

Study Reveals One in Four Teenage Females May Have a Sexually Transmitted Disease. A CDC study released on March 11, 2008, estimated that one in four (26 percent) young women between the ages of 14 and 19 in the United States – or as many as 3.2 million teenage girls nationwide – is infected with at least one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The four common STDs are human papillomavirus (HPV), chlamydia, herpes simplex virus, and trichomoniasis. The study was presented at the 2008 National STD Prevention Conference, held this week in Chicago. This is the first study to examine the combined national prevalence of these four common STDs among adolescent women in the United States, and provides the clearest picture to date of the overall STD burden in adolescent women. The study also found that African-American teenage girls were most severely affected. Nearly half of the young African-American women (48 percent) were infected with an STD, compared to 20 percent of young white women.

The two most common STDs overall were human papillomavirus, or HPV (18 percent), and chlamydia (4 percent). Data were based on an analysis of the 2003-2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), a study of 838 randomly-selected young women nationwide who volunteered to participate and be tested for the study.

Since HPV and trichomoniasis are not reportable diseases, and STDs in general may be under-reported, it is not possible to provide local data for comparison. U.S. trends on reportable STDs may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/trends2006.htm> and county level data are available for chlamydia and gonorrhea (not part of the study).

CDC recommends annual chlamydia screening for sexually active women under the age of 25. CDC also recommends that girls and women between the ages of 11 and 26 who have not been vaccinated or who have not completed the full series of shots be fully vaccinated against HPV. For information about sexually transmitted diseases, visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm>.

Reported Cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in Females
Lancaster County, By Age Group

