

Facts About Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- You cannot tell by looking that a person has an STD or HIV disease.
- It's possible to have an STD (including HIV) and not feel sick.
- Sometimes there are signs and symptoms, but many times there are not.
- With some STDs (like syphilis) symptoms such as sores and rashes will disappear by themselves, but that does not mean that the STD is cured.
- Some STDs cannot be cured.
- Untreated STDs can cause serious health problems.
- Mothers can infect their babies if they are not treated.



If you have an STD, early treatment can help you have a healthy baby.



To order more brochures:

- Email VRCUST@isdh.in.gov
- Put the name and address the brochures are to be delivered to.
- Write quantity you want to order.
- List Before you Marry as the name of the brochure you want to order.



Indiana
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Before You Marry

Information on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV

2 North Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Indiana
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We're getting married, so what do sexually transmitted diseases (STD) have to do with us?

Many people who have an STD do not know they are infected, but that does not prevent transmitting STDs to other people. The only way to know if you have an STD is to get tested.

Get tested if you:

- Have never been tested in the past
- Have shared needles or syringes during injection substance use, piercing, tattooing or any other reason
- Have had multiple sex partners
- Are pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant. Mothers can acquire an STD or HIV during pregnancy, which can be passed to the infant during pregnancy, labor, etc.

What does an HIV test show?

An HIV test looks for antibodies to HIV. HIV is the virus that can cause people to develop AIDS, and it is very important to detect HIV infection as early as possible to ensure the best health outcomes. If you have engaged in behaviors that may have exposed you to HIV just prior to your test, you may need to have another HIV test in one to three months to ensure you know your status.

What behaviors put me at risk?

Behaviors that can put you at risk for STD or HIV acquisition include activities that expose you to the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person:

- Having multiple sex or needle/syringe sharing partners
- Having other sexually transmitted diseases in the past □chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis□

Are there any other STDs that I should know about?

HIV is not the only infection that is sexually transmitted. Some STDs such as genital warts, genital herpes, and HIV can be treated but cannot be cured. Others such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis can be cured but may cause serious problems if left untreated.

These problems can include:

- Sterility for both men and women;
- Cancers linked to genital warts;
- Complications for babies born to women with untreated infections;
- Spontaneous abortions; and
- Increased risk for getting HIV.

Where can I get an HIV test?

Go to: <https://gis.in.gov/apps/isdh/hiv/> for information about the counseling, testing, and referral program and a list of sites to get tested.



Who will know if I take an HIV test?

All HIV and STD testing is **confidential**. The fact you have been tested will not be shared with anyone without your consent. If your test is positive someone will reach out to help offer additional resources.

If you have questions about or would like to be tested for HIV, STDs, or other diseases, contact your health care provider, local health department, or call:

National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention □CDC□ In-fo Hotline at: 1-800-232-4636 (Options: press □1□ for English or □2□ for Spanish; then, press □1□ for general health information.)