

# "Affordable and Accessible: Enhancing Sexual Health and Patient Care through Low Cost & Free STI Testing Initiatives"

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## Background

**Clinical Problem:** Student Health Centers may struggle with providing accessible and affordable STI testing

**Gap in Practice:** Lack of access leads to suboptimal screening rates and missed diagnoses

**Significance:** Providing low cost testing can bridge this gap and increase access to care

## Implementation

**Collaboration with:**

**Reference Laboratories: Client Bill Pricing**

- Negotiated based on clinic volume of tests
- Patients pay at time of service
- Lower prices than self-pay w/o insurance

**Grant Funding: Via TN Department of Health**

- Utilized for free STI testing while funding available

## Cost Saving Analysis

**Overall Cost Savings for 2024:**

**Grant Funded Testing: Saved Patients \$36,659.57**

**Client Bill Testing: Saved Patients \$13,731.22**

## Objective

**Recognize:** Recognize the need of low-cost STI testing for college students

**Evaluate:** Evaluate current STI testing model

**Develop:** Develop clinic-specific goals to improve STI testing

## Outcomes

	6/2021 - 6/2022 (self-pay/insurance)		6/2022 - 6/2023 (insurance/client bill)		6/2023 - 6/2024 (insurance/client bill/grant)	
	# tested	Positivity	# tested	Positivity	# tested	Positivity
Chlamydia	163	15.4%	383	14.6%	582	11.7%
Gonorrhea	169	4.3%	363	2.7%	570	1.2%
HSV	9	33%	14	50%	44	13.6%
Mycoplasma genitalium	6	16.7%	7	0%	35	11.4%
Trichomonas	16	0%	17	0%	52	0%
Syphilis	13	7.7%	72	0%	304	0%
HIV	36	0%	78	0%	320	0%

## Testing Needs

**Early Detection and Treatment:** Young people (ages 15-24) are disproportionately affected by STIs.

- They acquire ~50% of all new STIs & account for ~60% of all reported cases of gonorrhea and chlamydia.

**Socioeconomic Disparities:** Lack of insurance or underinsured

**Stigma and Privacy Concerns:**

- Many young adults wish to not use insurance for fear of their family members/parents finding out

## Impacts

**Initiation of Client Bill Pricing:**

**Testing numbers increased by 135%**

**Slight decrease in positivity for chlamydia and gonorrhea**

**Initiation of Grant Funding:**

**Testing numbers increased by 50% (from previous year)**

**20% positivity rate decrease for chlamydia**

**> 50% positivity rate decrease for gonorrhea**

## Contact & References

