Influence of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Condom Distribution and Clinic Sites Providing Sexual Health Services

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Background
- Chlamydia is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the US
  - 540 cases per 100,000 people
- Gonorrhea is the 2nd most commonly diagnosed STI in the US
  - 179 cases per 100,000 people
- Missouri has the highest gonorrhea and chlamydia rates per capita in the US
  - Chlamydia: 586.7 cases per 100,000 people
  - Gonorrhea: 238.7 cases per 100,000 people
- Untreated gonorrhea and chlamydia can result in severe consequences, including morbidity or mortality
- Limited resources for treatment and prevention are a challenge for STI
  - Lack of condoms
  - Staff layoffs
  - Reduced clinic hours
  - Increased co-pay
  - Transportation barriers

Research Goals
1. Discover any differences between availability of services in the St. Louis City and County

Methods
- The setting includes the St. Louis (City and County) Region
- Phone calls and emails were the main method in collecting the availability of services and hours since COVID-19 (starting March 2020)
- Information on availability were broken down to: Full Availability, Modified, and Closed
- All sites were tracked and mapped on ArcMap

Measures and Results, continued

During the COVID-19 pandemic:
Total of 128 clinics
- 9 clinics did not make any changes to their availability (Full service)
- 74 clinics modified their availability (Hours and or services)
- 33 clinics closed (permanently)
Total 91 condom sites
- 11 condom sites did not make any changes to their availability (full service)
- 32 had to modified their availability (hours and or services)
- 38 condom sites were closed (permanently)

Conclusions & Community Relevance
- The COVID-19 pandemic had made immense changes to the availability to the services and sites for condoms distribution and clinic sites providing sexual health services. The condom and clinic sites that were closed were within zip codes with high rates of chlamydia, and majority of the condom and clinic sites that were modified were within medium to high rates of chlamydia
- What can we do about these discoveries?
  - Mapping and tracking availability of condom distribution and clinic sites provides hospitals and organizations in St. Louis to determine where funding and resources should be allocated to, with the desired goal of reducing STI contraction rates among disadvantaged populations

Contact Information
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- Note: The work presented here was done for the purposes of a course and is not my thesis or dissertation.
- References available upon request