

## HOW TO PLAN NATIONAL STD AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

APRIL 2015

FAITH COMMUNITIES

Updated 3/09/15

National STD Awareness Month is an annual national health observance sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help break the silence and to alert everyone to the growing crisis of sexually transmitted diseases/infections (STDs/STIs) in America. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) encourages all Minnesotans to learn about STDs, one of the state's most persistent (yet preventable) health problems, during the observance of National STD Awareness Month. Public awareness and knowledge are critically low around the country and STDs remain at epidemic levels, particularly among 15 to 29 year olds. The MDH reported receiving **23,133 new cases of STDs/STIs** in Minnesota in 2013 of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. To help get the word about National STD Awareness Month in your community, please refer to the following planning guidelines and suggested activities:

- Obtain STD brochures, fact sheets and posters:
  - <http://www.ashastd.org>
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/std>
  - <http://www.GYTnow.org>
  - <http://www.health.state.mn.us/std>
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/std/sam/>
  - <http://www.NoMasSTDs.com>
  - <http://www.mnchlamydiapartnership.org/>
- Announce local National STD Awareness Month related events, meetings, and educational opportunities that are listed on the MDH web site <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stdmonth/index.html>:
  - in bulletins, newsletters, websites, social media accounts, and email messages
  - in congregational worship services and other gatherings
  - in the calendar of events of local radio, newspaper, television, and bulletin boards
- Dedicate one of your weekly bulletins to National STD Awareness Month during April and include information about STDs/STIs
- Focus on the impact of STDs/STIs during religious education programs; invite people from local STD or family planning clinics to speak
- Contact your religious affiliation's national office for information about their sexual health related programs and policies. Prepare and deliver a sermon on this topic
- Create within your congregation an environment of openness and support by:
  - being available to listen to persons who have questions about sexual health related matters
  - being free from judgment, stigma and discrimination
  - recognizing people/agencies that work in the area of STDs/STIs during worship services
- Involve your youth classes in a local STD Awareness Month activity or other STD/STI related project:
  - invite health care workers from local clinics to speak about STDs/STIs at your youth class
  - write an article for your weekly bulletin on STDs/STIs and how they impact youth
  - identify and share information on STD/STI education, screening, and treatment services during one of your youth classes or meetings
  - develop a STD/STI poster, collage or mural for display during classes, meetings or services
  - develop an exhibit on STDs/STIs for display in the main lobby during the month of April
  - develop and recite a poem, song, letter or short story about what youth need to say about the realities of STDs/STIs, sexual health, communication, or National STD Awareness Month during services
- Provide or host a session for parents on how to talk to their children about reproductive health and STDs/STIs
- Obtain STD/STI videos/slides and play during youth class or event

Note: contact the MDH once events are set-up so they can be listed on the MDH website's Statewide National STD Awareness Month Calendar. Phone: (651) 201-4027, Fax: (651) 201-4000, or email: [roy.nelson@state.mn.us](mailto:roy.nelson@state.mn.us)

**Selected Local and National Resources for National STD Awareness Month  
and/or  
STD/STI Materials**

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***National Resources***

American Social Health Association  
PO Box 13827  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
Phone: (919) 361-8400; Fax: (919) 361-8425  
Website: <http://www.ashastd.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and  
TB Prevention

Division of STD Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
Phone: (800) 232-4636  
Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/std>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
National Prevention Information Network  
PO Box 6003  
Rockville, MD 20849-6003  
Phone: (800) 458-5231; Fax: (888) 282-7681  
TTY: (800) 243-7012  
Email: [info@cdcnpin.org](mailto:info@cdcnpin.org)  
Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/sam/>

Sexuality Information and Education  
Council of the United States  
90 John Street, Suite 402  
New York, NY 10038  
Phone: (212) 819-9770  
Fax: (212) 819-9776  
Website: <http://www.siecus.org>

***Minnesota Resources***

Minnesota Department of Education  
Coordinated School Health – HIV Prevention  
1500 Highway 36 West  
Roseville, MN 55113-4266  
Phone: (651) 582-8505; Fax: (651) 582-8499  
TTY: (651) 582-8201  
Websites: <http://education.state.mn.us>  
<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/EdExc/SchSaf/>

Minnesota Department of Health  
Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention  
and Control Division  
STD, HIV and TB Section  
P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
Phone: (651) 201-4027; Fax: (651) 201-4000  
TTY: (651) 201-5797  
Email: [roy.nelson@state.mn.us](mailto:roy.nelson@state.mn.us)  
Websites: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/std>  
<http://www.NoMasSTDs.com>  
<http://www.mnchlamydiapartnership.org/>

Minnesota Family Planning & STD Hotline  
c/o Family Tree Clinic  
1619 Dayton Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Phone: (651) 645-0478; Fax: (651) 642-2523  
Email: [hotline@familytreeclinic.org](mailto:hotline@familytreeclinic.org)  
Website: <http://sexualhealthmn.org/>  
Mobile: Text ASKMN to 66746

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**HOTLINE REFERENCES**

**MN Family Planning & STD Hotline**  
1-800-78-FACTS voice/TTY  
651-645-9360 (Metro area)  
Email: [hotline@familytreeclinic.org](mailto:hotline@familytreeclinic.org)  
Website: <http://sexualhealthmn.org/>  
Mobile: Text ASKMN to 66746

**CDC Nat'l Prevention Information  
Network**  
1-800-458-5231  
1-800-243-7012 TTY  
Email: [info@cdcnpin.org](mailto:info@cdcnpin.org)  
Website: <http://www.cdcnpin.org>

**National STD and AIDS Hotlines**  
1-800-CDC-INFO  
1-888-232-6348 TTY  
Email: [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)  
Website: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Examples of the graphic symptoms of STDs can be found online at: <http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/home.asp>;  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/training/clinicalslides/>; or, <http://std.about.com/od/gettingtested/ig/STD-Symptoms-Gallery/>.