

Common STDs and Their Prevalence on Campuses

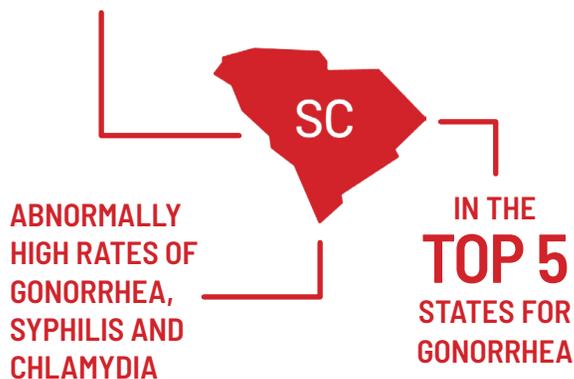
In 2018, the CDC found:

- **Over 1.5 million new cases of Chlamydia**
- **395,000 new cases of Gonorrhea**
- **24,000 new cases of Syphilis**

Of these, college aged students accounted for 53% of the Gonorrhea cases and 65% of the Chlamydia cases. (REPORTED STDs, 2018).

Studies show young adults aged 15 to 24 years old account for nearly half of new STD reports per year. Approximately 21% of known HIV cases were reported in those around the age group of 13-24. (SEXUAL BEHAVIORS, 2019).

THIRD MOST INCREASED RATE OF STDs



STDs Rates in SC

South Carolina stands among the top in the United States for the increased rate of sexually transmitted diseases. The abnormally high rates of gonorrhea, syphilis and chlamydia infections in South Carolina makes it the third highest in the country according to data from the CDC.

Unfortunately, SC has a high infection rate of about 650 per 100,000 people infected, so the fact that SC has the third highest increase of 14.4% for chlamydia just makes it worse. SC also is one of the top 5 states for gonorrhea with an infection rate of 254 people per 100,000 (STD HIGH RECORD, 2017).

Visit the
Campus Student
Health Services
Center Today!

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995 University Way
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STD
PREVALENCE
ON COLLEGE
CAMPUSES

STD and Their Impact on Your Health

While STDs affect individuals of all ages, the CDC estimates that youth aged fifteen to twenty-four account for half of the new STDs that occur in the United States each year (ADOLESCENTS, 2017).

More than 65 million Americans have an incurable STD. Each year, 20 million new cases are reported; half of these infections are among people ages 15 to 24 and they can have long-term consequences.



Transmission and Symptoms

STDs are passed from person to person through intimate physical contact such as sexual activity including vaginal, oral, and anal sex as well as through other bodily fluids such as blood.

Since many STDs do not cause symptoms or only cause mild symptoms, it is possible to have an infection and not know it (WHAT ARE STDs, 2016). Signs and symptoms may appear a few days after exposure, or it may take years before you have any noticeable problems, depending on the organism.

If you don't treat an STD, the infection stays in your body. It may spread and cause serious health problems. You might also pass the STD to your baby as many STDs can cause serious health problems for babies.

How Can This Be Prevented?

Here's How You Can Avoid Giving or Getting an STD



PRACTICE ABSTINENCE

The surest way to avoid STDs is to not have sex



USE CONDOMS

Using a condom correctly every time you have sex can help you avoid STDs. Most people say they used a condom the first time they ever had sex, but when asked about the last four weeks, less than a quarter said they used a condom every time.



HAVE FEWER PARTNERS

Agree to only have sex with one person who agrees to only have sex with you.



GET VACCINATED

The HPV vaccine is safe, effective and can help you avoid HPV-related health problems like genital warts and some cancers.

Testing

Most STDs can be found with a simple test. Not all doctors will routinely test women for STDs, so it's best to ask a doctor to check you for STDs. (STD FACT SHEETS AND BROCHURES).

The CDC recommends to make an appointment with your doctor when you consider becoming sexually active or when you're 21 or before you start engaging in a sexual relation with a new partner.

The best part about getting STDs is the peace of mind and the ease of it all. STD testing is a regular part of being responsible and taking care of yourself. Plus, STD tests can be quick, painless and sometimes even free.



Confidentiality Disclaimer

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

No one, including providers of health care, faculty and parents, has access to student's medical information without written permission from the student. The law mandates reporting certain communicable diseases (sexually transmitted diseases, measles, etc.) to public health officials.