



STI Engage 2024: Shaping the Nation's Health

Sexual health is a part of overall health, and advancing a healthier nation requires an equitable and sustainable response to sexually transmitted infections. At STI Engage 2024: Shaping the Nation's Health, we'll gather in Washington, D.C. as a powerful coalition of STI professionals to explore past efforts, current trends, future threats and opportunities and how we can chart a pathway to a healthier nation.

STI Engage is an opportunity to capture the resilience and momentum of the nation's STI professionals – including program staff, researchers, DIS, advocates, clinicians, policy makers, and other STI professionals leading the way to end the epidemic of STIs in the U.S.

NCSO is seeking top-notch presentations for STI Engage: Shaping the Nation's Health. Below are suggested content categories for this year's breakout session presentations. We invite abstracts for oral presentations, panels, workshops, and posters that align with this year's content categories.

We welcome presentations from all content categories, as well as presentations that may not fit neatly into a single content category. Presentations that are selected will be combined with other presentations to form a curated 90-minute breakout session. Presentation abstracts will be reviewed and sessions will be curated by the STI Engage Planning Committee and NCSO staff.

Abstracts submission deadline is **Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

STI ENGAGE 2024 SESSION CONTENT CATEGORIES

NEW! Program Science

How do STI professionals translate research into care when science provides new tools and strategies to support STI clinics, prevention programs, and public health efforts? The art and science of implementation is the bridge that brings essential new innovations to the communities who can benefit the most. This new content category will highlight how programs and clinics implement new innovations, how they compare possible strategies, and how they monitor success. This new content category will also explore how researchers take implementation into consideration and continue to study the use of new tools and strategies once they're available in communities.

NEW! Syndemics

STI professionals are on the front lines of far more than STIs, and the new syndemics content category is a way to explore the ways infectious diseases outbreaks interact with each other and the social determinants that feed into intersecting outbreaks. This content category also invites presenters to explore syndemic approaches: STI response efforts that tackle more than one infection, seek to meet patients' broader needs, integrate response efforts with other disciplines, or work upstream from infections to address the factors that lead to disparities in STIs and other infections.

Disease Intervention Practice

Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) are the epitome of service and are essential to STI prevention and vaccine distribution. This focus area will highlight this heroic workforce and explore the diverse ways STI programs are utilizing DIS plans to combat STIs, HIV, Mpox, COVID-19 and more in their jurisdictions.

Outbreak Response

This content area will focus on how Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) play an indispensable role in the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and the distribution of vaccines, particularly in outbreak response.

Self-Care, Wellness, and Sex Positivity

Public health has seen record levels of burn-out and turnover. We also know the STI workforce is resilient. This focus area will share ways STI programs are promoting self-care and mental health for DIS, supervisors, and program staff. From a holistic perspective, sexual health includes emotional, psychological, physical, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions. This content category also shares initiatives creating a positive and respectful approach to sexual health and wellbeing.

Healthy Equity and Social Justice

Creating health equity requires strategies that act on the political and economic systems and powers that established and continue to maintain

social inequities leading to poor health, chronic stress, and premature death. This content category will explore the evolution of STI programs and what is being done to address the social determinants of health and to create health equity.

Community engagement, Outreach, and Education

As core functions of STI programs, the community engagement, outreach, and education content category will focus on the evidence-based interventions that STI programs, community-based organizations, and other groups are implementing to effectively address STIs. This focus will also highlight the ways STI programs serve and engage their communities.

Partnership and Program Integration

We can't implement effective STI prevention activities on our own. This focus area will highlight programmatic successes and innovative approaches to integrated programs, unique partnerships, and strategies for effectively working across divisions in your jurisdiction.

Policy

Monitoring, implementing, and evaluating STI policies and educating the public, providers, and key stakeholders on effective policy approaches are essential to advancing STI prevention. This focus area will feature how policy impacts STIs and service delivery and the STI programs who are working to effect policy change.

Clinical Sexual Health

Sexual health clinics provide high-quality services to patients across the

country. This content category will focus on addressing barriers to care, clinical operations, implementing STI testing and treatment guidelines, along with building, maintaining, and enhancing the delivery of services.

Adolescent Sexual Health

Adolescents and young adults are heavily impacted by STIs. This content category will focus on reaching this population and implementing evidence-based approaches to STI prevention among adolescents and young adults including providing quality sexual health education, connecting youth to services, and establishing safe and supportive school environments.

Program Management, Leadership, Workforce Development

Program operations, grant administration, and reporting, oh my! This focus area will highlight strategies, tools, resources, and models for program management within the context of STI prevention and control. Strategies for recruitment, retention, and development of a diverse workforce will also receive the spotlight.

Health Communications, Technology & Innovations

Communication, technology, and innovations are powerful tools for STI prevention, sexual health promotion, and education. This focus area will explore how STI programs are harnessing these tools to disseminate their local data, power safer sex campaigns, and enhance their policy initiatives.