Background

New York City STD/HIV Prevention Training Center (NYC PTC)

- The New York City STD/HIV Prevention Training Center is funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is part of a national network that provides training and resources for clinical providers in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

Harlem Health Promotion Center (HHPC) at Columbia University

- The Harlem Health Promotion Center is a not-for-profit public health organization serving Harlem and uses community partnerships, development, training, evaluation, information technology, and infrastructure to improve the health and well-being of Harlem residents across a broad spectrum of health issues.

Provider Training & Adolescent Health

- Health care providers can play an important role in helping to build an adolescent’s motivation and capacity to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and adhere to treatment.
- It can be difficult for providers to discuss sexual health with adolescents due to the lack of training or skills and to time constraints to attend live trainings.
- The NYC PTC in collaboration with the Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health and HHPC at Columbia University developed a provider-focused DVD on working with adolescents to improve sexual health and is entitled “An Empowering Approach to Interviewing, Screening, Educating, and Counseling Adolescents at Risk for Sexually Transmitted Infections”.

Methods

- The DVD describes a clinical encounter from a provider perspective and discusses how a provider can address an adolescent patient’s sexual health.
- A guide accompanying the DVD was developed and describes methods of interviewing, screening, educating and counseling adolescents.
- An “Empowerment Approach” (strengths-based) is used which includes:
  - Identifying adolescents’ competencies and assets
  - Helping to improve and increase adolescents’ decision-making skills
  - Reinforcing adolescents’ health promoting behaviors
  - Building adolescents’ self-efficacy and avoiding the tendency to blame problems on individual deficits.
- The DVD and the guide aim to create a partnership between healthcare providers and adolescents so that both are actively involved in taking steps to protect and promote the adolescent’s health.

Conclusions

- Collaboration with a university brings together areas of expertise and can be a successful partnership.
- Provider-focused media materials are a useful and valuable tool for provider education and is another method for providers to access training at their convenience.

Implication

- Using media as a training tool to inform providers regarding adolescents and sexual health may benefit both healthcare providers and patients.

To obtain the DVD and for more information, please visit our website at www.nycptc.org