

MLC-2 in Kansas
East Central Kansas Public Health
Coalition (ECKPHC)

Eight counties:
 Chase, Coffey, Franklin, Greenwood, Lyon,
 Morris, Osage and Wabaunsee
 Serving a population of nearly 117,000

QI Team Members:
 Midge Ransom – Regional Coordinator

QI County Leaders:
 Cheryl Jones – Chase
 Lindsay Payer – Coffey
 Evonna James – Franklin
 Deina Rockhill – Greenwood
 Lougene Marsh – Lyon
 Ashley Hinkson – Morris
 Meredith Knowles – Osage
 Janet Wertzberger – Wabaunsee



Plan

1. Understand the system and select the team

How did we know there was an opportunity?

• Team brainstorming:
 Through examining the needs of local health department administrators and recognizing the lack of ability of local needs assessments and other community data, the project's staff suggested that there was a need to address health monitoring issues, including necessary training for instrument development and data interpretation relative to prenatal care within the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program.

Initiative participants:

• One regional coordinator and one staff member from each of eight participating counties

2. Define the opportunity

Problem statement:

The team initially chose to address the low percentage of pregnant women in the region who receive prenatal care. But after conducting the initial root cause analysis (Fishbone Diagram), the team's focus shifted to Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and treatment services across the region.

The team chose a new problem statement: Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and treatment procedures are not provided uniformly throughout the region.

Justification for choosing area of focus:

- STIs are prevalent across Kansas.
- STIs have a great impact on birth outcomes and fertility.
- Only two of the eight county health departments in the region regularly screen for STIs.
- The region lacks quality and uniform services.
- STI testing and treatment protocols are different for each local health department in the region.
- STI testing and screening is not done outside of the family planning program, nor does it include the male population.

Goals:

- Increase access to STI services within the region
- Develop a regional protocol and program brochure for STI testing and treatment
- Establish a uniform, basic level of STI testing and treatment in all eight health departments by January 1, 2009
- Increase the number of STI tests provided in the region by local health departments by January 1, 2009
- Increase the number of detected positive cases of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia in the region by January 1, 2009
- Establish a data tracking system for STI incidents in the region
- Increase awareness of the target population and the need to continue educating and promoting STI screening to this population
- Increase collaboration between local health departments and private providers

- Learn and utilize Quality Improvement (QI) techniques to strengthen the regional capacity for providing certain public health service functions that could not be easily provided by each individual local health department

Primary clients/stakeholders and their needs:

- Residents of the East Central region (Chase, Coffey, Franklin, Greenwood, Lyon, Morris, Osage and Wabaunsee counties), specifically all MCH program qualified clients (the target population), need public health service information regarding STI testing.
- Local health department (LHD) staff and managers need QI training and technical assistance, such as how to abstract STI data.
- LHDs and physician offices need educational materials for patients and professionals such as posters, brochures, fact sheets, public service announcements and newspaper advertisements.

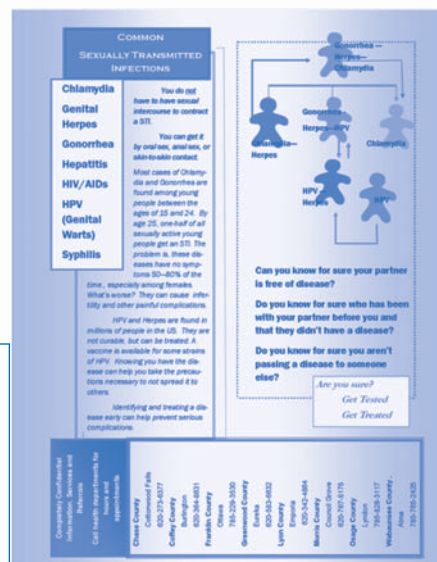
3. Study the current situation

The following data collection tools were used to gather baseline data for the project:

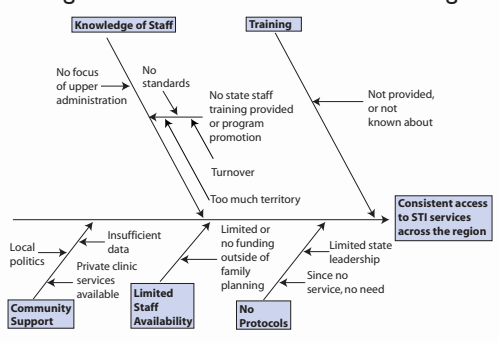
- Kansas Information for Communities (KIC) system, 2004
- KDHE Infertility Program reports
- HAWK, an integrated electronic disease surveillance system

- Identify locations suitable for outreach activities
- Develop a regional STI testing and screening protocol
- Adopt a regional STI examination form
- Design and print regional promotional brochure of STI testing and screening
- Distribute print campaign materials
- Conduct public information campaign:
 - Place various advertisements in each local county newspaper
 - Place public service announcements on area radio stations

Brochure used by region:



Fishbone Diagram: Why is access to STI testing and care inconsistent across the region?



Check

- Project Results:**
- Established a uniform, basic level of STI testing and treatment in all eight health departments
 - Developed a regional protocol and a regional program brochure for STI testing and treatment
 - Equipped and trained all eight health departments to provide STI testing and treatment services as planned, beginning no later than January 1, 2008
 - Increased collaboration between LHDs and private providers
 - The staff learned how to use QI techniques to strengthen the regional capacity for providing certain public health service functions that could not be easily provided by each individual local health department

Act

- 1. Standardize the improvement**
 - Continue to promote the importance of STI testing to the target population
 - Continue to utilize QI tools in day-to-day activities
- 2. Reflect and establish future plans**
 - Expand QI to other areas of the region
 - Continue familiarizing the departments' staff with QI concepts, tools, and methods

Do

Select and implement a theory for improvement

Rationale:
 Distributing the promotional brochure of STI testing and screening in the region will increase community awareness of public health services provided by the East Central Kansas Public Health Coalition.

- Activities:**
- Access information and statistics about STI rates
 - Conduct regional training in four sessions:
 - KDHE STI and HIV program explanation
 - Male STI exams
 - Female STI exams
 - Presentation by field staff on STIs and LHD practices
 - Review state and local protocols
 - Review evidence and recommendations for reducing STI rates in the region