

STD FACTS

Nearly 50% of all new STD's are found in those ages 15-24. One in four sexually active teens will contract an STD. Thirty two years ago people only worried about two STD's- Syphilis and Gonorrhea, both are curable. Not so today. Now there are 25 or more, some curable, some not. Most will cause significant illness, damage and some can even be life threatening. Maintaining your health means having the facts.

Fact sheets from CDC for STI education:

All the fact sheets listed with connections: http://www.cdc.gov/std/healthcomm/fact_sheets.htm

Chlamydia – A "silent" infection. It's estimated that 1 in 15 sexually active females aged 14-19 years has chlamydia. Untreated chlamydia can lead to infertility.

Chlamydia: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/default.htm>

Gonorrhea-Common, underreported, symptoms can be mild and mistaken. Most women don't have symptoms, even when they do they can be mistaken for a bladder or vaginal infection.

Gonorrhea: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/STDFact-gonorrhea.htm>

Herpes-You can get genital herpes even if your partner has no symptoms. Transmission can occur from an infected partner who does not have a visible sore and may not know that he or she is infected.

Herpes: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/Herpes/STDFact-Herpes.htm>

Bacterial Vaginosis: Having BV can increase a woman's susceptibility to other STD's.

Being abstinent, reducing the number of sex partners and avoiding douching can reduce the risk of upsetting the natural balance of bacteria and developing BV.

Bacterial Vaginosis: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/BV/STDFact-Bacterial-Vaginosis.htm>

Syphilis: Syphilis can be transmitted during vaginal, anal, or oral sexual contact. In the primary stage, sores appear at the place where the syphilis entered the body. Without adequate treatment the infection progresses. Pregnant women with this infection can pass it to their unborn.

Syphilis: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/Syphilis/STDFact-Syphilis.htm>

Trichomonas: Is a parasite passed during sex, WSM and WSW sex. Some infected people will not have symptoms, others will, it's unclear as to why. Infected people without symptoms can still pass the infection on to others.

Trichomonas: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/trichomonas/trich-fact-sheet-press-aug-2012.pdf>

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease: Is a consequence of untreated STD's, especially GC and Chlamydia. PID can damage fallopian tubes and other reproductive tissues, can lead to infertility, ectopic pregnancy, abscesses and chronic pelvic pain. The more sex partners a woman has, the greater the risk of PID.

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/PID/STDFact-PID.htm>

HPV: The most common STI. HPV can cause serious health problems like warts in the throat or on genitals, oral, cervical or other cancers. Most cases will "clear" by themselves, but there is no certain way to tell who will develop health problems from HPV and who will not.

Genital human papillomavirus (HPV): <http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV.htm>

Candida: A fungal infection aka a "yeast infection." Most commonly this infection affects women and is due to an overgrowth of organisms normally found on skin. Though not common, Candida can be passed from one person to another through sexual intercourse.

Candidiasis: <http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/genital/index.html>

HIV: Individuals who are infected with STI's are at least two to five times more likely to acquire HIV than uninfected individuals if they are exposed to the virus through sexual contact. There is substantial biological evidence demonstrating that the presence of other STI's increases the likelihood of both transmitting and acquiring HIV.

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/hiv/stds-and-hiv-fact-sheet.pdf>

****How to prevent STD's:**

Get the facts, take control. Options include abstinence, mutual monogamy..

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/default.htm>