

What Everyone Should Know About Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs):

1 in 4 teens are infected with an STI every year in the U.S.

Chlamydia is the most common bacterial STI in the U.S.

Untreated gonorrhea or chlamydia can cause permanent damage to reproductive organs.

HPV is so common that at least 50% of sexually active men and women get it at some point in their lives.

Genital herpes can cause recurrent, painful genital sores and psychological distress.

One out of six Americans, 14 to 49 years of age have genital herpes.

Most people infected with an STI got it from someone who looks healthy.

STIs can be spread from a pregnant woman to her baby during delivery.

6 million Americans become newly infected with HPV each year.

Each year, 12,000 women get cervical cancer in the U.S. Almost all of these cancers are HPV-associated.

Having an untreated STI can increase a person's risk of acquiring HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) through sex.

Signs & Symptoms of Sexually Transmitted Infections

It is important to remember that most STIs often do not show obvious signs or symptoms. However some individuals may experience the following:

- ◆ Pain/burning during urination
 - ◆ Genital pain or swelling
 - ◆ Unusual genital discharge
 - ◆ Genital blisters
- ◆ Bumps or unusual skin growths in or around the genital area
- ◆ Chronic pain in the lower abdomen (belly)

The above symptoms do not necessarily mean a person has an STI, but anyone experiencing one or more should be seen by a doctor.

STI Prevention & Risk Reduction:

Abstinence: The only guarantee you will never get an STI is to not have sex of any kind.

Know Your Partner's Sexual History.
Talk about it *before you have sex!*

Monogamy: Having only one sex partner (who is only with you) minimizes the risk of becoming infected.

Latex or Polyurethane Condoms: When used correctly and every time, considerably lowers the risk of getting an STI.

Get Tested: *To make an appointment for STI/HIV testing and treatment, call Suffolk County Department of Health Services*
E Z Call Hotline: **(631)439-1551**