

## STD AWARENESS MONTH Press Release

**For Immediate Release:**

[Insert date]

**Contact:**

[Insert contact information]

### ***[Insert Organization Name]* Highlights Local Health Impacts of Sexually Transmitted Diseases during 2009 STD Awareness Month**

*[Insert location] (April XX, 2009) – Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) continue to pose a serious public health threat to [insert local area], according to [insert local organization]. [Insert state/local data and information regarding local screening, education, and other public health programs or events.]*

“During STD Awareness month this April, we all should take time to remember that STDs, most of which are curable or treatable, continue to impact the lives of far too many in our community,” said \_\_\_\_\_. *[Insert further quote, if needed, with citation on local STD problems, issues.]*

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 19 million new sexually transmitted infections occur every year in the United States – and almost half of these are among young people ages 15 to 24. Those most impacted nationally by STDs are young women, African-Americans, men who have sex with men, and individuals living in poverty or who have limited access to health care. STDs cost the U.S. health care system as much as \$15.9 billion annually.

Untreated, STDs such as chlamydia and gonorrhea are major causes of infertility among women. These and other common STDs can increase the risk of HIV transmission for both women and men.

Almost all STDs are treatable, and many are curable. STD screening, early diagnosis, treatment, and treatment of sex partners are vital to prevent serious health consequences and increased transmission.

STDs often show no symptoms. The only way to know for sure whether you have one is to get tested. Tests are quick, simple and painless. CDC recommends annual chlamydia screening for sexually active women under the age of 26. CDC also recommends that girls and women between the ages of 11 and 26 who have not been previously vaccinated or who have not completed the full series of shots, be fully vaccinated against HPV. For sexually active men who have sex with men, CDC recommends annual HIV and syphilis blood testing, annual chlamydia testing, as well as annual gonorrhea testing, with more frequent testing for MSM who engage in high-risk behavior.

Many clinics offer free or low cost tests and treatment year-round.

More information about STDs is available at [insert local link to STD information]  
or [www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std).

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