-wide approach
- Partnerships with various agencies
Clinic Linkage Model

School or Youth-Serving Organization → Health Educator → Clinic
BxTC: Levels of Linkage

- Greater Commitment
- Comprehensive Clinic Linkage Model
- Formal Agreements
- Informal Agreements
- Information

Smaller Commitment
Foundation

- Partner recruitment
  - Capacity
  - Commitment

- Service Provision
  - Evidence-based sexual health education
  - Clinical best practices

- Training and Technical Assistance
School/Clinic Linkage

**School**
- Implement an evidence-based program
- Provide confidential space for Health Educator
- Allow Health Educator to present to youth
- Advertise and promote Health Educator’s and clinic’s services
- Take youth on Clinic Tour Field Trip
- Evaluate
School/Clinic Linkage

Clinic

• Commit to work toward Best Practices
• Provide a Health Educator to:
  • Conduct presentations on clinic services
  • Meet one-on-one with students
  • Conduct condom demonstrations
• Evaluate

• Educate on contraceptive options
• Schedule expedited appointments or make referrals to the clinic
• Co-facilitate Clinic Tour Field Trip
BxTC Linkages

Bronx Teens Connection
Clinic Linkages

Clinic 1: School, 2 School Campus, YSO
Clinic 2: School, YSO
Clinic 3: School, YSO
Clinic 4: School, YSO
Clinic 5: School, YSO
Clinic 6: 2 School Campus, YSO, 3 School Campus
Clinic 7: YSO
SBHCs 1 & 2: 2 School Campus, YSO
SBHC 3: 2 School Campus, School
SBHC 4: 4 School Campus

Key:
- Schools
- Youth-Serving Organizations
- Community Based Clinics
- School-Based Health Centers
- Non-BxTC Partnered Schools
Clinic Tour Field Trip

- Integrated into evidence-based program
- Experiential learning
  - Learning is promoted when new knowledge is demonstrated to students rather than simply being described*
- Benefit for both students and teachers

Strategies

• Assess needs and capacity of partners
• Formalize the linkage
• Track Linkage Activity
• Track implementation of best practices
• Gather feedback on Clinic Tours
Clinic Tour Field Trip

Feedback from Students

“The lady doctor seems really nice”

“Is everything really free?”

“You don’t need parental permission”

“She was friendly and it wasn’t awkward”

“Learned about dental dams, plan B and stuff like that”

“I enjoyed my visit, I will probably come back”

“There are multiple options to prevent pregnancy”
Clinic Tour Field Trip

Feedback from Clinic & School Staff

“Students had so many targeted questions.”

“16 Students attended the clinic visit and 8 registered.”

“The kids enjoyed the visit and said they would refer their friends to the clinic and to the health educator, who visits our school on Mondays.”

“The visit to the clinic was an eye-opening experience.”

“Although I introduce the clinic and let them know what services they can receive, it is not until the tour they actually get it.”
Teens in NYC Protection+ Mobile App

WHERE TO GO
Sexual health services
WHAT TO GET
Condoms and birth control
WHAT TO EXPECT
at the clinic

Central Harlem STD Clinic
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
  2238 5 Ave., New York NY 10037
  Call: 311
  ~ 8.13 miles away

Audubon Family Planning Center
  21 Audubon Ave., New York NY 10032
  866-463-2778
  ~ 9.69 miles away

Callen-Lorde Health Outreach to Teens (Project HOTT)
  356 West 18 St., New York NY 10011
  212-271-7212
  ~ 52.82 miles away
Progress

- 6,713 youth reached with Evidence-Based Programs
- 11,170 Health Educator contacts with youth
- 206 clinic tour field trips were conducted
  - 71% of students receiving RTR
- 55% average increase in teen clients at clinics from 2011 to 2014
- Average of 91% of CDC best practices currently being met by clinic partners
Challenges & Lessons Learned

Challenges
• Partner staff turnover
• Data collection and evaluation
• Competing programs and priorities

Lessons Learned
• Stakeholder buy-in is key
• Necessary to adjust the model
• Collaborative learning works
Enhancing Linkages & Partnerships

• Formal linkage model

• Leadership buy-in on both sides
  • Goals and objectives
  • Facilitation of the linkage process

• Assess and work within capacity of both sides
Strengthen Linkages & Partnerships

• Promote the linkage to teens
• Presence of health educator or outreach worker at linked site
• Include linkage in new staff training
• Monitor and track the linkage
• Continuous quality improvement
“Youth-Friendly” Healthcare Services

• It is essential that a clinic provide the 4 Cs:
  • Confidentiality
  • Cost
  • Contraception
  • Care

• Best practices – Identify and assess
  • 31 CDC Best Practices
  • DOHMH’s Best Practices in Sexual and Reproductive Health Care for Adolescents
  • Request a tour of the facility, if possible
Establishing viable sustainable linkages requires work and commitment by partnering organizations.

- Ensure that the linkage is a win-win for all involved
- Be flexible and determine what is essential to the linkage arrangement
- Be honest in measuring capacity and making a commitment to the linkage
- Create benchmarks to assess the progress of the linkage
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Thank you!

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