

STI's

Sexually Transmitted Infections

POSITION STATEMENT:
Start requiring STI testing for sexually active college students

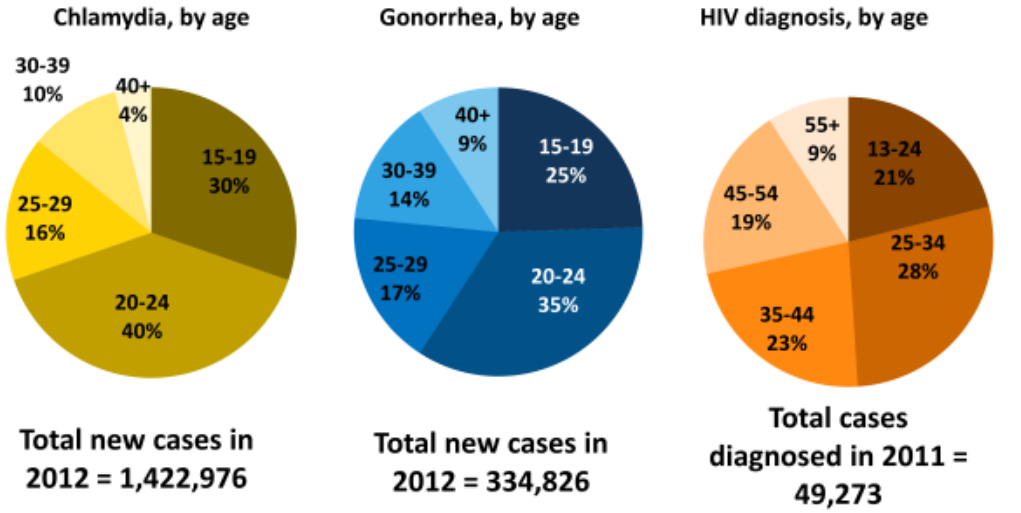
Background
According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there has been an increase in sexually transmitted infections (STIs) across the country. In order to manifest change, we must focus on preventative measures and by educating young adults so the incidence of STIs decrease. Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are caused by an organism (bacteria, virus, or parasite) that can be passed from one person to another during sex or intimate contact (SmartSexResource).

Summary of Issue
Sexually transmitted infections are known as communicable diseases, because they are spread from one person to another. Compared to older adults, sexually active teens and young adults are at higher risk for acquiring STIs, due to a combination of behavioral, biological and cultural factors (**see pie graphs to the right**). Though the young adults make up 25% of the sexually active population, they account for nearly half of the new STI cases (The Kaiser Family Foundation).

Evidence Effectiveness
According to the American Journal of Epidemiology, when used properly, condoms are the best way to prevent the spread of STI's. A decrease of the rates of STIs among young adults would be the long-term effect of preventative STI testing. By testing for STI's there is also a tertiary prevention by treating the students who have a STI that they may or may not have been aware about.

Recommendations
- All public state universities must require students to get a complete STI panel every year of school
- If a result comes back positive, the student immediately receives treatment and notifies anyone they have had unprotected sex with since last being tested
- Anonymous and confidential STI results for all students

Most New Cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections Occur in Youth and Young Adults



NOTE: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding and exclusion of infections diagnosed in persons <15 for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea and <13 for HIV diagnosis.
SOURCE: CDC, Reported STDs in the United States: 2012 National Data for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis, 2013. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnosis of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas 2011, 2012.

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Current State of Policy

Laws vary from state to state. There is currently no policy across the country requiring STI screenings. There are only recommendations from the CDC. Implementing a new policy aimed at preventing STIs from arising may reduce costs of healthcare by preventing them, instead of paying for treating varies infections and diseases. The only state of policy regarding STI's are if an individual knowingly or recklessly has an STI and engages in unprotected sex.

Summary and Recommendations

1. STI testing should be required prior to starting college and annually at the universities
2. Evidence from the CDC and American Journal of Epidemiology mention STIs may be prevented by the use of condoms
3. Public universities may ask for funding from the government to help with implementation of the testing

References

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