Torrington Condom Availability Program: Cutting Rates of Chlamydia

Andrew L. Fluckiger   University of Washington School of Medicine   RUOP   2014
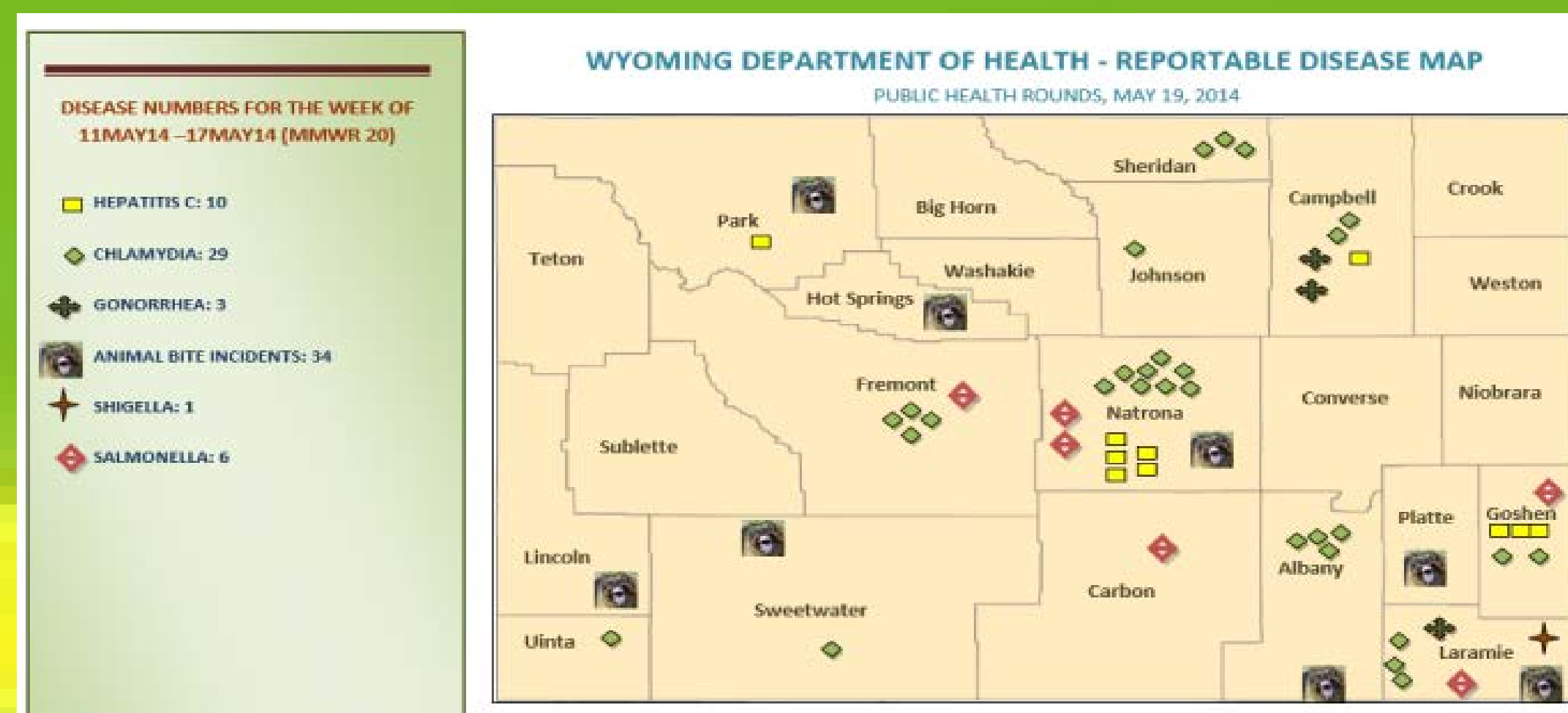
Purpose

This community health plan intends to address the steadily increasing rates of chlamydia in Goshen County, WY. This program was performed in conjunction with the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH).

