

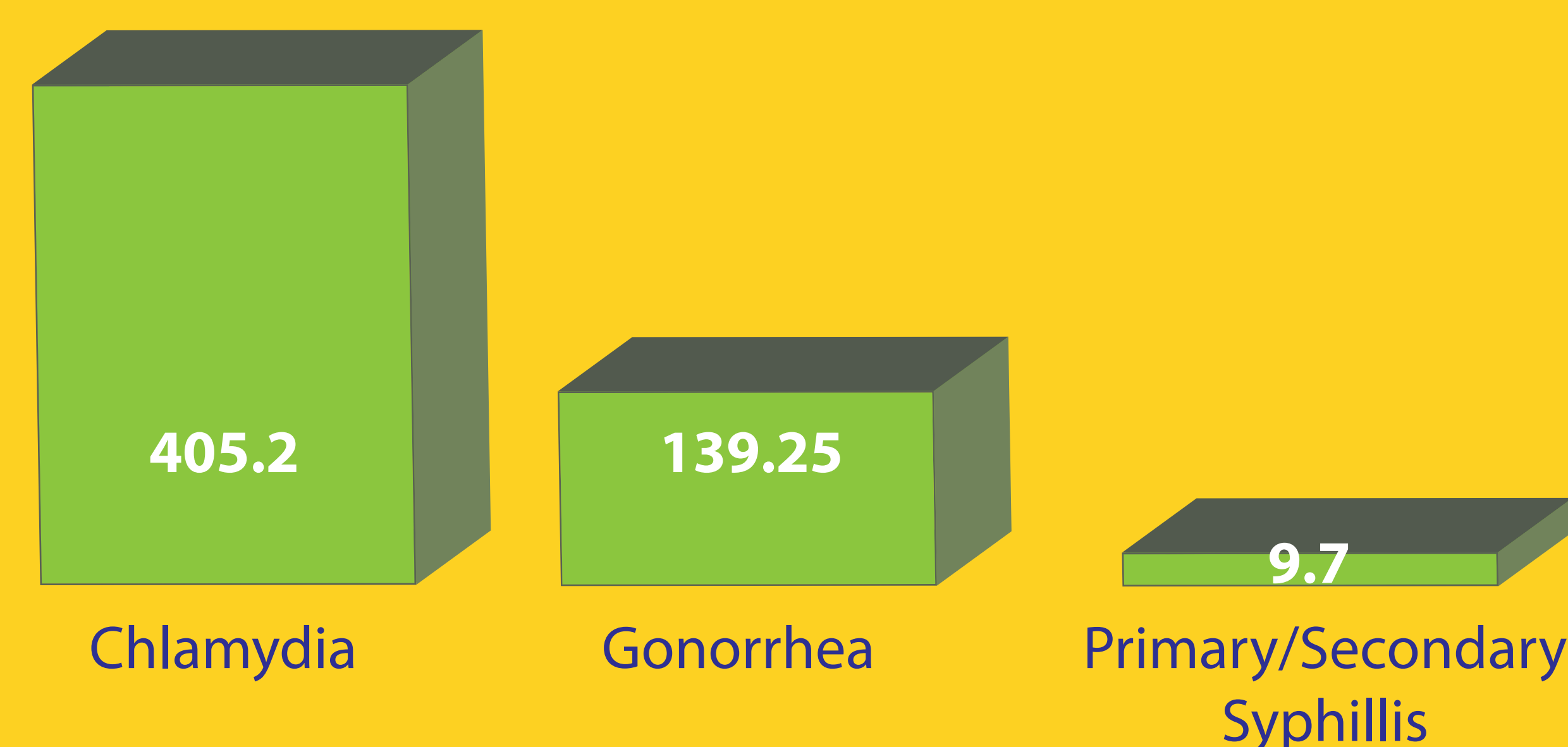
2012 STD PEER EDUCATION AMONG YOUTH

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BACKGROUND

In 2009, the Georgia case rate for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis (primary and secondary), combined was 554 per 100,000. The significance of these rates and the need to increase STD education in community settings prompted the state STD Office to collaborate with the Adolescent Health and Youth Development (AHYD) program to provide STD teen education using venues frequented by teens.

