1-22-2014

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Rates of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Genital Herpes

January 22, 2014

A collaborative study including Dr. Macaulay Okwuokenye, alumni, Dr. Karl E. Peace, Professor of Biostatistics, and Dr. Gulzar Shah, Director of Research, at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University examine rates of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Genital Herpes before and after spring break and homecoming at a Southeastern American University. This study estimates the rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and genital herpes simplex virus before and after spring break and homecoming week (and during summer terms) at a southeastern American university. Participants comprised students who utilized the campus student health center from January 1st 2006, to December 31st, 2008. Retrospective de-identified participants’ data were extracted using the specific diagnoses codes for each illness via the on-campus student health center’s electronic medical record and practice management system. Enrollment data were obtained from the university’s catalogue on the registrar’s website. The rates of the three illnesses and average times to diagnoses from the first date of infected participants’ enrollment are estimated.

Research showed that the rates of these illnesses at this campus’s student health center were higher after spring break, homecoming, and summer Term A. Infected participants were on average diagnosed within their first two years of enrollment at the university.

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A collaborative study including Dr. Nandi Marshall, alumni and current assistant professor at Armstrong Atlantic State University, and Dr. Gulzar Shah, director of research at Georgia Southern University Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, evaluate quality improvement to improve HIV reporting. The incorporation and evaluation of quality improvement into Georgia’s public health systems continues to be a focus of the Georgia Public Health Practice Based Research Network. This report describes the process, preliminary results, and lessons learned from incorporating quality improvement into one of Georgia’s public health districts.