

Public Health Points

York City Bureau of Health

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APRIL 2015 – STD AWARENESS MONTH

Nearly 20 million new sexually transmitted infections occur in the United States every year costing the healthcare system nearly \$16 billion in direct medical costs alone, says a report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

America's youth shoulders a substantial burden of these infections. CDC estimates that half of all new STD's in the country occur among young men and women aged 15 to 24.

Data from one York City Health Bureau STD program supports this CDC estimate. Forty-five percent of the 301 persons seen in 2014 in the Expedited Partner Treatment (EPT) Program – a free treatment program for persons exposed to reportable STD's – were in the age group 15 to 24.

The high incidence of STD's in the general population suggests that many Americans are at risk of exposure to STDs, underscoring the need for prevention.

During 2014 there were 578 City residents of all ages diagnosed with Chlamydia (CT) infection and 140 more with Gonorrhea (GC) infection. These two STD infections represent the #1 and #2 most frequently reported conditions respectively among City residents for 2014.

Despite this news, there are effective ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat STDs. STD screening and early diagnosis are essential in preventing transmission and the long term health consequences of STDs. Many adult women are routinely screened for CT, GC and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infections during their routine annual physical examinations, along with their Pap smear test for cervical cancer. Men are not routinely screened for STD's unless they have symptoms or exposure to a known case or to high risk sexual behaviors.

Abstaining from sex, reducing the number of sexual partners, and consistently and correctly using condoms are all effective prevention strategies. Safe, effective vaccines are also available to prevent Hepatitis B and some types of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) that cause disease and cancer. And for all individuals who are sexually active – particularly young people – STD screening and prompt treatment are critical to protect a person's health and prevent transmission to others.

More information about STDs and STD Awareness Month is available at CDC's website – www.cdc.gov/std.

Reportable Conditions 2015 York, PA		
Reported Cases	Feb. 2015	Cum.
Animal Bites	6	11
Campylobacter Enteritis	3	3
Chlamydia	26	74
Gonorrhea	3	17
Hepatitis C	1	8
HIV Infection	2	2
Influenza Type A	6	40
Influenza, Not Specified	1	1
Pertussis	1	1
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection	13	24
Syphilis – Primary/Secondary	0	1
Tuberculosis – Latent	2	7
Total Case Reports	64	189

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Baby Boomers Get Tested For Hepatitis C!

Born between 1945 and 1965? Have health insurance coverage that covers Hepatitis C testing? Contact the York City Bureau of Health to make your appointment to get your Hepatitis C lab slip. Call 849-2299.

2015 ANNUAL HEALTH PLAN

The York City Bureau of Health's 2015 Annual Health Plan is available to the public. Completed yearly, the Annual Health Plan provides an overview of public health statistics for the City of York and includes program goals and objectives for 2015 for the many services provided by the Bureau. The Plan is a requirement of the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Local Health Administration Law (Act 315) for the City of York to draw down money for public health services for the City.



The Plan is located on the York City website at <http://yorkcity.org/files/York-City-Annual-Health-Plan-2015.pdf> Questions about the 2015 Annual Health Plan can be directed to Barbara Kovacs, Health Bureau Director, at bkovacs@yorkcity.org

April 6-12, 2015 is National Public Health Week

For the past 20 years, National Public Health Week has been observed during the first week of April. The American Public Health Association (APHA) brings communities together across the United States to recognize the contributions of public health and highlighting issues that are important in improving our nation's health.

According to the APHA, "Right now, the U.S. spends MORE and gets LESS when it comes to health care and public health outcomes. This is the defining challenge of our generation – a challenge that we, the public health community, are uniquely positioned to help overcome. That's why, during National Public Health Week 2015, the public health community is rallying around a goal of making the U.S. the Healthiest Nation in One Generation — by 2030."

Locally, the York City Bureau of Health is among numerous health care and community organizations working toward making York County a healthier community. New Community Health Assessment data will be released soon that will focus on the health status of York County residents and provide a forum for us all to work toward a healthy community.

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