

hey

what's up?

did you know 1 in 4 teenagers
has an STD?

for real?

and every 9 minutes and 30
seconds someone is infected
with HIV?

omg!

#JSYK

Just So You Know

why should i get tested?

About 1 in 4 sexually active young people get a sexually transmitted disease (STD) by their 18th birthday. Many people don't realize they have an STD or HIV because they don't have any symptoms and they don't feel sick. Getting screened and tested for HIV and STDs is a normal part of your health care and should be routine. Disease screening is the only proof positive way to know if you have HIV or STDs, so you can be treated, stay healthy and prevent passing the infection to others.

ru1in4?

what is it like to get tested for HIV and STDs?

There are several ways to test for STDs and HIV.

- Testing for both HIV and many STDs can be done by a blood test. Most blood tests involve going to a clinic and having blood drawn. You will have to wait for the results and the time frames will vary depending on the type of test.

Rapid tests are available for HIV testing.

- HIV point-of-care rapid tests (immediate results) can use an oral swab or blood from a vein or finger prick. The rapid test result can take up to 20 minutes to process, depending on the test used. If your test comes back positive, another test, usually a blood test, is needed to verify HIV status.

There is no single test for every sexually transmitted disease.

The tests are specific to each infection. Some infections can be found using different kinds of tests.

- STD tests may use samples of urine, blood, fluid or cells from your penis, vagina or sores that may be present. You and your health care provider will decide which STD tests make the most sense for you. Your provider will ask you personal questions about your sexual activity, your partners, and any symptoms you may have now or had previously. It is very important to be honest with your provider to help make the best decisions about the type of care you may need.

where and how do I get tested?

There are different places you can go to get tested for HIV and/or STDs. It is important you get tested where you feel comfortable. In New York State, health care providers are required to offer HIV testing to everyone between the ages of 13 and 64. However, you must ask your health care provider to give you an STD test.

- Some people assume they will be tested for STDs when they have an exam for another reason, such as during a physical exam. This is not true—you will not automatically be tested for STDs or HIV. If you are seeing your health care provider for another reason, and you are not sure if you need an STD test, just ask. Your provider can help you decide if you need any tests, and which one(s) you may need.
- There are many places besides your doctor's office that offer HIV and STD testing, including hospital clinics, family planning and Planned Parenthood clinics, local health departments and some community-based organizations. Some clinics are free; others may charge you for testing. Health department services offer free, anonymous HIV testing, where you do not have to give your name. For more information about where testing is available, visit our websites or call the AIDS information hotline.

who will know if I get tested?

- All medical health information is confidential and protected.
- Conversations you have with your health care provider are confidential.
- You do not need your parent's permission to get tested in most clinics.
- In certain health care places, any treatment you might receive may need parental consent.
- Whoever is responsible for providing your health care/ insurance coverage may have access to information about the care you receive.
- HIV and many STDs are reportable to the NYS Department of Health for purposes of maintaining the health of NYS communities and notifying sexual partners (partner notification).

how often should I get tested?

- If you have sex with another person and do not use a condom, female condom, dental dam, or other barrier, you should be tested. Getting tested can put your mind at ease and give you and your partner access to the treatment you may need. It's also a time to learn about ways you can protect yourselves in the future by practicing safer sex.
- If you test negative for HIV or STD's, you are still at risk if you have sex without using a condom. Even if you receive treatment for an STD, you should still protect yourself by using condoms.

**routine testing is part of a healthy,
sexually active life!!!**

For Information on HIV Testing:

health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/testing
NYS HIV/AIDS Information Hotline: 1-800-541-AIDS

For Information on STD Testing:

health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/std
NYS HIV/AIDS Information Hotline: 1-800-541-AIDS
(also for STD questions)

For Information on Partner Services:

health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/std/partner_services/

For Information on Family Planning Clinics:

health.ny.gov/community/pregnancy/family_planning/program_sites.htm

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