

CDC Town Hall Teleconference

HIV Among Youth in the US

Q&A

December 4, 2012

2:00pm – 3:00pm EST

Coordinator: At this time we have no responses for questions, but once again the command is star 1 and record your name when prompted if you do have a question.

Judy Monroe: Okay. So as folks are formulating their questions, as you all heard on the call, and through the presentations, I mean, there is certainly a lot of compelling data that we've heard.

So all of you on the call, especially if you're in the states that Howell mentioned, regarding the gap in getting the questions asked on your YRBS, I would really encourage you to ask those questions of leadership in your states to see if we can't close that gap in terms of getting the data.

Let me ask a question. Tim, I heard you asking or saying that you worked with, collaboratively with a lot of community partners. What I didn't quite hear was the reach to the medical community. I mean, is there an intersection there? I think what you're doing with the schools is fantastic. Is the medical community involved?

Timothy Kordic: There are a level of involvements with the medical community. For example, the AIDS Ambassadors just come out of one of the medical schools. And so a lot of their physicians are - in training are people that are part of that program. There's also a lot of other aspects of the medical community involved in our clinics and things like that as well.

So we do have them involved, not necessarily in a classroom setting but more in a clinical setting. And then we, they're also involved in a lot of the projects

and coalitions. Because we're so large we work in large coalitions, so we have a lot of medical staff on all our coalitions that work in Los Angeles.

Judy Monroe: Great. Operator, do we have questions in the queue?

Coordinator: We do have some responses. Our first response from (Terri Williams). Your line is open.

(Terri Williams): Hi. I was wondering if at all, and how might parents be involved in the Project U. Because I know - you mentioned a bit about professional development for teachers, and I just wanted to know if there was some development for parents as well.

Timothy Kordic: Currently there's no parent component of this, because there's age restrictions on who can actually be part of it for a lot of compliance reasons and legal reasons. We have a parent resource piece on my Web site, and we also have our resource packet which also includes an LGBTQ Web site portal as well; that has a parent section also.

So parents are definitely our partners. We do a lot with parents in general. I probably speak to several hundred parents every year, and they actually receive the LGBT resource packets and materials as well, so they see exactly what's available also. But they're definitely our partners, and one of our favorites.

Terri Williams: Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question will come from (Caitlin Marchisano).

(Caitlin Marchisano): Hi. Thanks for that great presentation. My question is really about the YRBS data. And I'm from Louisiana and we are one of those states that does not currently ask the sexual risk behavior questions. And we have been working to make that happen, and have received quite a bit of pushback from our leadership in the state.

And so I guess my question is more a request for advice as to how other states have done it in the past. What are some of the best practices of making that happen? And just if anyone has any resources to share, because obviously we at the STD/HIV program know it's a huge priority and a great stepping stone to improving sexual health programs for youth in the state. So any advice would be happily received. And that's my question.

Howell Wechsler: Thank you for that question (Caitlin). This is Howell Wechsler from the Division of Adolescent and School Health. People have tried real hard in Louisiana and run into some serious opposition. The first thing I would recommend is put that map up. You know, people sometimes think well, you know, we're a conservative state and we just can't get away with asking that in this state.

Well, how come they can get away with it in Texas and Mississippi and Alabama and Tennessee and Kentucky and South Carolina and North Carolina, and I could go on and on with so-called conservative states where the overwhelming majority of them do ask the questions. And guess what, they find that asking kids questions about sex does not make kids go out and have sex in the hallways.

(Unintelligible)... And then you can even kind of poke fun at that notion, because it just doesn't make sense. The most important thing is to show how serious the problems are. I know one time I was advocating for a state to ask

YRBS, and it happened to be a state that was surrounded by six or seven other states.

And I put up maps about one of the leading - I put up on the screen a map showing all the other states and what percentage of kids in that state were afflicted with a problem, or what percentage of kids were engaging in that risk behavior. And the numbers were high and troubling, and then you got to that state that I was trying to influence, and I put three huge question marks.

There's just something very, very sad when all the states around you are collecting that data, can monitor whether progress is being made, and your state is one of the few oddballs that's incapable of doing it.

(Caitlin Marchisano): Great, thank you so much.

Howell Wechsler: Good luck, (Caitlin).

(Caitlin Marchisano): Thank you.

Howell Wechsler: We're cheering for you.

Coordinator: We have no further responses for questions at this time.

Judy Monroe: Okay, well thanks. I'll give folks just a second here to see if they want to ask any more questions, as I have some closing remarks. But if we end the call a little bit early, I had heard that that would be okay today, because I think there's an opportunity for tweeting with Dr. Frieden at 3 o'clock.

So if you have a question, please get into the queue, but I would ask folks to take a moment to look at the last - next to the last slide in the PowerPoint

presentation. That's Slide Number 51. Today's state presentation is featured in Public Health Practice Stories from the Field.

This is a series that highlights how a broad range of public health practices are being implemented in the field. And you can find links directly to these stories on the *Vital Signs* Town Hall teleconference Web site, or you can visit the link at the bottom of the slide to see all of the current public health practice stories from the field.

I also would ask that you let us know how to improve these teleconferences to be more beneficial to you. You can email us your suggestions at ostltsfeedback@cdc.gov. That's O-S-T-L-T-S, feedback, all one word, at cdc.gov. So no - any other questions?

Coordinator: We did have another question come in from Laurie Bechhofer. Your line is open.

Judy Monroe: Okay, last words.

Laurie Bechhofer: Hi, this is Laurie Bechhofer in Michigan at the Department of Education, and I was noticing in the materials for World AIDS Day that in the four-page fact sheet for, talking about youth, they used the words gay and bisexual youth. And it just kind of took me aback a little bit because I know we've been often using the words YMSM.

And I'm wondering if there is a shift in the language being used by CDC to talk about this population.

Linda Koenig: Hi, this is Linda Koenig. That's true, we did change that. We've had a number of consultations with community partners and advisors, and we've gotten a lot

of feedback about the perception of the term MSM, and a preference to move to more descriptive gay and bisexual men, in this case young men. And definitely there's something changing about the terminology MSM. So that's one of the reasons we changed that.

Laurie Bechhofer: All right, thank you.

Judy Monroe: Okay, thanks to all of our speakers and everyone that participated on today's call. And we'll go ahead and wrap up here a couple of minutes early for Dr. Frieden's Twitter. Thanks everybody.

Man: Thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you for your participation on the conference call. At this time, all parties may disconnect.