



December 1st is World AIDS Day

December 1, 2018 is World's AIDS Day, an occasion for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV. It's an opportunity to refocus our efforts to provide education on how people can protect themselves and others from HIV infection, to support those affected by HIV, and to remember those who have lost their lives to HIV-related diseases. It's also a reminder that stigma is still a reality for many people living with HIV. Stigma and associated discrimination can negatively impact the mental health of people living with HIV and can keep people from speaking with their providers about and getting tested and treated for HIV.

Providers can help normalize HIV and STD testing by discussing sexual health as a normal part of a person's overall health and well-being. CDC recommends asking every adult patient the following questions as an essential component of the overall medical history:

“Have you been sexually active in the past year?”

“Do you have sex with men, women, or both?”

“In the past 12 months, how many sexual partners have you had?”

Asking about injection drug use and the number of drug use partners is also critical for identifying individuals who may be at risk for HIV infection. Encouraging patients to practice risk reduction strategies such as testing, consistent condom use, or limiting the number of partners, can reduce the acquisition of disease. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) may be appropriate for patients at high risk.

Providers can also use language that is supportive, rather than stigmatizing, when talking about HIV. The CDC recommends using “diagnosed, acquire or transmit” instead of “catch or pass on”; using “blood, vaginal fluids, breast milk” instead of “body fluids”; using “people or person with HIV” instead of “victims, sufferers, sick people”; and using “person with HIV, person living with HIV, HIV-positive person” instead of “AIDS patient, HIV patient.”

The Wyoming Department of Health, Communicable Disease Unit recommends all individuals between the age of 15 and 65 years get tested for HIV at least once in their lifetime and more often if they have risk factors. The CDC estimates 162,500 individuals are unaware of their status. Providers play a critical role in identifying individuals with risks and ensuring those individuals get tested.

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Save the Date - December 6, 2018, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PrEP 101 Webinar

Please join us for a webinar on PrEP. Anna Kinder, with the Mountain West AIDS Education and Training Center, will be covering what PrEP is, who may benefit from PrEP, and how to incorporate PrEP or a PrEP referral process into your clinic.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/243395770>

Save the Date - January 16, 2019, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Syphilis Education Webinar

The Denver Prevention Training Center will hold a webinar for public health professionals and healthcare providers to discuss syphilis. More details to follow but please plan to attend!

W(h)Y PrEP Matters

The new PrEP resource website has launched. Please visit wyprepmatters.com to find information about PrEP including recommended populations, payment options for PrEP, finding a PrEP provider, and other resources.

Join the Wyoming Comprehensive Care and Prevention Planning Alliance!

The Wyoming Comprehensive Care and Prevention Planning Alliance (CAPPA) has set the meeting schedule, locations and focus for 2019. If you are interested in the care and prevention needs of persons living with or at risk for HIV, hepatitis and STDs, CAPPA is looking for members in the following capacities: Populations - HIV positive, particularly females or parents of an HIV positive child; hepatitis C positive; High Risk Heterosexual; Injection Drug User; Technical Assistance – Title X Family Planning; Case Management; Behavioral Science/Mental Health; and Regional - Northeast Region and Northwest Region. Alternatives to in-person participation include phone and zoom connections. If you are interested in joining, please contact Debi Anderson at 307.777.7529. You can also find information at <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/communicable-disease-unit/cappa/>

April 5-7, 2019 – Rawlins; County Jail, Department of Corrections and Public Health Nursing Collaboration

August 2-4, 2019 – Rock Springs or Green River; Mental Health/ASIS, Data meeting

October 25-27, 2019 – Cheyenne or Casper; Sex Trafficking/DVSA, Wyoming Equality

Contact Us:

Debi Anderson	Communicable Disease Unit Manager	Debi.anderson@wyo.gov	307-777-7529
Jennifer Casteel	Communicable Disease Office Support	Jennifer.casteel@wyo.gov	307-777-7585
Brianne Dunivent-Cronk	Communicable Disease Surveillance Data Manager	Brianne.dunivent-cronk@wyo.gov	307-777-8005
Shelley Hood	Communicable Disease Treatment Program Manager	Shelley.hood1@wyo.gov	307-777-5856
Sarah Newsy	Field Epidemiologist	Sarah.newsly@wyo.gov	307-777-8939
Matt Peterson	Field Epidemiologist	matthew.peterson@wyo.gov	307-777-6563
Toni Reeves	Communicable Disease Benefits Coordinator	Toni.reeves@wyo.gov	307-777-5800
Courtney Smith	Communicable Disease Surveillance Program Manager	Courtney.smith@wyo.gov	307-777-2434
Angela Vaughn	Field Epidemiologist	Angela.vaughn@wyo.gov	307-777-7719
Brittany Wardle	Communicable Disease Prevention Program Manager	Brittany.wardle@wyo.gov	307-777-3562