# Breaking New Ground in STI Contract Tracing

Debbie Laughton RN, BScN

**Public Health Nurse** 

Sexual Health Program, Communicable Disease Dept

Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit



#### **Ontario Public Health Standards, 2008**

- Under the authority of the Health
  Protection and Promotion Act Health
  Units in Ontario manage cases and
  contacts of reportable sexually
  transmitted infections and blood-borne
  infections.
- Case management includes partner/contact identification, contact tracing and notification.



# **Case Background**

- Client tested HIV+ at a neighbouring health unit and received a call on a Friday to return for test results
- Showed up at our Health Unit on Monday, requesting test results, positive HIV result given
- Case was recently diagnosed with another STI (treated at neighbouring health unit)
- Case notified all sexual contacts about the other STI through a website that was used to find sexual partners
- Did not want to notify partners about the HIV
- Provided a list of code names and their approximate locations and asked Public Health to contact them



# Online Socialization, Social Networking and Online Communities

A 2007 Canadian Ipsos REID Report indicated the proportion of various age groups who have visited an online social network or online community:

- 2/3 of 18-34 year olds
- 1/3 of 35-54 year olds
- 1/5 of Canadians aged 55 and older



# **Welcome to Electronic Dating!**

WARNING: Content is for mature audiences only and is intended for viewers ages 18 and older. Contains content of a sexually explicit nature.





REGISTER | INBOX | SEARCH | ONLINE (136956) | HELP | MEET ME | CHEMISTRY | DATE NIGHT | UPGRADE

#### 135 Million Monthly Visitors, More Dates, More Relationships Than Any Other Site. Our matching systems help improve your chances of finding a relationship by filtering out

Our matching systems help improve your chances of finding a relationship by filtering out people you would never date. Within minutes of signing up we give you 30 matches we think you would most likely date. Try it now...

Usernam	e
Password	
ſ	Check Mail

#### 20,000 New People Every Day!

User Name: Password:

Email:

**Email Confirm:** 

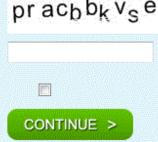
Birthdate:

Gender: Country:

Ethnicity:

Enter LETTERS displayed under Circles from above:

I Agree to the terms of service:



January ▼ 1 ▼ ,

1992 -

Canada

Caucasian

Male

#### Meet millions of singles looking for relationships.

- With over 135 Million monthly visitors Plentyoffish is by far the market leader in online dating. Independent tracking firms Comscore.com and Hitwise.com report plentyoffish is the most visited dating site in the US, Canada and UK in 2010
- After taking our <u>chemistry test</u> we match you with personalities that lead to long lasting stable relationships. We match you with users that will meet your <u>emotional</u> needs.
- 3. Discover <u>Your Relationship Needs</u>. We will tell you what you need in a relationship, where you screwed up (with out knowing it) in past relationships and a customized action plan to make your next relationship successful. We will also give you 33 topics to discuss that are important for long term success.
- 4. We've been on magazine covers featured in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, The Today Show, CNN, FOX and hundreds of others. But the vast majority of you hear about us because your friends have had a really good experience using our site.
- 5. Do you want to be with someone? Do you want to find your soulmate? Think about it, where else are you going to find millions of people all in one place looking for someone? If you are serious about finding someone you should <u>Signup Now</u> and find your soulmate!!



# **Your Cruising Community**



Cruise for sex with hot guys in your area, connect online via webcam and video and meet for sex wherever and whenever you want.

#### Join Squirt for free:

- Find gay bathhouses, gay saunas, gloryholes, adult cinemas, adult bookstores, and other gay cruising areas.
- Check out gay personals and XXX pics of sexy gay guys looking to hook up.
- Connect with hot local men via email, IM and free gay male webcam chat.
- Watch guys get off on cam together in hot online webcam circle jerks.
- Watch amateur gay videos by real members, or post one for other guys.
- Read explicit gay erotic fiction and gay sex stories; or write your own.
- Watch tons of hardcore XXX gay porn from the biggest gay porn stars.

Squirt is a community for guys who cruise for sex with other guys... So if you love cock, get ready to Squirt!

lot	a Member Yet?
	Join Now, for FREE!
	or Hot! Lemme look around!

100	1000			
Iam	18	or	old	der

- I consent to viewing sexually explicit adult material.
- I have read and am in agreement with Squirt Terms of Service.

