

Sexually Transmitted Infections in Roanoke City



Your Partner in Community Wellness

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Background

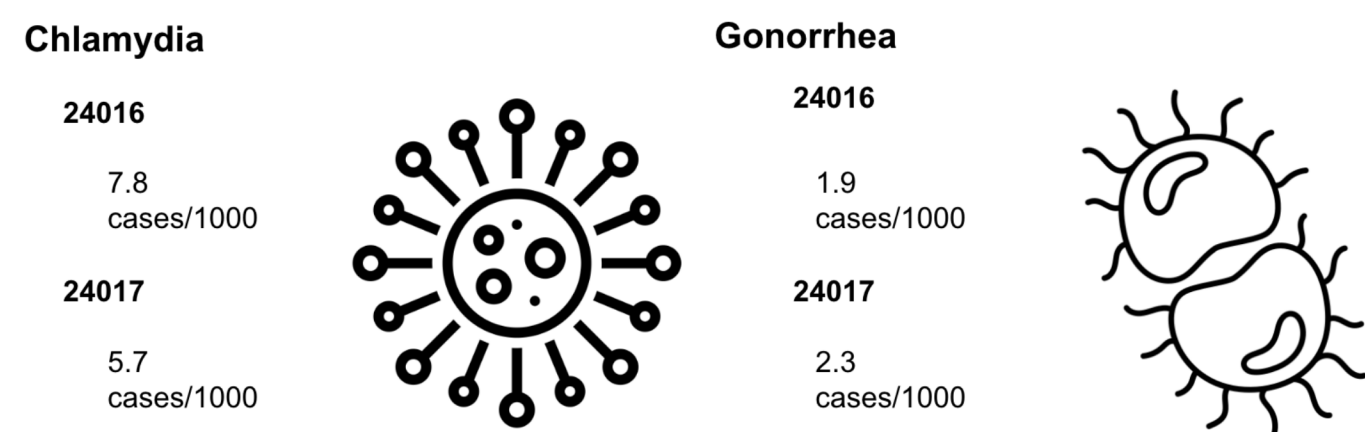
Existing data from VEDS highlights disparate Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) rates in the 24016 and 24017 zip codes of Roanoke City. Understanding the demographic of these individuals can inform actionable strategies to inform health equity and lower STI rates. Throughout the course of the internship, I conducted literature reviews, worked alongside community partners, and analyzed data to understand these rates.



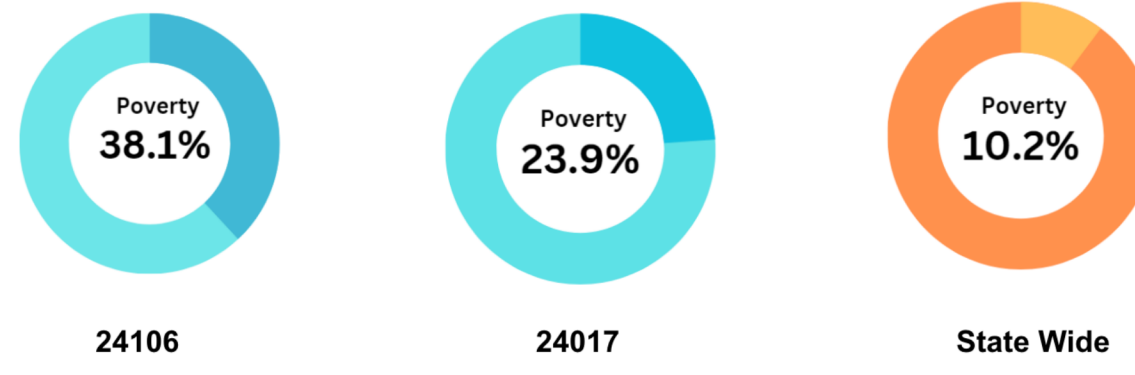
Goals

- Investigate underlying causes of high STI rates in 24016 and 24017
- Characterize and understand demographic of those in high risk zip codes
- Explore data from geographic aspect to identify any underlying trends
- Create actionable strategies to lower the STI rates

