Problem Overview
In Chicago, young people aged 10–24 years accounted for 63% of the reported gonorrhea cases and 68% of the reported chlamydia cases during 2008. In the nation, Chicago ranks 1st and 2nd, respectively, for the highest rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia infections among young people aged 15–19 years. A significant number of cases go under-diagnosed or under-reported because these sexually transmitted infections (STIs) do not always produce symptoms that might prompt young people to get tested.

To help reduce the high rates of STIs and prevent HIV infection among youth, the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) partnered with the Chicago Department of Public Health (DPH) to pilot an education and testing project for gonorrhea and chlamydia. In the 2010–2011 school year, 15 high schools were invited to participate in the STI pilot testing project.

Program/Activity Description
CPS, supported through CDC funding, worked with the schools to implement the education and testing project. Students in the project

- Received 20–30 minutes of education about STIs and the testing process.
- Had an opportunity to provide a urine sample and meet with a DPH representative.
- Received instructions about getting test results, and accessing health care facilities for treatment and follow-up care.
- Were provided additional HIV/STI educational materials and access to condoms.

Students who tested positive received treatment through school-based health centers (SBHCs) or the DPH clinics. Follow-up care included

- Counseling on how to prevent STI/HIV transmission.
- Additional education on barriers that can prevent STIs.
- Information on health care providers who offer screening for other STIs.
- Guidance on how to register at an SBHC to make it a student’s medical home.

Program/Activity Outcomes
For the 12 high schools that completed the pilot testing program during the 2010–2011 school year,

- 3,189 students received HIV/STI prevention education and 2,188 students were tested.
- 289 students tested positive for an STI; 280 have received treatment thus far.

CPS plans to retain the original pilot schools and subsequently increase the number of high schools participating each year in the STI testing and educational program.