

## UW Team Issues

### Challenges

- Lower herpes prevalence than expected
- Forced us to work with STD clinic to recruit (they don't always embrace research). Had to counsel about herpes and they had little time for this.
- Methamphetamine use- is high on the west coast- impacted retention
- A PI who was focused on international sites; Anna Wald came in and took over day-to-day operations to help
- CAB has communication issues with the site
- Motivating gay men in Seattle to learn about their hsv-2 status. It is a stigmatized infection and many people don't want to learn about their hsv-2 status.

### Achievements

- Developed effective herpes screening in the STI clinic
- Had to be creative about retention efforts (went to California for example)
- Recruited the largest # of MSM in the US
- Found some strategies to officially counsel and de-stigmatize hsv-2