



SHARP News

CDC Issues Fact Sheet for Public Health Personnel on Latex Condom Effectiveness

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published and posted a new fact sheet for public health personnel on **Male Latex Condoms and Sexually Transmitted Diseases**.

The fact sheet summarizes what is known and unknown about condom effectiveness relative to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. This is the first fact sheet available from CDC for many months.

The fact sheet emphasizes that abstinence or mutual monogamy between two uninfected people are the surest methods of STD prevention. The report provides background information regarding laboratory studies, epidemiologic studies, theoretical bases of protection, and a discussion of the general and specific limitations of these data.

The primary messages are:

HIV: Latex condoms, when used correctly and consistently, are highly effective in preventing the sexual transmission of HIV.

Discharge diseases, other than HIV: Latex condoms, when used correctly and consistently, can reduce the risk of transmission of gonorrhea, chlamydia, and Trichomoniasis.

Genital ulcer diseases and Human Papillomavirus (HPV): Genital ulcer diseases and HPV infections can occur in both male and female genital areas that are covered or protected by a latex condom, as well as areas that are not covered. Correct and consistent use of latex condoms can reduce the risk of genital herpes, syphilis, and chancroid only when the infected area or site of potential exposure is protected. While the effect of condoms in preventing HPV infection is unknown, condom use has been associated with a lower rate of cervical cancer, an HPV-associated disease.

Get the entire fact sheet on-line from SHARP at <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp/index.htm>

or from the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/facts/condoms.htm> (html version) or <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/facts/condoms.pdf> (pdf version).