Georgia STD Positivity Rate 2009



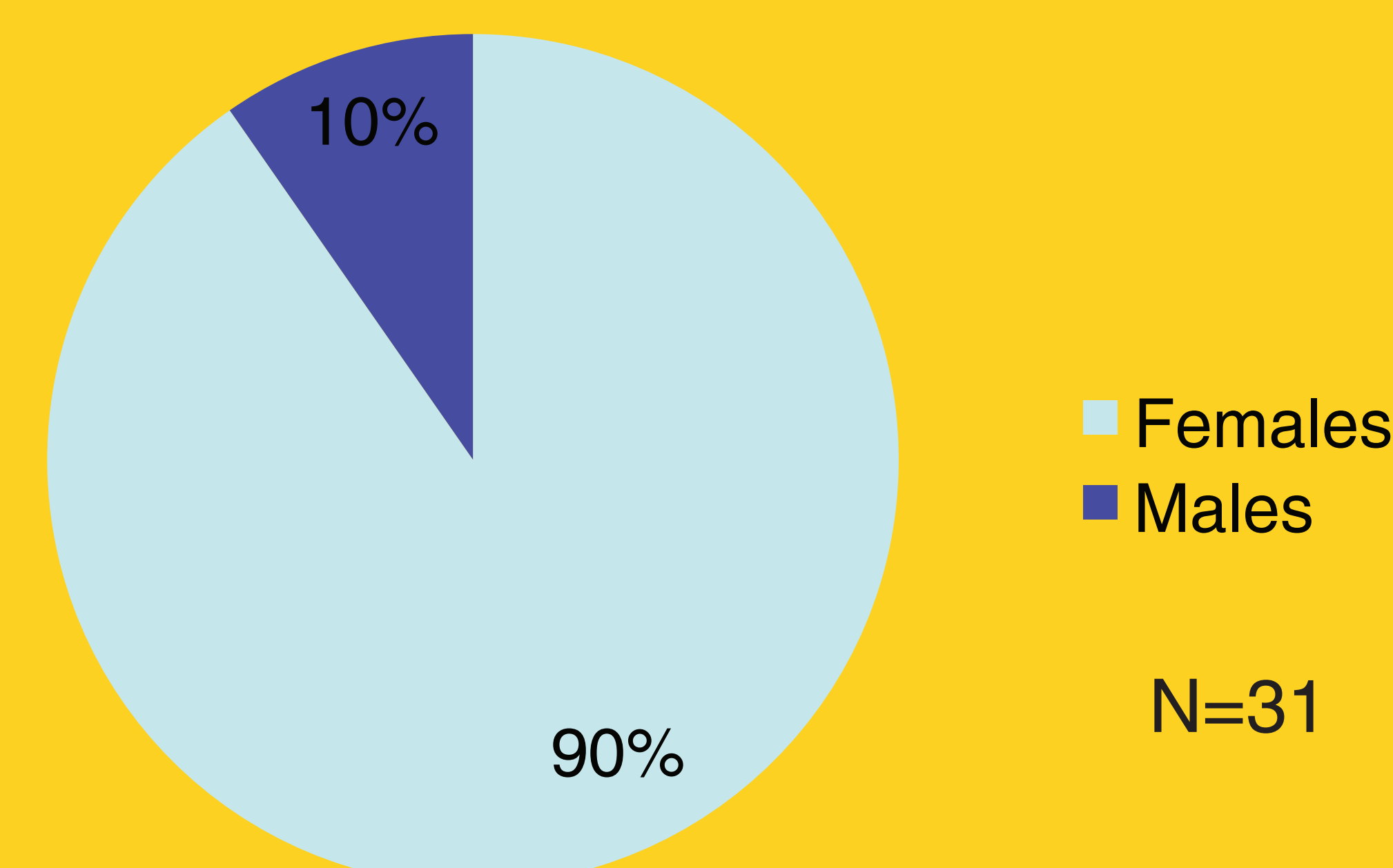
OBJECTIVE

To describe the development and implementation of a Teen Peer Educator Program to provide STD education to other teens.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2010, the Georgia STD Office collaborated with a district AHYD program and a local Boys and Girls Club to recruit and train teens as Peer Health Educators. A training curriculum was developed by the Syphilis Elimination's health education workgroup. The workgroup also established requirements for the teens to become certified as Peer Educators. Teens were required to attend a six hour training for certification. A total of seven trainings were conducted with 31 teens trained to provide STD education. Of the 31 teens trained, 3 (9.6%) were males. The teens ranged from age 13 to 19. The name "SELL" (STD Education Leadership League) was given to the group.

Certified Peer Educators



FINDINGS

The certified members of SELL provided education to more than 200 peers in 2010. The teens identified innovative ways to educate their peers. They used Facebook and text messaging to send STD prevention messages. They also conducted one-on-one educational sessions. Some teens noted they were able to educate friends who confided in them about personal STD issues. Additionally, the teens provided education during National HIV Testing Day events.

PEER EDUCATION METHODS



Facebook



Text Messages



Group Sessions



One On One Education

CONCLUSION

The use of Peer Educators provides an opportunity to increase the number of teens that receive education within community settings.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMS, POLICY, AND RESEARCH

Programs should develop and implement innovative ways to provide STD education to targeted populations.



Special Thanks

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SEE Peer Educators