



Fact Sheet

Empowering youth against HIV

Among the 50,000 new HIV infections each year, youth ages 13 – 24 account for one in four. About half of these youth do not know they are infected, so they aren't getting treated, and can unknowingly pass the virus on to their partners.

In recent surveys youth said they were not concerned about becoming infected with HIV, and only 2 in 10 high school students who had participated in sexual activity said they had been tested for HIV.

Youth age 20 to 24 also account for one in four of all sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the U.S. A person with an STD is at greater risk for getting HIV and spreading it to other people.

The CDC recommends that all youth ages 13 to 24 receive at least one HIV test, and says high-risk youth should be tested annually. All health care providers should offer HIV counseling and testing. Youth said the most common reason they get tested for HIV is that the test is offered to them.

Free STD testing is available throughout the month of April at the Phelps/Maries County Health Department, located at 200 N. Main, Suite G51 in Rolla. Testing is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on a walk-in basis. No appointment is needed.

Youth need to be engaged and empowered to take responsibility for their own health. STD and HIV testing is one important piece of living a healthy lifestyle.

Learn more by visiting www.phelpscountyhealth.com, Facebook, Twitter, or by calling (573) 458-6010. The Phelps/Maries County Health Department – caring for your family, caring for our community, caring for YOU!



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