#### Member Login:

Username:
Password:
forget your password?
Remember Me

Sign-in

See What Squirt's About! **Take a Tour!** 

Trouble joining? It's free! Email dickhunter@squirt.org

#### SQUIRT MOBILE!

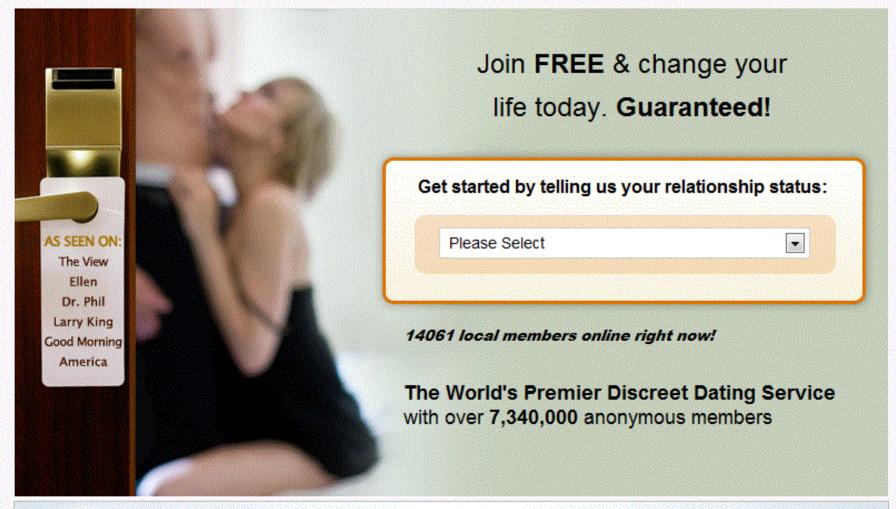
Login into www.squirt.org On your mobile/smartphone

> Advertisers: advertising@squirt.org

Hook up Anywhere, Anytime, with Anyone...

All material on Squirt.org is uploaded by members for the purposes of meeting other men for online connections and/or sex. By entering the site, all members agree







## The Ashley Madison® Affair Guarantee

94					
R	e	а	in	×	
and the	۳	a	866	100	

#### **Website Services**

- Live chat including private & group webcam sessions
- Profiles member profiles, including pictures, stats, sexual preferences, email/IM contact abilities
- Cruising find locations where people meet, ratings of locations, maps & directions
- Message Boards post messages for other members to read
- "Cocktails" sex stories
- Member Videos post videos for other members to view
- Cinema hardcore pornography



# Public health contact tracing ......breaking new ground

- Created a profile and purchased a membership
- Tried to locate contacts using profile names or "handles" and reported 'location' of where the member was from
- Initiated contact by email with each person.....and crossed our fingers, waited and hoped that they would decide to communicate with us



#### 1st Email

#### **Subject: Important Information – PLEASE READ**

"Hi, this is the Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit. Please contact us about a health concern.

Stephanie McFaul - 613-966-5513 ext.266"

Message sent to 21/23 identified contacts



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Email: 2 weeks later

#### **Subject: Important Information – PLEASE READ**

"This is the Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit. I sent you a message on...date..., but have not heard from you. I am writing again as I have a health matter that I need to discuss with you. You can contact me directly at 613-966-5513 ext.266 (if I do not answer the phone, you can leave a message on my confidential voicemail with a number to reach you) or we can communicate via this site.

Thank-you for your attention to this matter, Stephanie McFaul 613-966-5513 ext.266 Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit"



### 3rd Email: 2 weeks after 2nd email

Subject: Hi again

"My name is Debbie and I work for the Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit. You were sent a message through this website on ...date...and again on ...date...and we have not yet had a response from you. There is a health matter that I need to discuss with you. It is extremely important that you respond to this message so that I can provide you with some further information. You can reach me through this site or contact me by phone 613-966-5513 ext. 263 or toll free 1-800-267-2803 ext. 263. My voicemail is confidential.

This matter needs your immediate attention.

Thank you.

Debbie Laughton

Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit "



#### 4th Email: 2 weeks after 3rd email

#### **Subject: Very important message!**

"Hi. This is Debbie again. You were sent a message from the Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit on ...date..., ...date...and again on...date... It is important that you respond to this message. I need to provide you with information about something that could jeopardize your health if you do not follow up! I am authorized by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for the province of Ontario to provide you with this information.

Please respond through this site or contact me by phone at 613-966-5513 ext. 263 or toll free 1-800-267-2803 ext. 263. My voicemail is confidential. If you try dialing either of those numbers you will see that they are legitimate. Once again this matter needs your immediate attention.

Thank you Debbie Laughton Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit"



# **Summary of contact tracing**

- Overall, 22/23 identified sexual contacts contacted at least 1 time via website
- 15/21 responded to 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> message
  - 12 confirmed that they had/were having testing
  - 3 dialogued but did not confirm that they had received testing
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> messages sent to out to 6-7 (1 client registered briefly) remaining contacts with no responses



#### Summary of contact tracing....cont.

By working with Neighbouring Health Unit:

 2 named contacts were also identified by neighbouring health unit as contacts of our index case, without mention of a website....possible these are 2 of the 8 outstanding??



#### **Conclusions**

- Electronic social networks pose new challenges for STI contact tracing.
- We need to stay abreast of current dating practices and use these electronic methods to assist us in our work.

