

STD AWARENESS MONTH Press Release

For Immediate Release:
[Insert date]

Contact:
[Insert contact information]

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

[Insert location] (DATE) – Nearly 20 million new sexually transmitted infections occur in the United States every year costing the American healthcare system nearly \$16 billion in direct medical costs alone, says a report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

America's youth shoulder a substantial burden of these infections. CDC estimates that half of all new STDs in the country occur among young men and women aged 15 to 24.

[Insert quote from local authority]

The high incidence of STIs in the general population suggests that many Americans are at risk of exposure to STDs, underscoring the need for prevention.

Despite this news, there are effective ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat STDs. STD screening and early diagnoses are essential in preventing transmission and the long term health consequences of STDs.

[Insert state/local data and information regarding local screening, education, and other public health programs or events]

Abstaining from sex, reducing the number of sexual partners, and consistently and correctly using condoms are all effective prevention strategies. Safe, effective vaccines are also available to prevent hepatitis B and some types of the human papillomavirus (HPV) that cause disease and cancer. And for all individuals who are sexually active – particularly young people – STI screening and prompt treatment (if infected) are critical to protect a person's health and prevent transmission to others.

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

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