Aboriginal Health Council
of South Australia Inc.

STI control under Aboriginal Community Control

Sarah Betts, AHCSA Sexual Health Program Manager

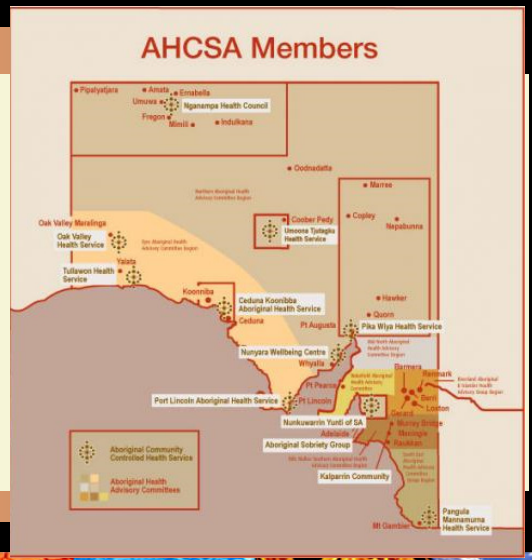
Indigenous Pre-Conference on HIV/AIDS, July 2014

Overview

- Who we are
- Background to the Sexual Health Program
- What we do
- Achievements
- Good news story – Well Women's House, Pika Wiya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, Port Augusta
- Keys to success
- Future challenges and opportunities

Aboriginal Health Council of SA

Nunkuwarrin Yunti
Pika Wiya
Nunyara
Nganampa HC
Pangula Mannamurna
Ceduna Koonibba HS
Pt Lincoln HS
Umoona Tjuttagku HS
Tullawon, Yalata
Maralinga Tjarutja
Oak Valley
Tjuntjuntjara



Background

Burden of disease

- Increased burden among young Aboriginal people
- Myths in community, shame issues, contact tracing, confidentiality

Rationale for 6-week Community screen

- Interrupt transmission by testing/treating entire target population at once
- Opportunistic screening only captures those that present to clinic (might miss people who don't have symptoms)
- Keep STI testing on the agenda in ACCHSs

Background - SHP

- Nganampa Health undertook an annual Community STI Screening Program for several years
- 2006-2007: Tullawon and Maralinga Tjarutja Health Service commenced annual community screening
- 2008: AHCSA obtained funding from SA Health to support ACCHS to conduct a needs assessment
- From these activities, the need for a coordinated approach to improving STI management at ACCHS was identified and the Sexual Health Program was born!
- 2010: funding for the SHP

From then… to now

Human resources

- 1 Sexual Health Program Manager, 0.2FTE RN Advisor to the SHP
- 10 ACCHSs undertaking annual STI screening in their communities

Activities of the SHP

- Training & education for AHWs
- Community engagement grants for peer education
- Promotional materials
- Collaboration with other crew
- Ongoing reporting and surveillance systems

"Respect test – Respect yourself, Respect your Partner, Respect your Mob"

Respect – Our Mob Workshop

Opportunity for Aboriginal Health Workers to have a 2 day focus on STIs & BBVs as well as Drug & Alcohol Education to prepare for 2014 STI 6 week Screening period

Monitoring the SHP

- 2013: partnership between the state pathology provider (IMVS) and AHCSA to provide monthly STI data

Reports:

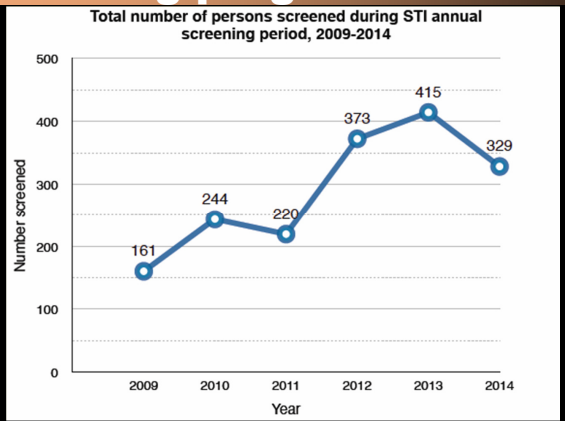
- Annual community screening program 2009-2014
- From 2013, annual reports on testing and positivity rates for chlamydia, gonorrhoea and trichomonas for the entire year
- From 2014, quarterly reports on testing and positivity rates

