

# THE REAL DEAL ABOUT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STDs)

## WHAT ARE STDs?

STDs are diseases that are passed from one person to another through sexual activity like oral, anal, and vaginal sex, as well as skin-to-skin contact with an infected area or sore.

Some STDs do not cause any symptoms and it's impossible to know if someone has an STD just by looking at them.



**1 in 2 people will contract an STD by the time they reach the age of 25.<sup>1</sup>**



**Of youth with HIV in the United States, 50% do not know they are infected.<sup>2</sup>**

Teens can get STD testing and treatment in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>3</sup> Visit <https://gettested.cdc.gov/> to find a clinic near you.

## PROTECTING YOURSELF



**Practice abstinence.** Not having oral, anal, and vaginal sex is the best way to prevent STDs.



**If you have had sex, get tested!**



**Use condoms every time you have any type of sex!**



**Talk with your partners about STDs and safety before having sex.**



**Ask your doctor for the HPV vaccine.**



**Have fewer partners.**

**If an STD goes untreated, it can cause long-lasting health effects.**

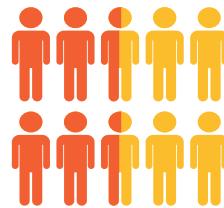
## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

There are many different STDs. The most common ones include human papillomavirus (HPV), herpes, chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV.

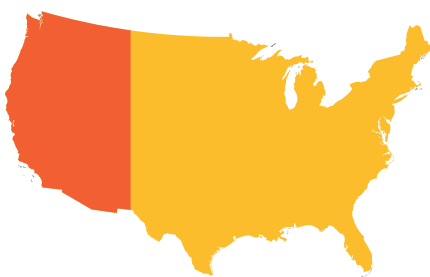
Many STDs can be easily cured, like chlamydia and gonorrhea. Other STDs cannot be cured, but can be treated, which means medication can help with symptoms. This includes STDs like herpes, HPV, and HIV.



**15-24 year olds**  
make up **27%**  
of the **sexually**  
**active population...**



but account  
for **50%** of the **20**  
**million new STDs**  
in the US each year.<sup>4</sup>



Youth ages **13 to 24** accounted  
for an estimated **26%** of all **new**  
**HIV infections** in the United  
States in 2010.<sup>5</sup>

## WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

### HPV Vaccine Information

<http://www.kidshealth.org/en/teens/hpv-vaccine.html>

### General STD Information

<http://www.sexetc.org>  
<http://www.iwannaknow.org/teens/index.html>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/default.html>

### Where You Can Be Tested

<https://gettested.cdc.gov>

<sup>1</sup> American Sexual Health Association. <http://www.ashasexualhealth.org/stdsstis/statistics/>

<sup>2</sup> HIV Among Youth. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/>

<sup>3</sup> Guttmacher Institute State Policies in Brief. [https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/spibs/spib\\_MASS.pdf](https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/spibs/spib_MASS.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Adolescents and Young Adults. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/life-stages-populations/adolescents-youngadults.htm>

<sup>5</sup> HIV Among Youth. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/>