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Abstract Category: DNP in Clinical Leadership

Title: Syphilis Resurgence: Unlocking dilemmas and releasing treatment Options

Purpose: The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update and review on current issues in syphilis management

Objective 1: Recognize and treat patients with syphilis

Objective 2: Utilize recent guidelines in the management of syphilis

Objective 3: Reduce the long-term effects of undiagnosed syphilis on patients and communities

Abstract:

Background: Females and males who enter into jails and prisons have high rates of sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis and HIV, as compared to the general population. Community re-entry of incarcerated female and males in jails with undiagnosed syphilis and HIV represents a significant public health risk and financial burden on a local, state and national level.

Aim: To identify the prevalence of syphilis and HIV testing in incarcerated female compared to males in a large urban jail.

Design: Secondary data analysis, quantitative, descriptive study

Setting: Dallas County Jail located in Dallas Texas, 7th largest county jail in the United States

Participants: Females and Males incarcerated at Dallas County Jail in Dallas Texas during 2008 and 2009, who volunteered for HIV and syphilis testing.

Methods: Permission for the utilization of data of incarcerated females and males with syphilis/HIV was obtained through the approval of the Medical Director, Parkland Health and Hospital System, Jail Health Division. Adult jail health screening datasheet from Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), derived from testing done by the HIV/STI mobile Unit and Jail onsite testing was utilized to perform retrospective data analysis. Testing was voluntary and provided through DHHS HIV/STI Mobile Unit representatives on site at the jail. Test results are based on the RPR (primary syphilis) and TP-PA (secondary and latent syphilis) tests. HIV testing was conducted using an HIV antibody screening test (e.g., reactive enzyme immunoassay [EIA]) confirmed by a positive result from a supplemental HIV antibody test (e.g., Western blot or indirect immunofluorescence assay test or HIV
nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) detection test (e.g., polymerase chain reaction). All data was de-identified and personal health information was removed.

Conclusions: The lack of access to jail entry-based screening of syphilis and HIV for females and males is the primary reason the rate of syphilis and HIV continues to increase post incarceration. This article identified that incarcerated females at Dallas County Jail, in Dallas Texas, were at higher risk during a two year calendar period from January through December 2008 and 2009, for not being tested for syphilis and HIV, compared to incarcerated males, thus an opt out criteria for testing is recommended compared to volunteer testing.