

Fast Facts

STD Awareness Month is celebrated April 1-30, 2010. It is an annual observance to raise public awareness about the impact of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) on the lives of Americans and the importance of preventing, testing for, and treating STDs. STD Awareness Month campaigns throughout the State of Florida focus on groups disproportionately affected- especially adolescents. The facts that follow provide information about STDs and about sexual activity among adolescents that live in Florida.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), STDs are linked to or can cause:
 - Increased risk of transmitting or getting HIV by 2.5 times compared to someone without an STD
 - Genital (penile in males or cervical in women) or anal cancers in both men and women
 - Damage to joints, heart, reproductive organs, and the brain
 - Increased risk of tubal pregnancies which can be fatal
 - Infertility (unable to reproduce) in both men and women, and
 - Blindness, deafness, birth defects, early delivery or stillborns in infants during pregnancy or childbirth
- Many STDs have no symptoms. The only way to know if an STD is present is to get tested.
- Most STDs are easily treated and cured

Sexual Activity among Florida's Adolescents

(Findings from the 2009 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey)

- In 2009, approximately 365,700 students (50.6%) surveyed had ever had sexual intercourse
- Overall, 37% of students have had sexual intercourse with one or more people during the past 3 months; there are no significance difference between genders
- Overall, 16.6% of students have had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their lifetime; males have a significantly higher prevalence than females

How Can We Face the Facts

- Encourage sexually active adolescents and young adults to visit www.FACEitFlorida.com for STD education that considers an individual's previous experience
- Visit the Positive Youth Development website, www.teentruth.org, for information about programs and practices that educate youth, equip parents, and empower communities
- Continue confidential testing and counseling to ensure proper treatment and stop the spread of disease
- Use 3t's- talk, test, and treat - to prevent the spread of STDs; visit www.floridadiseasecontrol.com/std for more information about the 3t's

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