

ECHO Script

Emergency and Community Health Outreach



Script, FINAL
May 12, 2009

ECHO Show

"STD Prevention and Treatment"

Finalized Script Deadline: Friday, May 8, 2009

Translation Deadline: Friday, May 18, 2009

-1- Shots of couples socializing

When we are in a relationship and have sex, we should be aware of health risks called sexually transmitted diseases, or STDs. STDs are serious infections that spread by sexual activity. Each year 1 in 4 sexually active youth in the United States test positive for STDs.

The good news is that most STDs are preventable, treatable, and curable.

In some cultures, talking about STDs and the reproductive system is taboo. However, even if you're not sexually active, it is important to learn about STDs. The more you know, the safer you'll be.

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-2- Diagrams of the disease entering the body, and spreading. Video illustration of disease spreading from partner to partner.

Most STDs are spread through unprotected anal, vaginal and oral sex. Some are also passed from an infected mother to a newborn baby, or spread through use of dirty needles used to inject drugs, draw tattoos or pierce body parts.

STDs are *not* passed by insects or pets, by hugging, shaking hands, sharing food or touching objects.

[57]

-3- Shots of people looking at literature, going into doctor's offices, talking with professionals.

Of the over 25 different STDs, five are very common: chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, genital herpes and genital warts.

Any untreated STD can harm you. If you are sexually active, don't wait for symptoms. Get tested every year, or each time you have a new partner.

[45]

Video of doctor examining test results; discussing w/ patient. Shot of specimen cup. Shots of HPV and herpes.

Sometimes STDs have no symptoms. But even STDs that don't show symptoms can harm your health.

When symptoms do appear, there might be sores, bumps, blisters, rashes, painful urination and itching. Other symptoms are abnormal discharge and genital discomfort or swelling.

[41]

-6- Shots of speaking with healthcare professionals; doctor demonstrating correct condom use. Shots of couples talking. Shots of people getting pamphlets and information.

Avoiding vaginal, oral, and anal sex is the best way to prevent STDs. If you do have sex, always use a latex condom. If you are having oral sex, use a latex barrier like a condom or dental dam.

Do not share razors or needles. Limit your number of sexual partners. Always discuss STDs with your partner. Talk about your sexual history and tell each other when you were last tested.

[71]

-7- Shots of people going to a clinic, sitting in exam room, in discussions with healthcare providers.

Regular STD testing is an easy, quick, inexpensive and confidential way to take care of you. You can go to your regular doctor, or an STD or family planning clinic. Sometimes family planning clinics have free testing or a sliding fee scale to make it more affordable.

You can request a male or female healthcare provider to test you. They may test your urine and blood, and will sometimes use a swab to collect fluids. If you have an STD, there are treatment options that will help manage it.

[89]

-8- Shots of hotline phone calls, and people learning about STDs and testing.

Getting tested for STDs may make you feel uneasy. But there's nothing to be afraid of or embarrassed about. Everyone who has sex should get tested; it is a normal part of having a healthy sexual life. If you have questions or concerns, call an STD Information Hotline. Or talk to your healthcare provider about it.

[55]

-9- Shots of people socializing, walking, talking...

STDs are common, but preventable. Testing is important, because STDs often don't show symptoms. But complications may be serious, even fatal. If you're sexually active, get tested each year. When you know how these infections spread, how you can prevent them, and how to find treatment, you'll be able to stay safe.

[52]

Word Count: 503