



# SHARP News

## SHARP Needs Navy Independent Duty Corpsmen to Educate American Sailors and Marines



Who is in a better position to speak to fellow sailors, formally and on a day-to-day basis, about sexual health than the **IDC**?

The **IDC** is the person who knows, works beside, and deploys with the Sailors on every ship and sub – the peer, the person Sailors look to for health care and health advice.

SHARP needs **IDCs** to educate Sailors about the **prevention of HIV, sexually transmitted disease, and unplanned pregnancy.**

SHARP has made 2 self-study courses available to help **IDCs** become more competent and confident about HIV – and SHARP issues training certificates for completion of these courses. SHARP also provides a link to a 3<sup>rd</sup> self-study course in STDs. Take these courses on-line, or in the convenience of your own berthing space.

SHARP provides ready-to-use briefings and brochures on sexual health – via the internet and on compact disk.

SHARP has Area Coordinators in every region of the globe to support **IDCs** who educate the fleet about sexual health.

Why talk to our Sailors and Marines about sexual health? Because:

- The U.S. had 15.3 million cases of sexually transmitted disease in 1999, and leads all other industrialized nations by 100-fold.
- 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 39% of unmarried active duty Sailors used a condom during their last sexual encounter.
- 71 Sailors and Marines tested positive for HIV in 1999.
- 9% of new female accessions to the Navy have tested positive for chlamydia.

**IDCs – get SHARP today!** <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp/>

Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP)

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