



Countywide Services Agency

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Health and Human Services

Division of Public Health

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **STD Awareness Month Message: If You're Sexually Active, Get Yourself Tested**

*Sacramento County is experiencing an epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases; Public Health Division is partnering with a national campaign to get the word out to young adults*

**SACRAMENTO** – April is STD Awareness Month, and workers from the Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Division are taking the opportunity to raise awareness about the community's alarming rates of sexually-transmitted diseases and to encourage sexually-active young adults to get tested.

Sacramento County has the second highest rate of gonorrhea and the fifth highest rates of chlamydia and syphilis in all 58 counties in California, according to 2009 statistics from the California Department of Public Health.

Activities will include visits to local colleges; using social media sites and text messaging to reach young adults; offering training to teachers; and sponsoring a workshop with parents in the Twin Rivers Unified School District.

The campaign is also placing bus and bus shelter ads near college campuses and in neighborhoods with high STD rates.

This year, Sacramento County was one of nine projects in the U.S. funded to conduct a GYT-Get Yourself Tested campaign. GYT is a public information collaborative launched by MTV, the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other national partners to support young people in making responsible decisions about their sexual health.

The Sacramento GYT campaign is targeting the five local college campuses to offer information about STDs and encourage students to get tested at their campus health center.

In Sacramento County, teens and young adults (ages 15-24) have the highest rates of STDs, accounting for about half of all cases.

Additionally, cases of syphilis, a disease once nearly eliminated in the U.S., are on the rise locally.

“Sacramento County has such high rates of STDs that we are recommending anyone who is sexually active get tested, and April is an ideal month to do it,” said County Health Officer Glennah Trochet, MD.

For more information, visit the SacTeenHealth pages on Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace, or call 875-6022.

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