

Edition: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 HIV/STD Prevention

In addition to National Public Health Week, April is also STD Awareness Month, an annual observance to raise public awareness regarding the impact that STDs has on the lives of Americans and the importance of preventing, testing, and treating STDs. Let's take action and take the opportunity to have those critical conversations concerning sexual health and STD testing.

Did you Know?

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.

Throughout the month of April, spread the word on the prevention of STDs. Let's join with other organizations within our communities to highlight the impacts of STDs, promote individual involvement, and develop events and activities to raise awareness of STDs.

The Southeast Health District Infectious Disease and Epidemiology program will promote the "Get Yourself Tested" campaign: a youthful, empowering social movement to encourage young people to get tested and treated for STDs and HIV. The GYT is a national campaign to increase the awareness about STDs and how to prevent them by linking young people to STD testing services. This campaign should promote an open dialogue with community partners and health care providers.

STDs are preventable and treatable. Working together to build awareness will help us prevent the spread of STDs in our community. STDs are our challenge to overcome. Let's all work together.

