Reducing the Risk: Sexual education for Pinedale, WY adolescents
Brittany Myers • University of Washington School of Medicine • 2015 • RUOP III

Purpose
The purpose of this intervention is to increase sexual education and knowledge of STD testing resources in Pinedale, Wyoming in hopes of decreasing rates of STDs and teen pregnancy.

Background
- Pinedale, Wyoming is a small town of approximately 2000 people within isolated Sublette County.
- Within Sublette County there is a 29.8% increase in teen pregnancies as opposed to a statewide increase of 2% over the past 12 years.

Methods
- Conversations with students and community members revealed insufficient sexual education for adolescents
- Clinical observations showed a lack of STD testing resources
- Introduction to the “Reduce the Risk” director and program
- Literature review identified program as a successful, evidence based, high school sexual education program

Results
- Community health plan includes:
  - Present information about “Reduce the Risk” program to school district superintendent and high school health teacher
  - Develop and distribute brochure with current STD testing resources to the community
- Various community members, the superintendent and health teacher were receptive about the potential of implementing the “Reduce the Risk” program
- Health teacher plans on contacting the state health department for more information
- Public health, the medical clinic, and health teacher are making brochures available for students and community members

Discussion
- With wide-spread community and school staff support, the possibility of implementation looks positive
- Pinedale being a conservative town could raise potential concern when attempting to implement this new curriculum education
- Planning follow up with health teacher on implementation of program and usefulness of brochure in fall

Acknowledgements
The Sublette county public health office, the Big Piney High school nurse Tonia Hoffman, and the Adolescent Health Program Manager for the Wyoming Department of health Shelly Barth, were all so helpful with by supplying me with support and advice making this project possible.