



SHARP News



Annual HIV Education-Again! Why?

A few members of an active duty Navy unit recently commented to a SHARP Instructor that *"we have been in the Navy so many years and have had this GMT over 12 times. Why is this mandatory?"*

Good question.

Why do we continue talking to Sailors and Marines about HIV and sexual responsibility?

Consider the Facts:

- ⇒60% of Navy enlisted pregnancies are unintended, indicating a lack of planning in regards to sexual health.
- ⇒81% of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines judged themselves to be at low or no risk of HIV infection, even though many are sexually active with more than one partner.
- ⇒only 42% of unmarried active duty members used a condom during their last sexual encounter.
- ⇒71 Sailors and Marines tested positive for HIV in 1999.
- ⇒33% of gonorrhea cases in Hawaii are in active duty members and drug resistant infections there have jumped to 9.5% of all cases. Drug resistance has also been reported from other U.S. locations.
- ⇒The U.S. had 15.3 million cases of sexually transmitted disease in 1999, and leads all other industrialized nations by 100-fold.
- ⇒AIDS is currently the leading cause of death among African Americans.
- ⇒AIDS is the 5th leading cause of death among all Americans aged 25-44 Years
- ⇒U.S HIV/AIDS cases are growing fastest among women, persons aged 14 to 23, persons of color and persons with heterosexual contact risk.
- ⇒The proportion of persons infected heterosexually is steadily increasing. ⇒Currently, 70% of global HIV infections are attributed to heterosexual contact.
- ⇒By the year 2000, up to 50 million persons will be infected with HIV worldwide and up to 10 million children will lose one or both parents to AIDS
- ⇒By 2010, 40 million children in developing nations will lose at least 1 parent to AIDS.
- ⇒590,000 children under 15 years of age (90% in developing countries) became infected with HIV last year.
- ⇒Although AIDS cases and deaths have dropped significantly since 1995, the incidence of new HIV infections has remained stable. More than 412,000 Americans are currently living with HIV or AIDS. ⇒There is no cure, and no vaccine for HIV infection
- ⇒ 9% of new female accessions to the Navy have tested positive for chlamydia
- ⇒ Annually there are 1 million new cases of herpes and 5.5 million new cases of HPV, the virus that causes genital warts and cervical cancer

Perhaps a better question might be
"are we talking to our people enough?"

SECNAVNOTICE 5300, available from the SHARP homepage, requires annual all-hands HIV education

"Chart a Safe Course"