Feedback from services

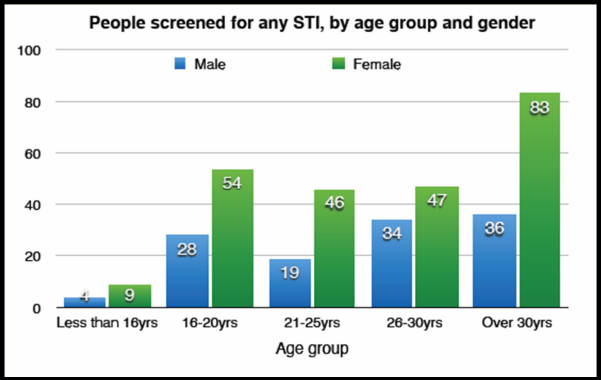
Achievements

- Strong levels of engagement from workers at 10 participating health services
- Breaking down the barriers to testing in the community
- An annual testing rate in the target population of 28%!
- Health promotional materials
- Monthly data reports on testing/positivity, circulated as individualised quarterly reports to each health service
- Falling rates of chlamydia and gonorrhoea…?

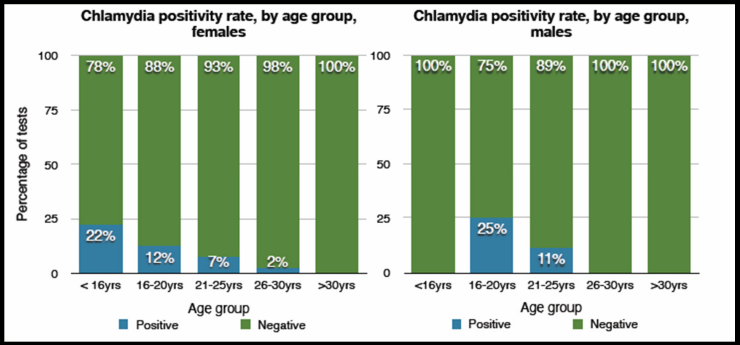
Screening program over time



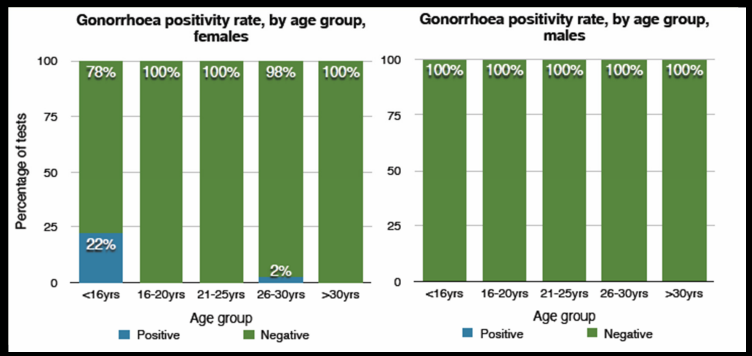
Overview of SA 2014 participants



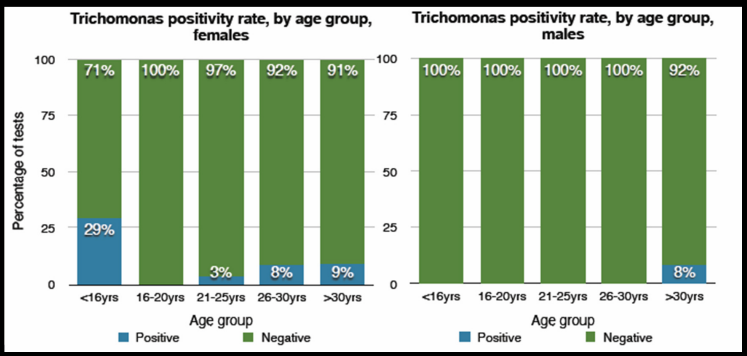
Chlamydia positivity rates, 2014 screening



