

Chlamydia Screening in Schools in Central and Eastern Cheshire

Debbie Ritchie and Jan Hall
Tel: 01260 277477

Overview

- Introduction to programme
- How we came to screen in schools
- Barriers
- Methods adopted
- Results
- Barriers revisited

Background to Chlamydia Screening in Central and Eastern Cheshire

- Set up in Central and Eastern Cheshire June 2004 – DOH initiative
- Offer opportunistic screening to men and women under 25yrs
- Aim is to reduce the incidence of Chlamydia by screening 50% sexually active population



- Using highly sensitive NAATS test – Gold Star standard
- Urine test – more acceptable for young men
- TC offers patient management, treatment and contact tracing – community outreach service

Recognised the Need to Increase Screening

- Screening was progressing slowly ...but more needed
- Poor response from young men
- Screening already in Colleges and Uni's
- Why not schools?!!



- Met with school nurse teams, boards of governors and teaching staff – discussed their thoughts, concerns and experiences of working in schools
- Support from most – realised the importance of screening but many concerns
- The following barriers identified

Barriers

- School Nurses Concerns – Negative reaction from Teachers and Boards of Governors – inappropriate for schools
- Teachers' Concerns - Complaints / Objections from parents and which age group?
- General reservation about negative press interest

Here goes !

- Piloted in one very keen school
- Talk to assembly / lunchtime 'Pee in Pot' event successful - no complaints
- Rolled out to more schools – mail shot
- The word got out !
- Schools requesting TC's attendance

Standardised method adopted

- Often direct to school first - Liaison with Head/Head of PSHE and School Nurse.
- Presentation to pupils in assembly
- 'Pee in a Pot' over lunchtime
- Variety of ages screened
- Feedback from staff / thanked
- Outreach treatment
- Events booked as rolling programme

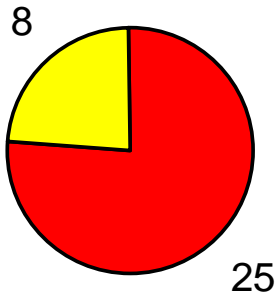






76%
total
coverage

Schools participating



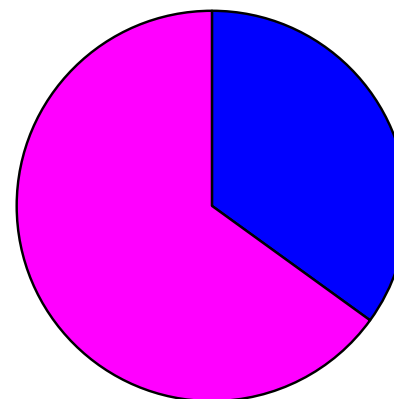
Distribution

by sex:

