

HOW TO PLAN NATIONAL STD AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

APRIL 2015

SCHOOLS

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 remain critically low around the country and STDs/STIs are occurring 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/STI brochures, fact sheets and posters:
<http://www.ashastd.org>
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/std>
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/sam/>
<http://www.GYTnow.org>
<http://www.NoMasSTDs.com>
<http://www.mnchlamydiapartnership.org/>
- Set aside class time for a special lesson or speaker on STDs/STIs or start a peer education program
- Invite a health care worker from an STD/STI testing site to come and talk to students about symptoms
- Sponsor a poster, T-shirt, exhibit, or bumper sticker design contest for National STD Awareness Month
- Create a STD/STI writing assignment for April: essay, poem, book report, brochure, poster or report
- Air STD/STI PSAs over the school intercom system
- Distribute brochures and information about STDs/STIs at an exhibit set up in the school
- Make a long-term commitment to develop and support STD/STI prevention education in the context of comprehensive school health education
- Place STD/STI posters on bulletin boards in classrooms, lunch rooms or hallways
- Form a youth rap, dancing, singing or theater group that dedicates performances to STD/STI prevention
- Prepare a current events bulletin board for students to fill with newspaper articles about STDs/STIs
- Have local high school students, trained as peer educators, talk to younger junior high or elementary school students about STDs/STIs
- Make adolescents aware of the free and confidential national and state STD/STI hotlines available to them
- Design and implement a peer-led media campaign for the school
- Create a board game/quiz on STD/STI facts. Post on social media networks
- Write a letter or article for the school newspaper, blog or website about STDs/STIs
- Plan a special session for the parents to learn about how to talk with their children about STDs/STIs
- Obtain a video, DVD or slide set for teaching parents the facts about STDs/STIs
- Show videos/DVDs that portray teens talking about their personal experiences with STDs/STIs
- Get permission from your school to set-up and staff a display at a public mall, retail center/store or public building
- Prepare a lesson to address how drug and alcohol use impair judgment and increase the risk of STDs/STIs

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

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

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
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
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
Website: <http://sexualhealthmn.org>
Mobile: Text ASKMN to 66746

HOTLINE REFERENCES

MN Family Planning & STD Hotline

1-800-78-FACTS voice/TTY
651-645-9360 (Metro area)
Email: 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
Website: <http://www.cdcnpin.org>

National STD and AIDS Hotlines

1-800-CDC-INFO
1-888-232-6348 TTY
Email: 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/>