



FACT SHEET – 12 July 2012

AM I TESTED FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS?

Some Sailors and Marines believe they are regularly tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

This is false.

STIs are spread from person to person during any form of sex - vaginal, anal or oral. There are many STIs which a person may have and may spread without knowing it. Some infections have no noticeable symptoms. And, there are many people who become infected with STIs every year. It is estimated that over 1 million Americans are living with HIV, and about 1 in 5 doesn't know they have it. An estimated 19 million STIs occur each year in the United States.

When Are Sailors and Marines Tested for STIs?

HIV or AIDS

- At your pre-enlistment physical
- During boot camp
- Every other year (may be done in conjunction with deployment and other screening)
- If exposed to blood or body fluids on the job
- If you become pregnant
- During blood donation
- If you are diagnosed with any other STD (or have other indications of HIV/AIDS risk)
- If symptoms or syndromes of HIV or AIDS are noticed by your doctor
- If you are named as a sexual partner of a person with HIV or AIDS

Syphilis

- At your pre-enlistment physical
- If you become pregnant
- During blood donation
- If you are diagnosed with any other STD (or have other indications of sexual risk)
- If symptoms or syndromes of syphilis are noticed by your doctor
- If you are named as a sexual partner of a person with syphilis



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Chlamydia

- During Boot Camp, if you are a woman
- Annually, for women aged 16-24 or older women with indications of risk
- If symptoms or syndromes of Chlamydia are noticed by your doctor
- If you are named as a sexual partner of a person with Chlamydia

Gonorrhea

- During Boot Camp, if you are a woman
- If symptoms or syndromes of gonorrhea are noticed by your doctor
- If you are named as a sexual partner of a person with gonorrhea

Genital Herpes

- If you become pregnant and you have a history of genital herpes
- If symptoms or syndromes of genital herpes are noticed by your doctor





Hepatitis B

- All non-immune Sailors and Marines are vaccinated, beginning in Boot Camp. This is given as a three shot series over 6 months.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- All women up to age 26 are offered HPV vaccination in Boot Camp, as of 2009. This is given as a three shot series over 6 months.
- Women may be tested in conjunction with pap test; frequency of pap testing depends on age and health history.
- If symptoms or syndromes of HPV are noticed by your doctor.

Other STIs:

- Over two dozen types of infections or infestations may be spread sexually.
- These include Trichomoniasis, yeast, lice, Lymphogranuloma Venereum, Chancroid, Mycoplasmas, and others.
- Sailors and Marines are **not** routinely screened for these and many other STIs.

So...although some sailors and marines are routinely tested for some STIs at various times, testing for **many** STIs is typically done **only** when a person tells his or her doctor about symptoms or syndromes associated with an infection.

Get yourself tested if you think you may have an STI, and stop having sex until you have seen a doctor.

If you are in a relationship that involves sex, talk openly and honestly with your partner about STIs and consider **getting tested together**.

The best ways to prevent getting STIs is not to have sex (abstinence) or to have sex only with one person (who is free of STIs) who only has sex with you (long-term mutual monogamy).

If you decide to have sex in a new relationship, using condoms every time during any form of sex - vaginal, anal, or oral - can greatly reduce the risk of getting or spreading STIs.

Where can I get more information?

Talk with your health care provider if you think you may have an STI or if you think you may have been exposed to an STI.

For more information, visit the SHARP Home Page at

http://www.nmcphc.med.navy.mil/Healthy_Living/Sexual_Health/sharp_main.aspx

or visit "It's Your Sex Life" at <http://www.itsyoursexlife.com/gyt/articles>

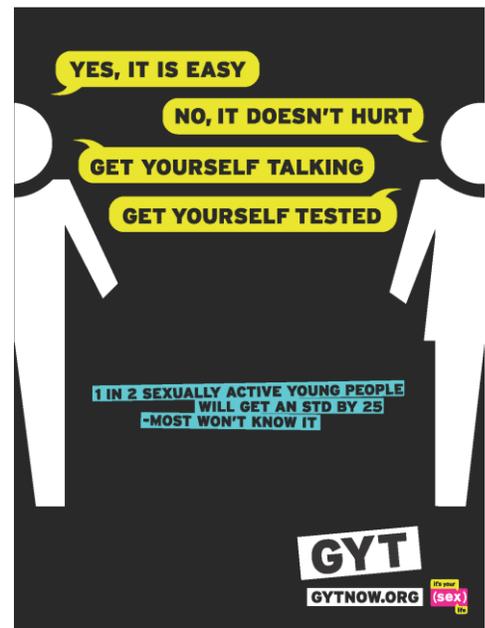


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