

The Need

To identify GC and CT cases that would be missed without testing extragenital sites exposed through sexual contact

The Plan

Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Public Health - STD/HIV Program, OPH State Laboratory, Bureau of Family Health, and Denver Prevention Training Center collaborated to implement extragenital GC/CT testing at Louisiana PHUs

Evaluation into Action

Continue to monitor and evaluate extragenital GC/CT test results and expand extragenital testing to additional PHUs as more resources become available

The Message

Through interagency collaboration, and partnership with DPTC, Louisiana was able to make significant strides in GC/CT testing, treatment, and prevention

Louisiana Implements Extragenital Testing to Identify Rectal and Pharyngeal Gonorrhea and Chlamydia

Louisiana consistently ranks at or near the top in the nation for gonorrhea (GC) and chlamydia (CT) case rates. Approximately 25-28% of cases are diagnosed at Louisiana Parish Health Units (PHUs).

Most of the Louisiana cases are identified through testing specimen from urogenital sites. This results in a number of asymptomatic cases that remain undiagnosed when extragenital sites are exposed through sexual contact.

Identifying GC and CT infections using extragenital testing, followed by appropriate treatment, is important for effective GC and CT prevention and control.

What was done?

Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Public Health (OPH) - STD/HIV Program, OPH State Laboratory, Bureau of Family Health, and Denver Prevention Training Center (DPTC) collaborated to implement extragenital GC/CT testing in twelve PHUs.

Implementation was executed in three phases. Phase I was piloted in four PHUs in Feb 2016. Phases II and III included the addition of eight PHUs in 2017.

Steps included:

- OPH State Laboratory validation of anal and pharyngeal GC/CT NAAT testing
- PHU extragenital GC/CT testing protocol development
- Multi-language instruction sheets for nurses and patients
- Staff training on the importance of extragenital GC/CT testing, specimen collection and project implementation progress

TARGETED EVALUATION *spotlight*

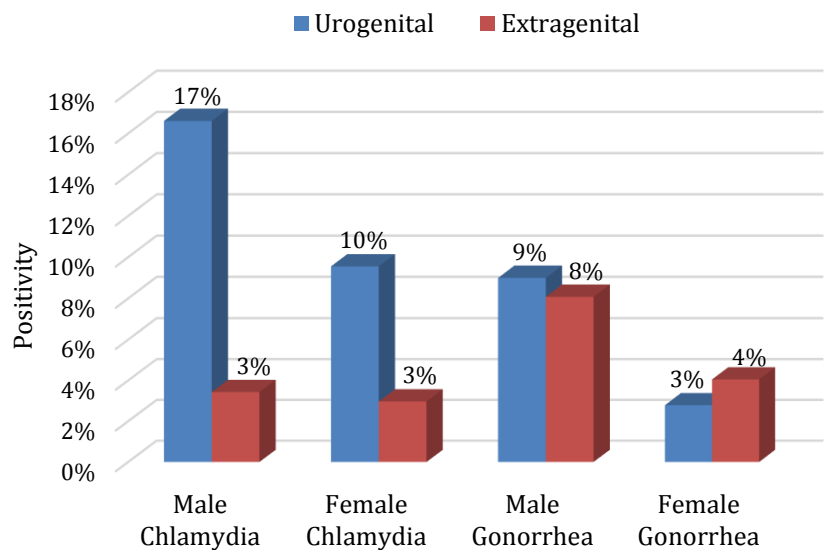
"The collaboration between various programs within the Louisiana Department of Health and Denver Prevention Training Center was key to our success... Clinic staff at parish health units were adequately trained to implement extragenital testing and were highly committed to this effort... Periodic meetings were held to update staff on parish health unit performance and progress..... ... Dedication from staff at all levels was integral to the successful implementation of extragenital testing in Louisiana."

What was found?

Thus far, findings from extragenital GC/CT testing in Louisiana PHUs have been promising:

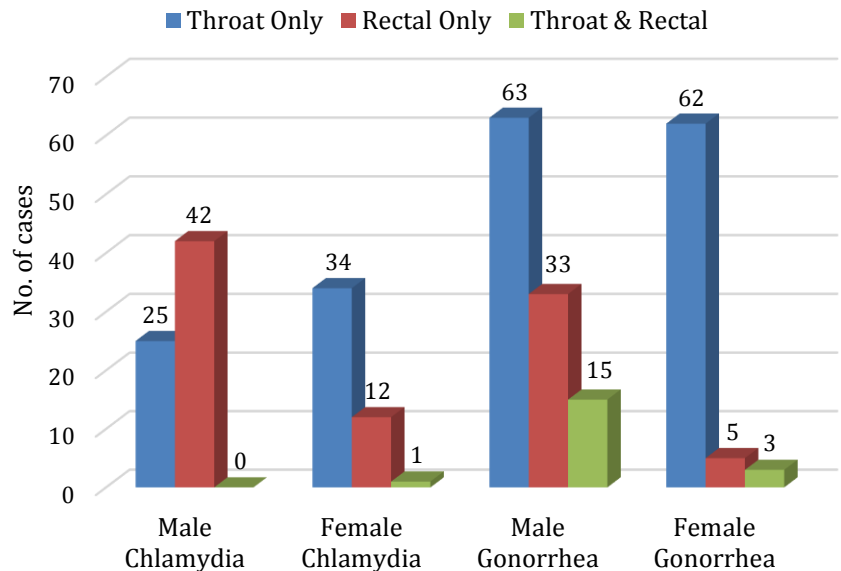
- Extragenital GC/CT testing has identified a significant number of GC and CT cases which would have been missed with urogenital testing only
- 5,774 extragenital samples were tested including 574 rectal specimen (female=291, male=283) and 5,200 pharyngeal specimen (female=2,772, male=2,428)
- A total of 295 GC/CT cases [181 GC (male=111, female=70) and 114 CT (male=67, female=47)] were identified that omnibet would have been missed without extragenital testing (specimen collected February 2016 – September 2017)

Urogenital and Extragenital Specimen Positivity



T A R G E T E D EVALUATION *spotlight*

Cases That Would Have Been Missed Without Extragenital Testing



What was accomplished?

Louisiana successfully increased GC and CT detection and prevented new infections through extragenital testing by:

- Successful implementation of extragenital testing at twelve parish health units
- Training of clinic staff to improve sexual history taking skills and patient education techniques which promoted proper screening and testing of clients that would benefit from extragenital testing
- Implementation of extragenital GC/CT testing made it possible to identify a significant number of GC and CT cases that would otherwise have been missed

Next steps?

Expand extragenital GC and CT testing at additional PHUs in Louisiana, as more resources become available.

For More Information

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