



Promoting Sexual Health
Through STD Prevention

NCSDDC.ORG

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STD Engage 2023: Coming Back Stronger

Together, we have carried each other and our communities through the COVID-19 pandemic, the monkeypox outbreak, and a persistent epidemic of STDs – and we have emerged resilient! Our collective sense of innovation and service to the community have helped us get to this point, and they will carry us forward into the future.

STD Engage is an opportunity to come back stronger by capturing the spirit of resilience, innovation, and service to the community – the very spirit embodied by the program staff, clinicians, researchers, advocates, DIS, policymakers, and other professionals leading the way to end the epidemic of STDs in the U.S.

NCSDDC is seeking top-notch content for STD Engage: Coming Back Stronger. Below are suggested educational tracks for oral and poster submissions. Abstracts should align with at least one of these tracks and incorporate the spirit of resilience, innovation, and service to the community we will be celebrating together with the return of in-person STD Engage in May 2023.

EDUCATIONAL TRACKS

All topics within a track's purview are welcome. If your project does not fall within one of these topic areas, or crosses over multiple tracks, don't worry -- please submit an abstract anyway! Abstracts submission deadline is **Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Planning Committee and NCSDDC Staff.

DIS and Outbreak Response

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

Self-Care, Wellness, and Sex Positivity

Public health has seen record levels of burn-out and turnover. We also know the STD workforce is resilient. This focus area will share ways STD 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 track 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 track will explore the evolution of STD programs and what is being done to address the social determinants of health and to create health equity.

Outreach, Education, and Prevention Intervention

As core functions of STD programs, the outreach, engagement, and prevention intervention track will focus on the evidence-based interventions that STD programs, community-based organizations, and other groups are implementing to effectively address STDs. This focus will also highlight the ways STD programs serve and engage their communities.

Partnership and Program Integration

We can't implement effective STD 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 STD policies and educating the public, providers, and key stakeholders on effective policy approaches are essential to advancing STD prevention. This focus area will feature how policy impacts STDs and service delivery and the STD programs who are working to effect policy change.

Program Management, Leadership, Workforce Development, & Training

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

Clinical Sexual Health

Sexual health clinics provide high-quality services to patients across the country. This track 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 track will focus on reaching this population and implementing evidence-based approaches to STD prevention among adolescents and young adults including providing quality sexual health education, connecting youth to services, and establishing safe and supportive school environments.