

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (also called Sexually Transmitted Infections)

Quick Facts:

- Today there are at least 25 different kinds of STDs.
- Every year, 3 million teens are infected with an STD.
- An estimated 20 percent of all Americans over the age of 11 are infected with genital herpes-and this is not the most common STD.
- Twenty-five percent of all newly reported HIV infections are found in people under age 22.
- More teens have Chlamydia, a disease that is a common cause of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which can lead to infertility in women. At least 10 percent of all sexually active teens are infected with this disease.
- Adolescents and young adults (15-24) are the age groups at the greatest risk for acquiring an STD. Approximately two-thirds of all people who acquire STDs are under 25.
- Human papilloma virus (HPV) is an STD that causes genital warts. It also is the cause of more than 90 percent of all cervical cancer. Cervical cancer takes the lives of about 5,000 American women yearly, and condoms provide almost no protection against HPV. It is estimated 5.5 million new infections occur each year with at least 20 million people currently infected.

Each time you have sex with someone, you are also exposed to his or her previous partners. If each of their sex partners had the same number of sex partners, the number of people you are exposed to grows rapidly. Take a look at the sexual exposure chart below:

Number of Partners Number of People Exposed To

1	1
2	3
3	7
4	15
5	31
6	63
7	127
8	255
9	511
10	1023
11	2047
12	4095