

## Prevention is better than cure – try a little TLC.

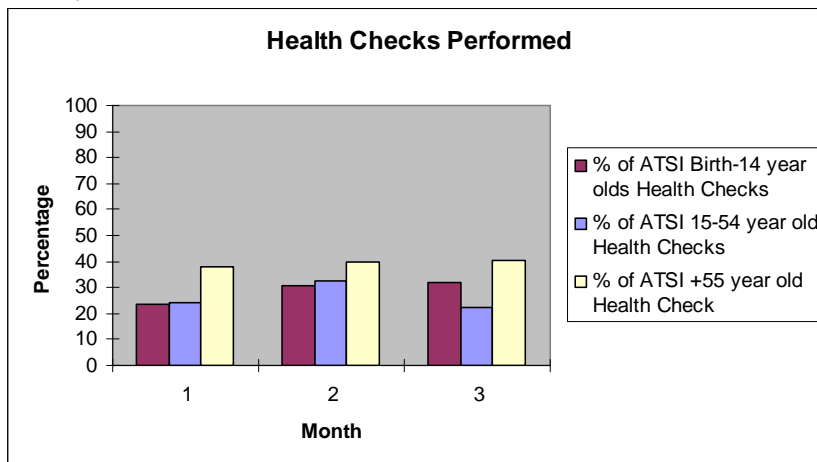
The Townsville Local Collaborative (TLC) has been designed to help practices get their prevention programs working more efficiently. Using the tried and tested “collaboratives” method, practices review their own patient data from a number of clinical areas- cervical and breast cancer screening rates, smoking rates in COPD, and prescribing for coronary heart disease.

Practices set themselves achievable tasks to improve their performance in selected areas, and prepare Plan, Do, Study, Act, cycles (PDSAs) to document the process. Regular workshops provide clinical updates, opportunities for reflection, and the sharing of ideas between practices.



Learning Workshop 1 for Townsville Local Collaborative Practices in November 2009

A fundamental requirement for practices to measure improvements is accurate clinical data. TGNP is able to provide practices with regular graphical reports of their own prevention activity – proportions of the practice patients who have prevention activity documented in their record.



Aggregated Data for ATSI Health Checks in 4 Townsville Local Collaborative Practices for End of December 2009

Queensland Health has also provided TGNP with useful data on screening program participation rates across the Townsville region. In 2007-2008, breast screening participation by the target group varied from 47.8% to 78.7% across Townsville, with cervical cancer screening participation generally lower at between 42.0% and 62.6%.

This population data will allow us to focus future programs on the suburbs of Townsville with poorest participation.

More information on the Townsville Local Collaboratives is available from Rhonda Fleming [rfleming@tgnp.com.au](mailto:rfleming@tgnp.com.au)