

Student Name

Date

**CBMP Site Profile
High School STD Program
Philadelphia Department of Public Health**

The former Director of the STD Control Program at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health developed the High School STD Program in 2002. This program was developed as a response to the vast number of adolescents who were sexually active and contracting diseases at a rapid rate throughout the city. The goal of the program is to educate high school students regarding the risks of sexually transmitted diseases, prevention methods, and the need for testing if sexually active. Additionally the program provides the option of free confidential screening on a voluntary basis, and treatment if the tests come back positive. 90% of the funding for this program comes directly from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the remaining 10% comes from the city of Philadelphia.

Currently, Philadelphia is the only city in the nation with a High School STD Program. Many other urban areas are using Philadelphia's model to develop similar programs. Over the five years of the program, there have been few changes. However, there have been several small changes including a preservative is now used in the urine samples to help provide more accurate test results, and a video presentation is used instead of a power point presentation. The Department of Health has an agreement with the School District of Philadelphia, and the presentation is now a requirement for all high school students.

The High School STD Program serves all Philadelphia Public Schools as well as several charter schools. All high school students are eligible for the program and are required to hear the presentation. Participation in the testing is optional. The demographics of this program consist of primarily lower socioeconomic African American adolescents from 9th-12th grades. Race and SES vary according to high school. There is no referral process for this program; however, all students, if they are sexually active, are advised to get a full STD screening at a city health clinic. This program has recently modified its strategy to a video featuring power 98.9FM's Golden Girl and 103.9FM The Beat's Colby Kolb in order to appeal to the young adults in the audience. The video also contains popular slang and footage from actual dance clubs.

The services of the Health Department's High School STD program are rendered in all Philadelphia Public Schools. The video presentation, discussion, urine collection, and aliquoting of the specimens into a preservative median are all completed at the high schools. The actually testing of the urine is done in the epidemiology lab in The Department of Public Health Clinic #1. Students call for test results one week from the date that they are tested, but they also provide the Health Department with their phone

number in case a teenager doesn't call back and is positive for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. If a student tests positive treatment is either distributed at school through the nurse or through the primary care provider.

The need for this program was identified by the growing numbers of Chlamydia and gonorrhea in the Philadelphia area. 3,600 teenagers were diagnosed with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea in 2006 and of that 76% were females and 24% were males. The higher rates of female reported infection are because girls have more opportunities to be tested than boys. Education is provided by contract workers for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health about sexually transmitted diseases. These employees also tests for most common diseases that are curable with antibiotics because they are bacterial infections. The Health Department believes that through early detection of infection and adequate treatment, complications including disseminated infection, pelvic inflammatory disease and lifelong infertility can be prevented. Continued spread of infection can also be interrupted.