

HOW TO PLAN NATIONAL STD AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

APRIL 2015

UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES/VOCATIONAL 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 are occurring at epidemic levels, particularly among the 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:

On Campus...

- Create a campus STD/Sexual Health committee to educate students about STDs/STIs and host seminars, campaigns and podcasts and post messages on social media and mobile networks
- Organize a student STD/STI/sexual health day or week to include games, screenings, events, matchbook design contests, sidewalk chalking, etc.
- Invite speakers to your college from local hospitals, clinics, or community-based organizations providing STD/STI services
- Dedicate campus web site pages with STD/STI blogs, videos, quizzes, fact sheets, testing resources and links: <http://www.cdc.gov/std>
- Organize presentations and discussions with student educators in student centers, dormitory lounges and campus meeting rooms
- Sponsor a T-shirt/button/pencil sale or walk/run to benefit campus STD/STI program
- Write an article or editorial for the campus paper, club newsletter, blog or email bulletin
- Create STD/STI internal and external panels for campus busses
- Create and customize tabletop tents, posters and banners with STD/STI campaign messages and place in campus cafeterias, dormitories and libraries
- Host an STD/STI educational display at an athletic event
- Co-host interviews with medical and/or health service faculty on campus radio stations
- Distribute key chains, stickers, matchbooks, pens and buttons with STD/STI awareness messages
- Ask campus student health center or other local testing center to provide walk-in STD/STI testing
- Collect photographs, posters, articles and drawings showing that people of all ethnicities, ages, genders and sexual orientation can be infected with STDs/STIs; and, ask student groups to submit a piece and create a mural display
- Hold a film-festival featuring educational DVDs about STDs/STIs and air on campus cable TV
- Coordinate with bars and restaurants near campus to give out free condoms and pass out literature
- Hold an open house in the student center; distribute information about STDs/STIs
- Sponsor a benefit theater production or concert where proceeds go to a local STD/STI/sexual health organization or campus program
- Obtain and distribute STD materials on campus: cafeterias, dorm rooms, book stores, campus organizations, libraries, student commons, etc.:
<http://www.ashastd.org>
<http://www.cdc.gov/std>
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/std>
<http://www.cdcpin.org>
<http://www.GYTnow.org>
<http://www.NoMasSTDs.com>
<http://www.mnchlamydiapartnership.org/>

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

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**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/>.