Background

- Torrington is a city of 6,000 and is the county seat of Goshen County, population 13,249.
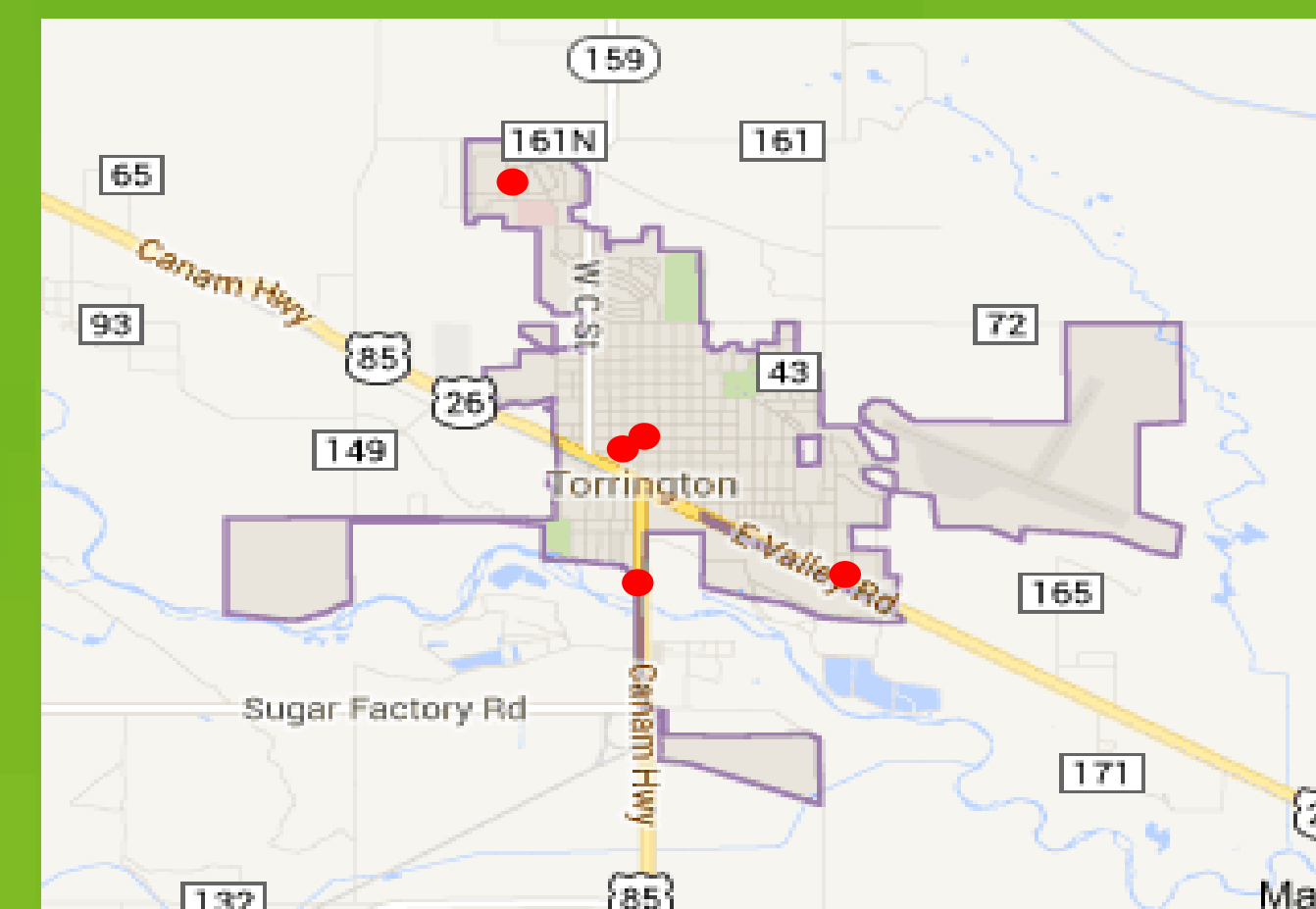- Goshen County has the third highest number of new chlamydia cases, yet it is the 14th (out of 23) in population.

This map only reports a week, but is illustrative of the disproportionate number of chlamydia cases occurring in Goshen County.

Methods

- Nationwide A nationwide study found that 56.7% of males (primarily white and heterosexual) who used condoms got that condom from a free source. Additionally, condom availability programs have been administered with great success in schools and communities across the nation.
- Plan details were worked out with WDH state epidemiologist.
- The local public health was consulted to ensure that they had the resources to supply the dispensers.
- Local individuals were recruited to install the dispensers.

Map of Torrington, red dots indicate location of the dispensers.

Results

- Permission was obtained for 12 dispensers to be placed
- 10 were available from WDH
- Three were placed in clinic bathrooms
- Two were placed in the bathrooms of three bars.
- One was placed in a unisex bathroom of an additional bar.

Photo of local contacts installing the dispensers.

Discussion

- The program was the first of its kind in this city, and a first for the county.
- WDH will track disease incidence to determine effectiveness of this intervention.
- Funding decisions for the program will be based on the outcomes WDH finds.
- The local public health office was unable to install the dispensers, hence the need for additional local contacts. If dispensers should need to be replaced in the future, this could be problematic.