

PHI Grand Rounds Line Up 2017

June 14, 2017

Presenter: Shannon Majowicz and Ken Diplock

Title: Food Safety in Ontario Youth: Knowledge, attitudes, and observed food handling practices

Abstract:

Introduction: High school youth represent a unique audience for interventions aimed at improving safe food handling and preparation. They are the age cohort immediately prior to the 'second weaning' phenomenon, a hypothesized increase in foodborne illness that occurs when those in their early 20's are cooking for themselves for the first time. They are also at an age when food preparation practices may not be fully established, such that appropriate teaching of safe food handling at this age may help instill lifetime safe food handling habits.

Purpose: The objective of this research was to determine the food safety knowledge, attitudes and practices in high school students in Ontario, Canada and determine whether these change after delivery of food safety training.

Methods: We administered a school-wide paper survey to the student body (n=2,860) of four Ontario high schools, and conducted an in-depth survey and observed a recipe preparation in Grade 10 and 12 food and nutrition classes in these schools (n=8 classes; n=119 students), to assess knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported and actual practices. We repeated the in-depth survey and recipe observation after providing food handler training.

Results: We found that, although food safety knowledge was generally low, most students felt confident they could prepare safe, healthy meals. Observed food handling scores were low at the start of the semester, with students following approximately 50% of the recommended safe food handling practices, but improved significantly after training. Overall, self-reported practices underestimated observed behaviours. For example, after retrieving raw chicken, only 26% of students washed their hands with soap and water, whereas, when asked, 77% of students reported always doing so. Because work and volunteer opportunities put students in contact with both the public and food, and because food safety practices are poor, this group is important to target for increased safe food handling education.

September 13, 2017

VACANT

October 11, 2017

Presenters: Fatih Sekercioglu and Anne-Maria Quin

Contact: Anne-Maria Quin, Anne-Maria.Quin@mlhu.on.ca

Speaker Consent Form: YES

Title: Geared towards compliance: a regulatory training program for public pool and spa operators

Abstract: The relationship between health units and the operators, owners, lifeguards and support staff of public pools and spas can best be described as multi-dimensional. With a role that ranges from inspection and enforcement to training and support, the bond between public health inspectors and those who operate pools and spas is critical to ensuring that injuries and water-borne illnesses related to their use are prevented and reduced.

Understanding the regulatory requirements is just one component of the skill set necessary to allow operators, owners and other support staff to fulfill their roles and responsibilities in maintaining safe and sanitary recreational water facilities. Health units can play a crucial role in providing regulatory-based education and training to facility staff.

The MLHU has been busy throughout 2015-2016 redeveloping and pilot testing their training program. The new, enhanced program is evidence-informed and comprehensive to meet the regulatory needs of the operator and other support staff. Invaluable operator and public health inspector feedback and best practice garnered from the literature have driven many positive changes in the way the program is administered. The goal of the program is to improve compliance with pool and spa legislation among pool and spa owners and operators in order to prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illness and injury related to public pool and spa use.

Ultimately, public health, industry members and facility operators can act as partners in ensuring that public pools and spas are operated and maintained in a manner so as to protect the health and safety of patrons.

The webinar will highlight the approach the Middlesex-London Health Unit takes to provide regulatory training to public pool and spa operators. Key points include the importance of using evidence-informed, comprehensive methods, such as using adult learning principles and strategies that have been successful in other regulatory compliance programs.

Biography:

Fatih Sekercioglu, an Environmental Health Manager at the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU), has played an instrumental role in shaping the way water facility operators receive regulatory training at the MLHU. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Western Ontario.

Anne-Maria Quin, a Public Health Inspector, has played a pivotal role in developing the public pool and spa regulatory training program at the MLHU. She is currently pursuing a MPH at Waterloo University.

Educational Objectives:

- * Recognize the training and support role of public health and how this could extend to industry players
- * Gain knowledge about effective adult learning principles and tools
- * Learn how the Middlesex-London Health Unit developed their training program to meet the needs of public pool and spa operators

November 8, 2017

Presenters: Jesse Villemarie

Abstract: PSS topic

January 10, 2018

Presenters: Jennifer Snow, Hamilton Public Health

Abstract: IPAC lapses in dental clinics

June 13, 2018

Presenters: Christine Kennedy, Robert Hart, Amanda McManaman, Sveto Milanopolus

Title: The Above Standard Housing Project: Exploring the Causes of Persistent Substandard Conditions in Low-Income Housing

Abstract: Housing plays an immense and complex role in shaping our physical, mental and social well-being. Access, condition, proximity to environmental hazards, and connectedness with the rest of the community are all factors that determine whether housing contributes to or detracts from human health.

Substandard housing conditions (e.g. dampness, mould, inadequate heating/cooling, pest infestations) are a subset of these factors that have been well established as contributing to adverse health effects. Public health has a long tradition of responding to individual concerns related to substandard housing. However, efforts to understand and collectively address the root causes of these concerns have been lacking.

In an attempt to move beyond this approach to substandard housing, GBHU has embarked on the multi-year *Above Standard Housing Project*. Aligned with the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force, the project takes a multifactorial approach to the issues surrounding adverse physical housing conditions with a view to

- defining the type, magnitude and distribution of substandard housing conditions existing in Grey Bruce
- identifying challenges that hamper solutions for achieving broad-based above standard housing
- identifying strategies that could address these challenges

This presentation will describe the project's activities and findings to date.