SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AMONG YOUNG AMERICANS

Youth bear disproportionate share of STIs

- Americans ages 15-24 make up just 27% of the sexually active population
- But account for 50% of the 20M new STIs in the U.S. each year

Many young women don’t receive the chlamydia screening CDC recommends

Consequences are particularly severe for young women

- Undiagnosed STIs cause 24,000 women to become infertile each year

Young people account for a substantial proportion of new STIs

- 70% Gonorrhea (820,000 total infections)
- 63% Chlamydia (2.9 million)
- 49% HPV (14.1 million)
- 45% Genital Herpes (776,000)
- 26% HIV (47,500 *Ages 13-24)
- 20% Syphilis (55,400)

Many do not know they’re infected because STIs often have no symptoms

Data are cases among youth ages 15-24

Gonorrhea

- 200,000 diagnosed & reported
- 570,000 estimated total new infections

Chlamydia

- 1 million diagnosed & reported
- 1.8 million estimated total new infections

Unique factors place youth at risk

- Insufficient Screening: Many young women don’t receive the chlamydia screening CDC recommends
- Confidentiality Concerns: Many are reluctant to disclose risk behaviors to doctors
- Biology: Young women’s bodies are biologically more susceptible to STIs
- Lack of Access to Healthcare: Youth often lack insurance or transportation needed to access prevention services
- Multiple Sex Partners: Many young people have multiple partners, which increases STI risk

Young people can protect themselves

- GET TESTED
- REDUCE RISK BEHAVIORS
- GET VACCINATED AGAINST HPV

References