

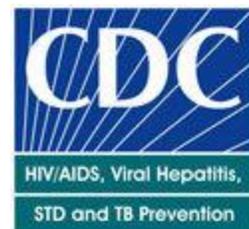


Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Division of STD Prevention

S T A Y
HEALTHY

#STDMONTH15

**YOU CAN TAKE
CONTROL OF
YOUR HEALTH
AND PREVENT
FUTURE STDS.**



March 10, 2015

Dear Colleague,

April marks the annual observance of STD Awareness Month. Health departments, health care providers, and community-based organizations should use the momentum gained during this month-long observance to bring a renewed sense of enthusiasm and focus to their STD awareness and prevention efforts.

The Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) will promote a theme of *Know the Facts! GYT: Get Yourself Tested* during STD Awareness Month this year. Based on the types of questions DSTDP receives via social media and the 1-800-CDC-INFO hotline, we know there are many misperceptions and false assumptions about how to prevent STDs, how STD tests are done, and who should be tested. A [JAMA Pediatrics](#) article found that one-third of all adolescents didn't talk about sexual health issues with their physicians during annual health visits. Separately, another analysis points out that half of the estimated 20 million STDs that occur in the U.S. each year are among young people. For all of these reasons, DSTDP wants to make sure young people have access to accurate, helpful information about STD prevention and testing.

This STD Awareness Month, the Division will continue to support the *GYT: Get Yourself Tested* campaign. *GYT* is a youthful, empowering social movement to encourage young people to get tested and treated for STDs and HIV. Please consider visiting [CDC-INFO on Demand](#) to order free *GYT* posters, stickers, and postcards. These materials can be displayed in your schools, clinics, community organizations, and health departments to promote STD Awareness Month and the tenets of the campaign. We also encourage you to promote your own *GYT* testing event. For more information on hosting an event or success stories, please visit

www.cdc.gov/gyt.

Additional materials that may help your STD Awareness Month efforts include fact sheets, brochures, online banners, and STD testing site locators. These materials can be found on the Resource section of [CDC's STD Awareness Month](#) website. For those on Twitter and Facebook, please use the hashtag #STDMonth15, or #GYT when promoting STD Awareness Month or *GYT* content.

Spotlight on STD Prevention Resources

In addition to resources for STD Awareness Month, I want to highlight several other resources the Division and its partners developed over the past year. I hope you find these resources helpful in achieving your organization's mission.

- [Billing Toolkit](#) -- This toolkit is designed to help publicly-funded STD clinics and public health laboratories make decisions about whether to bill, and how to develop billing systems, manage revenue cycles, initiate contracts, and enhance coding capacity.
- [Project Connect](#) -- The Project Connect Health Systems intervention is an evidence-based, scalable intervention designed to increase youth access to sexual and reproductive health care services.
- [E-test: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing for Gonorrhea](#) – This internet-based E-test training module was developed in collaboration with the Association of Public Health Laboratories to help people understand how to use this testing method.
- [STD Prevention Resources for Public Health Leadership](#) – This document, created in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) provides a snapshot of current STD trends and issues, and outlines steps health officials can take to articulate the need for robust STD prevention and treatment programs. This document is part of [a suite of resources](#) developed by ASTHO and DSTDP with the aim of helping public health leaders find innovative solutions to reduce infectious diseases in today's dynamic healthcare environment.

As always, thanks for your commitment to STD Prevention.

Best Regards,

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Thank you for your commitment to CDC's Division of STD Prevention.