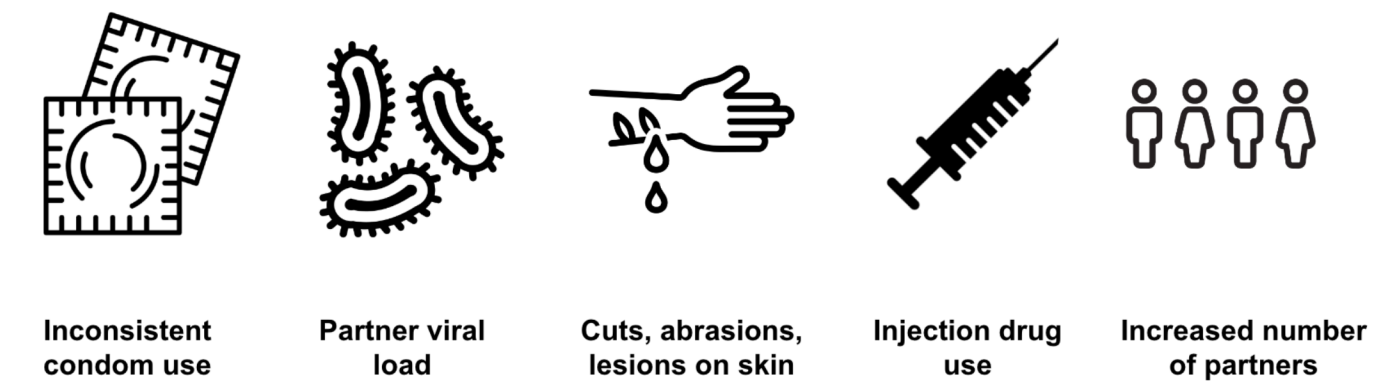
STI Current Scope of Situation



Poverty



Risk Factors

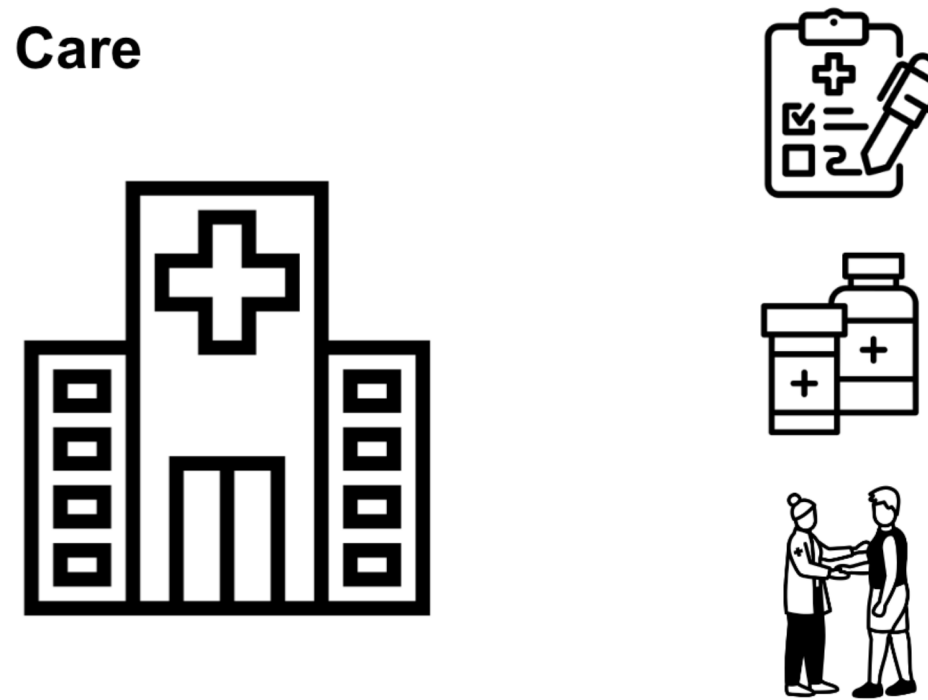


STI Specific Care

In completing this analysis it was discovered that among the cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, approximately 45% of these cases in 24016 and 24017 were diagnosed in an urgent care or emergency department.

- How can we increase clinic accessibility to ensure that comprehensive and specific STI care is available for high risk populations?

