

FORGING THE FUTURE:



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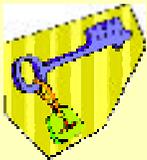
Friday FACTS

7 April 2000

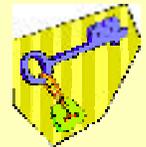
"Leadership, Partnership, and Championship"

April is Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month

Americans of every age and every geographical, racial, cultural, socioeconomic, and religious background are affected by STDs. Infections such as herpes and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) are so prevalent now that almost everyone who is sexually active is at risk. **Impact on Infants:** Virtually every STD can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus or infant, often with tragic consequences. Because infants' immune systems are still developing, infections that are serious for an adult can be life-threatening for infants. Common STD-related problems for infants include low birth weight, premature birth, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, neurologic problems, and congenital abnormalities. **Impact on Women:** Biologically and socially, women are more vulnerable than men to STDs. Genital infections, including HIV, are more easily passed from men to women than from women to men. Women are less likely to have noticeable symptoms unless complications occur. They are then more likely to experience long-term consequences such as infertility, tubal pregnancy, and cervical cancer. Approximately 16,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed each year; approximately 4,900 American women will die from the disease annually. At least 90% of all cervical cancer is thought to be related to HPV infection. Much of the cervical cancer burden related to HPV could be averted by preventing high-risk sexual behaviors. Many women face obstacles protecting themselves from STDs. In general they have less say than men over whether to have sex, and whether condoms are used. **Impact on Teens and Young Adults:** More than half of American teens ages 15-19 have had sex, placing them at risk for STDs. Many are active in "sexual networks," with a high prevalence of untreated STDs. About a quarter of all new cases of STDs occur in teens; two-thirds of cases occur in people ages 15-24. By age 24, at least one in three sexually active people will have contracted an STD. Age plays such a dramatic role in regards to risk since younger people are more likely to be single, have multiple sex partners, and to engage in other risky behaviors than older people. In addition, teenage girls are highly susceptible to contracting chlamydia and gonorrhea, because these diseases easily infect the immature cervix.



So what is the key to avoiding STDs??



- *Keep communication channels open--between teens and parents, between adult sexual partners, and with medical professionals and counselors
- *Take control over your own sexual health decisions
- *Make appropriate and safe sexual choices
- *Seek medical advice for STD screening if you or a partner may be infected.



Calling all PPIP Coordinators, PPIP Physician and Dental Champions: New Format for Official Registration!

As part of the plan to keep an updated roster for communication purposes, as well as a POC for the PPIP biannual survey, each command (MTFs, DTFs, BMCs, NMCLs, etc.) is requested to register information about their 2 key players (coordinator and champion). Registration can be found on the NEHC home page at <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/ppip/htm>.

Inhalant Abuse

The American Academy of Pediatrics has developed a new handout called Inhalant Abuse: Your Child and Drugs. The downloadable document discusses frequently abused inhalants, incidence, reasons for use, symptoms of abuse, effects of usage, and prevention and treatment issues. The handout is available at the AAP site www.aap.org/family/inabuse.htm