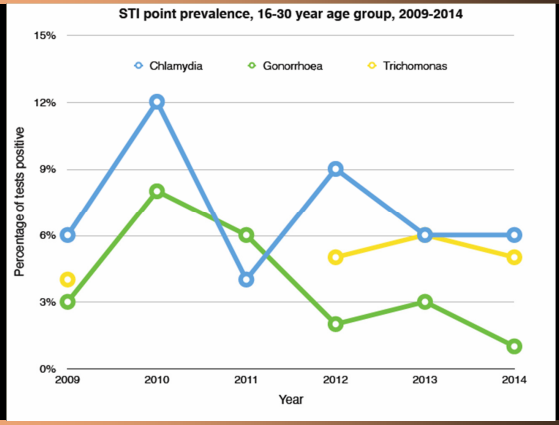
Gonorrhoea test positivity rates, 2014 screening



STI test positivity rates, 2014 screening

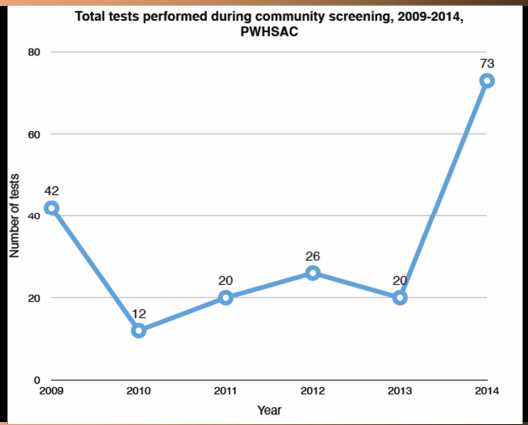


STI rates over time in SA ACCHS

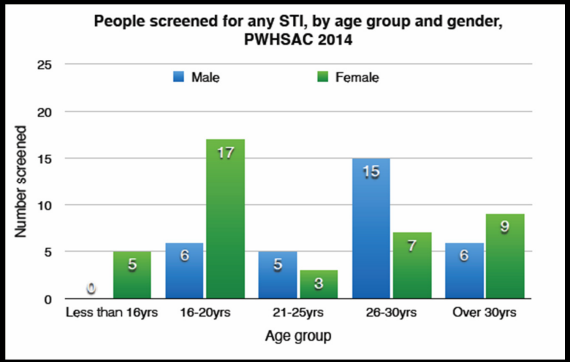


PIKA WIYA Port Augusta

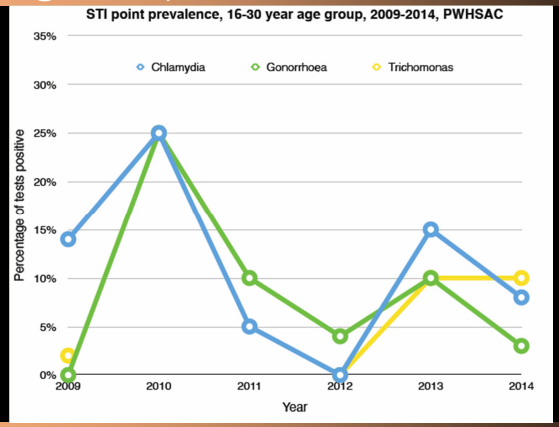
A picture tells a thousand words



Not just the women



Getting there, but still some work to do



Keys to success of the SHP

- By the community, for the community
- Central support for smaller services
- Local knowledge in communities (AHW)
- Running the Workshop and supporting community screening each year builds momentum/familiarity
- 2 day workshop each year sets the scene and creates networks of interested AHWs
- Strong workforce
- Team approach with GPs, AHWs, RNs
- National forums like this one provide networking opportunities

Future challenges and opportunities

- FUNDING uncertainties! – AHCSA and ACCHSs
- Turnover of Staff, developing local strategies that fit with local communities.
- Ensuring AHWs get appropriate training
- Reaching the under-screened populations
- Trichomonas

More info at

www.ahcsa.org.au/sexual-health

Ask your local GP or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service for an STI/HIV Respect Test