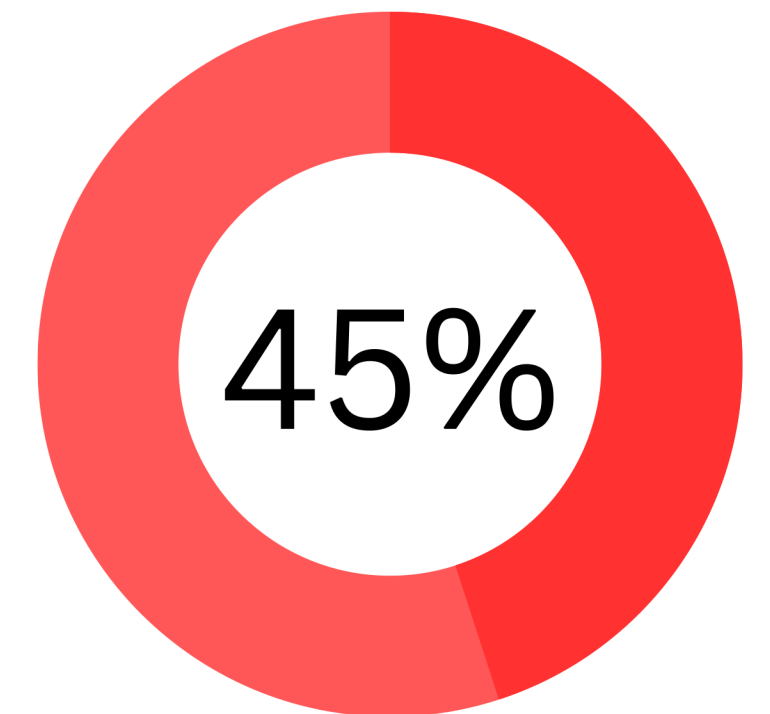
STI Care



Demographic

Treatment

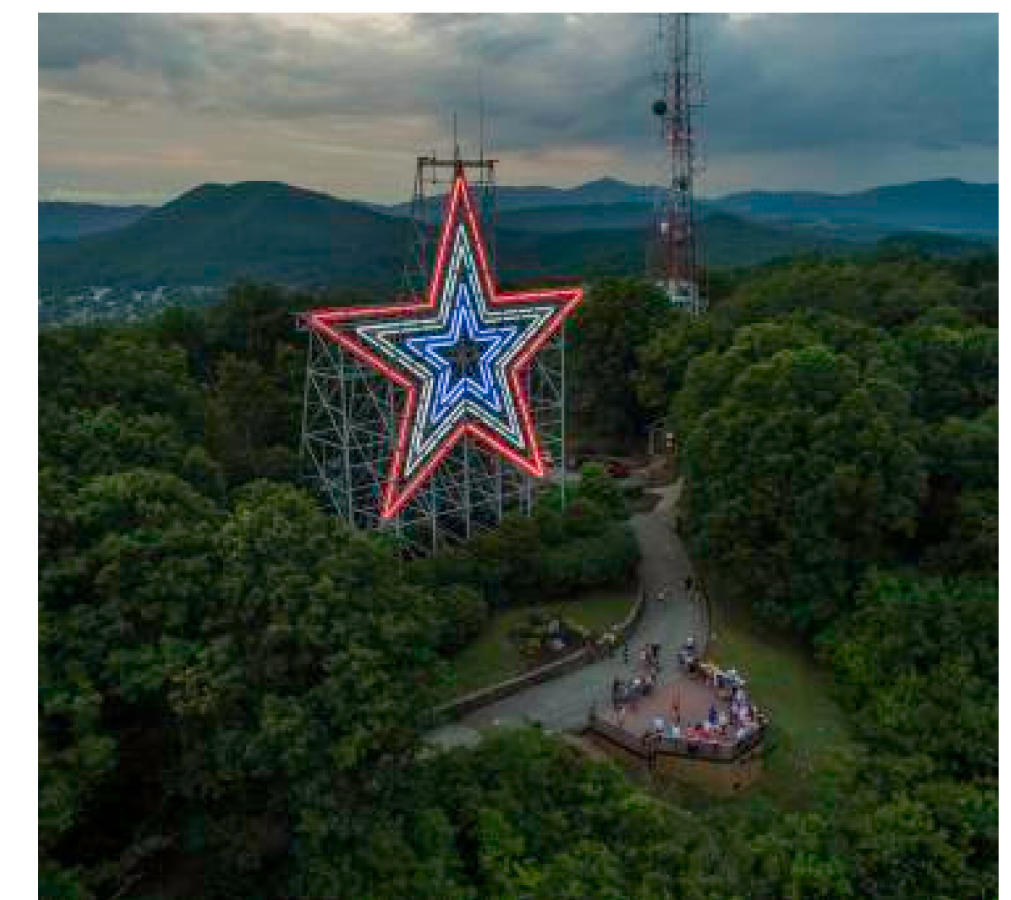
Sexual Histories



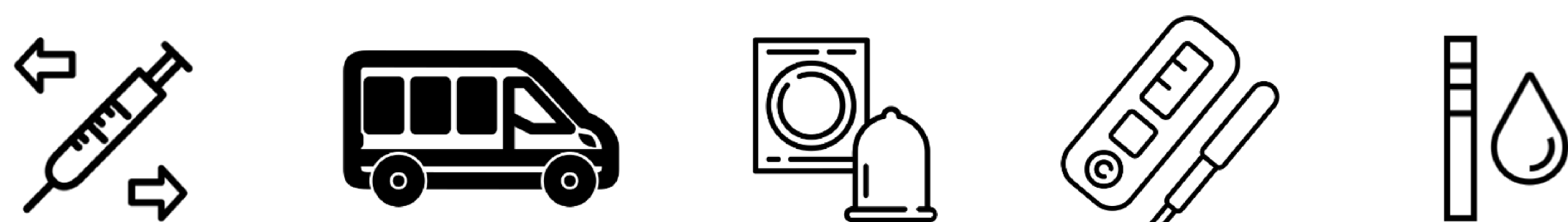
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Familiarization and outreach with stakeholders and community members

- Meeting with stakeholders in the community including Vice Mayor, Roanoke City Public School
- Community tour with Population Health
- Resources on redlining and the history of Roanoke City
- Shadowing mentor in STI Clinic and going out with health department for STI & Go clinics in the community
- Harm Reduction outreach and meetings with organizers of community based efforts



Harm Reduction



Needle Exchange Community Outreach Condom Distribution Rapid STI Testing Fentanyl and Xylazine Test Strips

Op-ED

When conducting outreach and working closely with harm reduction organizations in the community, I discovered a need for education about the benefits and role of harm reduction in the community. This led me to write an op-ed on harm reduction and efforts to curtail the opioid epidemic in Roanoke City.