

Item 24-1025: Q2 2024 Report

Board of Health

Wed, Aug 14, 2024 7:00AM

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 41:34

24-1025 our Q2 2024 report. Dr Sepers, quarterly report.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 41:43

Yeah, and I'll just highlight a few data points here. So, looking at the gastroenteric data point, you know, versus—in 2024 versus 20—this point in 2023, we do see a large increase. We don't have an explanation for what that is. We—there isn't a single picnic or a restaurant-based outbreak or anything like that. We're seeing a lot of large independent gastroenteric events. And so, you know, there's the general idea about food safety and good hand hygiene, that kind of thing is a strategy there.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 42:31

We are also seeing that national trend for an increase STI/STD rate amongst those under the age of 18. That continues to be a very alarming number on par with that national trend. So just highlight that.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 42:53

We did see—so now we're past the that one year mark of when the federal lead elevation levels had dropped from five to 3.5 so we're really comparing apples to apples at this point now. Using the Align methodology, we are seeing a decrease in lead elevations by quite a large amount. So, something to highlight there.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 43:23

Also want to highlight the creation of our Community Resource Navigator and the hiring of that position. [Cheryl Schaeff?] has come on into the Appleton Health Department, is based at the Appleton police department, funded by the Community Development folks. So that's part of a community development block grant funding on that. So, Cheryl's great. She's got a back—a background of 20 years of being a licensed social worker, so really fun to learn from her as she explores providing those basic need—technical assistance to those experiencing homelessness.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 44:12

And then the other sort of magic—major data point that I would highlight is we are seeing an increase in the need for public health nurse visits. And so, this is over a variety of different reasons. So, 79 versus 49 this time last year. Part of that is an increase in LTBI. Part of that is more—sorry, that's latent tuberculosis infection. So, the non-transmissible form that still needs treatment. But in terms of the community referral piece, we are seeing a large increase in that, something that was kind of hampered during covid 19. That's kind of rushing back, so. A lot of different reasons related to that, but, and also that that prenatal care coordination function as well is a big piece of that. Those are the pieces I would highlight. And happy to take questions about anything else.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 45:20

Are there any questions? Dr Vogel.

Lee Vogel (Board Member) 45:21

I don't have a question. I just want to say I really love the format of this report. It's just so accessible for people to make sense out of what's happening related to public health in our community. So, thanks for this.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 45:34

We have some really good staff that support that.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 45:38

Thank you, Megan. Any other questions or comments? I just have a question. did we have any listeria outbreaks because of the deli meats?

Health Officer Charles Sepers 45:53

No, I'm not aware of any listeria.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 45:55

Okay,

Health Officer Charles Sepers 45:56

I believe we do not have any listeria.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 45:57

Okay, that was in the headlines lately.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 46:00

And then I have another question regarding STDs under the age of 18. What is our plan moving forward? Are we reaching out to our partners in the community to have maybe an educational awareness or a targeted situation where we're reaching out to where the educational component is going on?

Health Officer Charles Sepers 46:00

Yeah.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 46:24

Yeah, that's, that's a great question. One of the, one of the things that we're currently doing now is we are contracting that that STD—that STD follow up through a community partner. We're going to propose in the 2025 budget that we that we take back that that work, and that will give us more control over what that follow up looks like, and devise a, you know, a more robust education component around that.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 46:54

Excellent. Because to me, that's pretty alarming, and, you know, we want to make sure that we have that in place, because that's our youth. And if this is what's reported, what isn't being reported to us? All right, any other comments questions?