

Overview of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Among Minority Women

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Faculty

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STDs affect men and women of all backgrounds and economic levels.

Approximately 19 million new infections occur each year.

In Alabama, a total of 35,545 combined cases of Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia were reported in 2008.

- **Women accounted for:**
 - **78% of reported cases of Chlamydia**
 - **59% of reported cases of Gonorrhea**
 - **42% of reported cases of Syphilis**

STDs Common to Minority Women

- **Chlamydia**
- **Gonorrhea**
- **Syphilis**
- **Genital Warts/HPV**
- **Genital Herpes**
- **HIV/AIDS**

Chlamydia

- **Most women have no symptoms**
- **Symptoms show up 7-28 days after having sex**
 - **Unusual discharge**
 - **Burning or painful urination**
 - **Bleeding between periods**
 - **Abdominal pain, sometimes with fever and nausea**

Chlamydia

- Transmitted by having vaginal, anal, and oral sex with an infected partner
- Treated with antibiotics
- If untreated, it can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) or even prevent pregnancy
- An infected mother can give it to her baby during childbirth

Gonorrhea

- Most women have no symptoms
- Symptoms show up 2-21 days after having sex
 - Thick yellow or gray discharge
 - Burning or painful urination
 - Bleeding between periods
 - Abdominal pain

Gonorrhea

- Transmitted by having vaginal, anal, and oral sex with an infected partner
- Treated with antibiotics
- If untreated, it can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) or even prevent pregnancy
- An infected mother can give it to her unborn baby or during childbirth

Syphilis

- Primary Stage
 - Symptoms show up 1-12 weeks after sex
 - Painless sore(s) on genitals or mouth which last about 1-5 weeks

Syphilis

- Secondary Stage
 - Symptoms show up 1 week – 6 months after sore(s) heals
 - A rash on hands, feet, anywhere on body
 - Flu-like feelings

Syphilis

- Treated with antibiotics
- Transmitted by having vaginal, anal, and oral sex with an infected partner
- Untreated can cause heart disease, brain damage, blindness, and death
- An infected mother can give it to her baby during pregnancy

Genital Herpes

- **Some women have no symptoms**
- **Symptoms show up 1-30 days or longer after having sex**
 - **Itching or burning before blisters appear**
 - **Small, painful blisters on the genitals or mouth**
 - **Blisters last 1-3 weeks**

Genital Herpes

- **Blisters will heal, but will return**
- **Flu-like feelings**
- **Transmitted by having vaginal, anal, and oral sex, and sometimes by genital touching with an infected partner**

Genital Herpes

- **There is no cure**
- **An infected mother can give it to her baby during childbirth**

Genital Warts Human Pappilloma Virus (HPV)

- **May be linked to cervical cancer**
- **Symptoms show up 1-8 months contact with an infected partner**
 - **Small, bumpy warts on the genitals and anus**
 - **Itching or burning around the genitals**

Genital Warts Human Pappilloma Virus (HPV)

- **Transmitted by having vaginal, anal, and oral sex, as well as by touching an infected partner**
- **No cure**
- **The warts may go away or come back, or remain unchanged, or grow and spread**
- **A mother can give them to her baby during childbirth**

HIV/AIDS

- **Symptoms show up several months to several years after contact with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS**
- **Can be present for several years with no symptoms**
 - **Unexplained weight loss or tiredness**

HIV/AIDS

- Flu-like feelings that don't go away
- Diarrhea
- White spots in the mouth (thrush)
- Women - yeast infections that don't go away

HIV/AIDS

- Transmitted by having vaginal, anal, and oral sex with an infected partner
 - Transmitted by sharing needles to inject drugs, or other reasons
 - Transmitted by contact with blood

HIV/AIDS

- Can cause illness and death
- A mother can give it to her unborn baby, during childbirth, or while breastfeeding

Disparities...

- Number of partners
- Condom use - no use/inconsistence
- Concurrency of partners
- Socio-economic status
- Access to health care\
- Social networks
- Incarceration

What Can We Do?

- CDC recommendation (2006), routine HIV screening of adults, adolescents, and pregnant women in healthcare settings in the United States
- Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBI)
- Syphilis Elimination Effort
- Infertility Prevention Project

What Can We Do?

- Community and Street Outreach
- HIV Prevention Network

"get educated...get involved...get tested...get treated"

BlackAIDSDay.org February 2010

Resources

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
- **Department of Health and Human Services**
- **Alabama Department of Public Health**



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