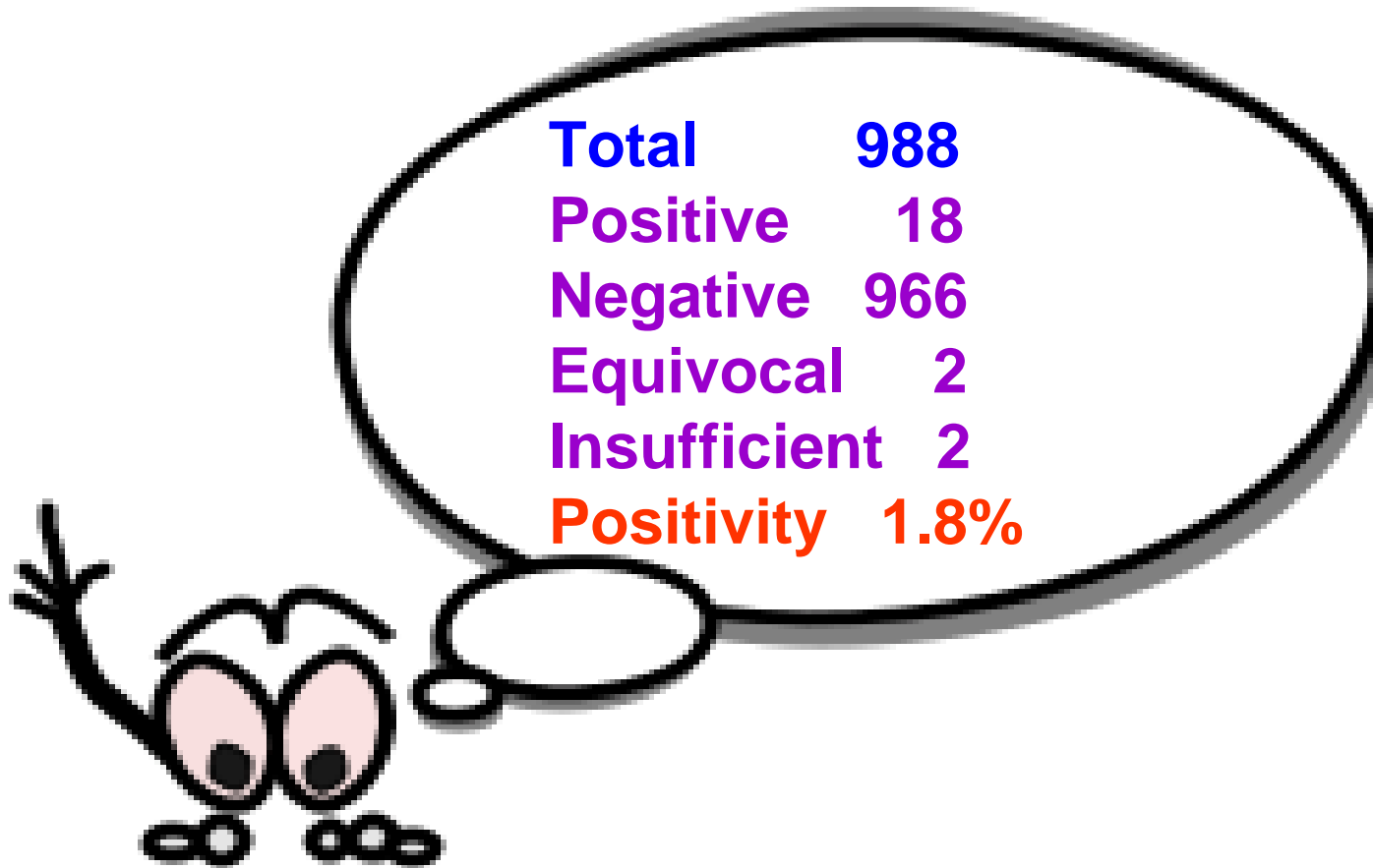
35% (346)
males

65% (642)
females

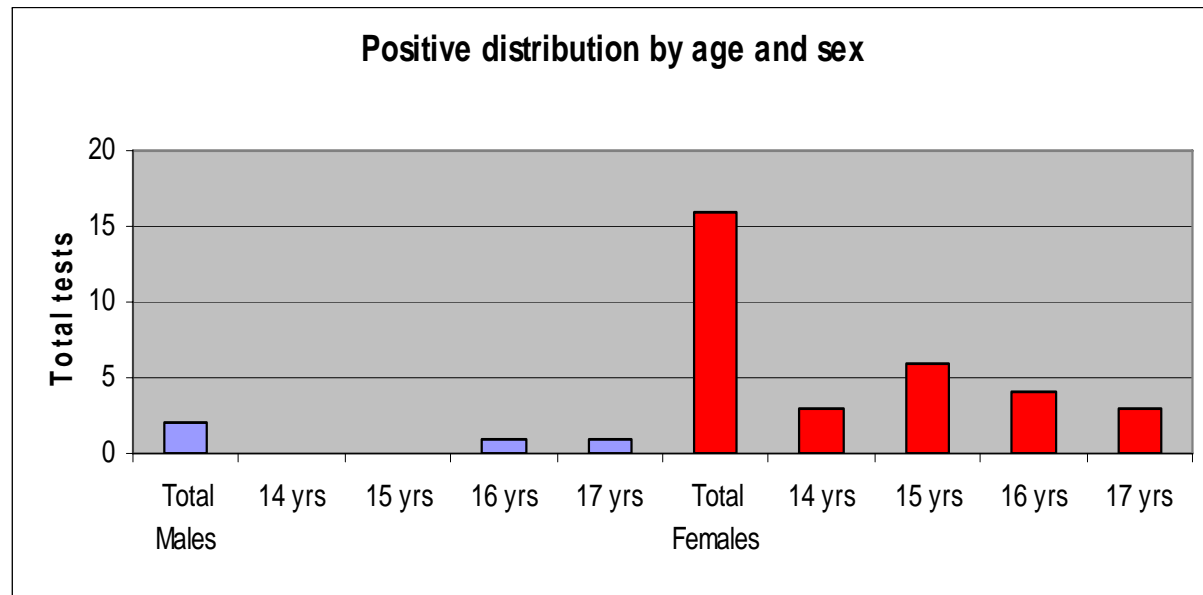
Males and Females screened



■ Males ■ Females



Total Pos Males	2
14 yrs	0
15 yrs	0
16 yrs	1
17 yrs	1
Total Pos Females	16
14 yrs	3
15 yrs	6
16 yrs	4
17 yrs	3



Guess what??

Contrary to research we have found:

- Higher positivity in younger female age group
- (9 out of 16 positive females are under 16yrs) – worthwhile screening younger ages
- Better uptake in schools than in colleges and universities
- Contributes greatly to overall screening

Barriers Revisited

- ✓ No complaints from teachers
- ✓ No complaints from parents
- ✓ Appropriate age group – 14 to 18yrs
- ✓ No negative press – ensure stats on individual schools kept within the Team
- ✓ ‘Perceived’ Barriers

Challenges Ahead

- **All** schools participating
- Keeping the momentum going
- The condom challenge (safer sex message)

Good news

- Some school nurses being trained to be able to offer screening at their drop-in sessions!!

Conclusion

- Educational based screening programme clearly supported by current evidence - demonstrating higher proportion of young men accessing screening this way.
- Early access for young people to information and screening in schools – they are more likely to view testing as a normal part of their health and wellbeing.



- This is only the beginning
- Determined to achieve full coverage by the end of the next academic year
- Rolling programme – regular visits
- Encourage young people to look after their sexual health



Thank you for listening – any questions?