



May 21, 2018

Dear Colleague,

The Division of STD Prevention for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), together with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and NORC at the University of Chicago, are reaching out to you to request your participation in an important study of STD clinic users. This survey was first conducted in 2013, and the 2013 data have been invaluable to CDC, NACCHO, and other stakeholders to aid in optimizing the role of STD clinics in STD prevention, developing STD clinical service guidelines, allocating STD Prevention resources and assessing policies related to access to STD clinical services. The 2013 study was conducted as an in-person survey of STD clinic users in 21 sites and we plan to replicate this survey in the original 21 locations in addition to a number of newly added locations to increase the reach of the sample. Our goal is to assess the current demographics and needs of patients seeking services at STD clinics, and to also analyze changes in client demographics and needs since 2013. In order to minimize disruption to your clinic, NORC field staff will follow the same protocol that was used in 2013 and administer a paper-based, 10-minute survey on site to a consecutive sample of 100 men and 100 women seeking services for a new problem or STD screening at the STD clinic while they are in the waiting room before seeing the clinician. A copy of the 2018 Clinic Survey is attached for your review. As we did with the 2013 survey, we will provide summary tables of each clinic's data upon request and will assist in any additional analyses and tabulations of those data and technical assistance that you may find useful to improve the quality of STD clinical services provided to meet current clients' needs.

The 2018 STD Clinic Survey has an additional component. This component involves the NORC field staff interviewing a clinic manager for about 10 minutes and assessing clinical services and billing systems using an in-person survey of 15 questions. This component will assess issues of clinic capacity, services including on-site diagnostic and treatments available, as well as the ability to bill different types of insurance. These interview questions are attached for your review and the interview can be done at any point during client data collection either during or outside clinic hours. NACCHO and NORC staff will coordinate with you directly in order to minimize disruption in your clinic for both the clinic user data collection and the clinic manager portion of the project.

We have received approval from NORC's IRB and are in the process of obtaining required federal approvals to conduct the clinic user survey and the administrator survey. We expect to field it in the coming months. As we await these approvals, we would like to schedule a call to discuss the project and your site's participation in the study. NACCHO and NORC will reach out within two weeks to identify dates for that call; in the interim, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding your

clinic's participation in this 2018 study. Note that we will also work with you to secure IRB or other necessary approvals to collect data in your clinics, which was required for a few sites in the 2013 study.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact:

NORC at the University of Chicago

Phone: 1-877-898-5903

Email: STDclinic@norc.org

We appreciate the work you do every day to stem the tide of rising STDs in the United States and hope you can participate in this critical survey and assessment. We will use the data in 2018 as we did in 2013 to inform local and national efforts to optimize the role of STD clinics in STD prevention efforts and allocate STD Prevention resources.

Sincerely,



Gail Bolan, MD

Director, Division of STD Prevention

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention