

STD Fact Cards:

- 1. Every 8 seconds, a teenager gets a sexually transmitted disease.**
- 2. There are 15 million new cases of STDs in America each year. Most of these occur in people under 25.**
- 3. One of three sexually active unmarried persons gets an STD by age 24.**
- 4. Only the common cold is more common than sexually transmitted disease.**
- 5. Until the mid-1970s, there were only two main STDs: syphilis and gonorrhea. Now there are more than 25.**
- 6. The United States has the highest STD rate of any country in the industrialized world.**
- 7. Most of the time when you have an STD, you have no visible symptoms.**
- 8. According to the Alan Gutmacher Institute, while condom use has increased most among teens, the spread of STDs has also increased most among teens.**
- 9. The most common STD is human papilloma virus—5.5 million cases per year.**
- 10. Untreated, human papilloma virus can cause cervical cancer, which kills nearly 5,000 women per year—more than are killed by AIDS.**
- 11. Cervical cancer does not occur in girls who remain virgins before marriage.**
- 12. An estimated 45-60 million Americans have genital herpes.**
- 13. Bacterial STDs can be treated and cured, but viral STDs, such as HIV/AIDS and herpes, have no cure.**
- 14. Health problems caused by STDs are more frequent and more severe in girls than boys.**
- 15. The younger a girl is, the greater her chance of being infected by chlamydia, which can cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease.**
- 16. One infection of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease carries a 25% chance of becoming infertile; a second infection, a 50% chance; a third infection, a 75% chance.**
- 17. Most STDs can be passed from a mother to her baby before, during, or immediately after birth.**
- 18. One out of 5 sexually active unmarried men and women has genital herpes, which cannot be cured.**
- 19. STDs can be transmitted by any kind of genital contact, including oral sex.**
- 20. Doctors have reported a significant rise in oral herpes among teens.**
- 21. A person with one STD is at greater risk of getting another STD at the same time.**
- 22. Using the birth control pill may increase a girl's chance of being infected by several STDs at the same time.**
- 23. In one study, three-fourths of men who knew they had STDs said they had sex without telling their partners about their STDs.**
- 24. A 2001 report by the National Institutes for Health reported that condoms provide no proven protection against six of the eight leading STDs.**
- 25. STDs are usually transmitted through sex outside of marriage because unmarried partners don't know what the other person might be carrying.**

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www.cortland.edu/character; see also www.medinstitute.org.