

# Speak To Your Health! Community Survey Preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV in Genesee County

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Each year 12 million Americans are diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI).<sup>1</sup> In 2006 and 2007, Genesee County had the second highest rate of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, the most common reportable STIs, in the state of Michigan. STIs can be diagnosed and treated, but if left untreated, they can lead to serious health problems including infertility, cervical cancer, and may be life threatening. The results of the 2007 *Speak to Your Health! Community Survey* indicated that many Genesee County residents may be putting themselves at risk for sexually transmitted infections and HIV. However, there are ways to help prevent the spread of STIs in our community.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The *Speak to Your Health! Community Survey* is a resource that provides information about the health of Genesee County residents. The 2007 survey asked questions about condom use, STI testing and whether people thought they were at risk. The survey revealed that when having sex with a new partner,

- Only 52% of Genesee County residents report that they always use a condom. One third of Genesee County residents said that they rarely or never use a condom.
- A large majority (84%) of the people who say they rarely or never use a condom when they have sex with a new partner have not been tested for HIV. Only 5% have been tested for other STIs in the past 12 months.

In addition,

- 92.6 % of Genesee County residents think that they are at no or low risk of getting HIV.
- Almost all (94%) people who say they rarely or never use a condom when they have sex with a new partner also think that they are low or no risk for HIV.
- People aged 18-24 years old are 3 times more likely to always use a condom with new partners, than people 25 years or older.
- Only 37% of people aged 45-64 years and only 25% of those 65 years and older report that they always use a condom when having sex with a new partner.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There are many things that you can do to help prevent the spread of STIs in Genesee County. The Genesee County Health Department recommends that you:

- **Know how STIs are spread.** You can give or get an STI if there is contact with the penis, vagina, mouth or anus of an infected person.
- **Limit your number of sexual partners.** Be faithful to your partner. The more people you have sex with, the greater the chance of getting an STI.
- **Be prepared.** If you choose to have sex, use polyurethane or latex condoms with a water-based lubricant. Use a new condom every time you have sex.
- **Know your status.** Ask to be tested if you are at risk. Ask your partner(s) to get tested. Once you are tested, be sure to get your test results. Have regular exams if you are sexually active. If you think you have an STI, get tested.
- **Tell your partner if you are infected.** Tell anyone you have had sex with that they need to be tested. If they are not treated they may be harmed for the rest of their lives and may also pass it back to you.

## WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?

**Genesee County Health Department Adult Clinic**  
(810)257-3440 [www.gchd.us](http://www.gchd.us)

**Hamilton Health Community Network**  
(810)789-9141(Flint) (810)743-6830 (Burton)  
[www.hamiltonchn.org](http://www.hamiltonchn.org)

**Flint Odyssey House Health Awareness Center**  
(810)767-1157

**Planned Parenthood of East Central Michigan**  
(810) 238-3631/ (800)230-7526  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/east-central-michigan/](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/east-central-michigan/)  
**Wellness AIDS Center** (810) 232-0888

**YOUR Center** (810)789-8637 [www.yc4w.org/](http://www.yc4w.org/)

The Survey is funded by a grant to the Prevention Research Center of Michigan (PRC/MI) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by the Genesee County Health Department. To see the survey results and learn more about the PRC/MI, visit:

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/prc>

<sup>1</sup> Genesee County Health Department <http://www.gchd.us>