



MRC ★ In Touch

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Featured Article

MRC Unit Funds STD Screening for Vulnerable Populations

Muskegon County has one of the highest populations of young adults living with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the state of Michigan. To reduce the spread of STDs in the community, the Muskegon County Health Department and the Muskegon County MRC are partnering to offer free STD screenings to at-risk young adults at drop-in sites.

At the drop-in sites, MRC volunteers collect urine samples and send them to the Muskegon County Health Department for testing. If a patient's test is positive, the patient is notified and sent to the health department. The patient then receives treatment free of charge. MRC volunteers also distribute brochures to patients, which includes information about the causes and symptoms of STDs.

In order to keep awareness and prevention of STDs abreast in the community, the MRC unit reaches out to agencies and youth groups. The drop-in center recently hosted a "Hot Dog Night" where food was served to at-risk young adults. They were given STD educational materials, along with free HIV and STD testing.

Rhona Colbert, Muskegon County MRC unit coordinator, offers advice on how MRC units can start a similar program with their local health department. Colbert says, "Work with your local health departments and keep lines of communication open with medical agencies."

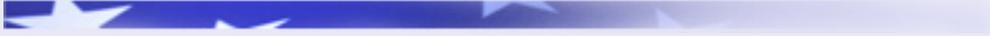
Please see the tips section below for more information on how your MRC unit can get involved.

Tips

1. Contact your local health department to see how your MRC can start or get involved in an existing STD screening program.

2. Keep your local health department and constituents up-to-date on the latest statistics of STDs in your city, county, or state.
3. Talk with representatives from local homeless and drop-in shelters to see if they would be interested in your unit testing at-risk teens and adults.
4. Consider hosting an event with an incentive, such as food, to draw in an audience.
5. Visit the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Web site for more information about STDs at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/>.

MRC/NACCHO Connections



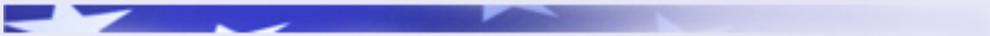
Help Your Community "Kick the Habit"

Tobacco use is one of the deadliest, yet most preventable epidemics in the United States. Despite the consequences of first and secondhand smoke, about 43.4 million adults in the United States smoke cigarettes, according to the CDC.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the National Association of Local Boards of Health, and NACCHO have joined forces to eliminate the use of tobacco products. The organizations have developed "Joint Policy Action Steps on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control," which embodies a comprehensive approach to policies on secondhand smoke from state and local perspectives. Read more information about this plan at: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/tobacco/jointpolicyactionsteps.cfm>.

Work with your MRC unit and local health departments, schools, and leaders in your community to create smoke-free work environments, restaurants, and other public places. For resources and tools to help guide you on the journey to end tobacco use in your community, visit: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/tobacco/resources/index.cfm> and <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/>.

Announcements



Experience Sharing and Lessons Learned Web page

NACCHO's MRC-Public Health Workgroup has created a lessons learned and experience sharing Web page. It is a way for MRC units to share their practices, examples, and success stories with one another. The Web page is designed to highlight the challenges and successes of MRC units' involvement with emergency preparedness, response, and public health activities.

If you have any questions, contact Janusz Wasiolek at jwasiolek@naccho.org.

Please visit the below link to view the lessons learned and experience sharing Web page.

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/resources/mrcshare.cfm>

Attend NACCHO Annual 2009

Register now for NACCHO Annual 2009 set for July 29–31, 2009 in sunny Orlando, Florida! The Preliminary Program highlights MRC activities and accomplishments that will be featured at three poster sessions and at a session entitled "Surgeon General Says..." View the Preliminary Program at: <http://www.naccho.org/events/nacchoannual2009/index.cfm>.

Please visit the below link to register for NACCHO Annual 2009. <http://www.regonline.com/checkin.asp?eventid=687718>

Call for Proposals for the 2010 Preparedness Summit

The 2010 Preparedness Summit will showcase best practice training models, tools, and resources that illustrate proven results in building and sustaining public health preparedness at the local, state, tribal, or national level. Abstracts will be accepted for posters, sharing sessions, interactive sessions, and workshops. Abstracts may be submitted until Thursday, August 13, 12 noon EDT.

For more information and to submit your abstract, visit <http://www.phprep.org>.

To submit information for either MRC: In Touch or MRC: In Focus, please contact Megan Skupien at mskupien@naccho.org or (202) 783-1376.



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