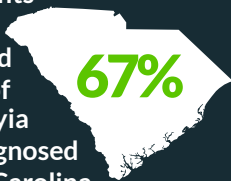


ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH FACTS

WHY **WE CAN'T IGNORE** ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH

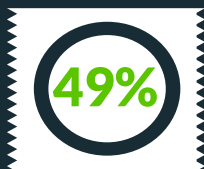
In 2017, South Carolina was ranked 4th highest in the country for gonorrhea and 5th highest in the country for infection rates of Chlamydia among all ages.¹

Adolescents (15-24) accounted for 67% of Chlamydia cases diagnosed in South Carolina in 2017.²



1 in 4

new HIV/AIDS reported cases in SC is among young persons under 25 years old.³



of surveyed South Carolina high school students did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse (2017).⁴

ADOLESCENTS FACE **UNIQUE** FACTORS THAT PUT THEM **AT RISK:**⁵



Lack of Access to Healthcare

Adolescents often lack insurance or transportation needed to access prevention services.



Insufficient Screening

Many young women don't receive the chlamydia screening the CDC recommends.



Confidentiality Concerns

Many adolescents are reluctant to disclose risk behaviors to doctors.



Multiple Sex Partners

Many young people have multiple partners, which increases the risk of contracting a STD/STI.



Biology

Young women's bodies are biologically more susceptible to STD/STIs.

PREVENTION



Anyone who is sexually active can get a STD/STI. Thankfully, they are preventable. Here are a few steps adolescents can take to keep themselves and their partner(s) safe.

Practice Abstinence

Abstinence is a choice adolescents can make for themselves. It can be hard to maintain, but it is the only method that protects 100% against pregnancy and STD/STIs.

Use Condoms

Easy to find and inexpensive, condoms, when used consistently and correctly, offer very good protection against HIV/AIDS and other STD/STIs. Though they lessen the risk for all STD/STIs, certain STD/STIs like herpes or HPV can still be contracted from skin contact, even when using a condom.

Open Communication

It's impossible to tell if someone has a STD/STI just by looking at them. It's always a good idea to talk about sex before it happens. Finding ways to protect against STD/STIs and unintended pregnancies doesn't show lack of trust, it shows respect.

Get Tested

Many STD/STIs don't show symptoms, but they can still cause health problems. Finding a health care provider and getting tested is simple. Our Health Center Locator at www.notrighnowsc.org/health-center-locator can help anyone find the health center nearest to them.

Get Vaccinated

The most common STD/STI, Human Papillomavirus (HPV), can be prevented by a vaccine. The HPV vaccine is safe, effective and can help men and women avoid HPV-related health problems like genital warts and some cancers.

Data Sources:

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- [6] Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. The Lowdown on How to Prevent Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/lowdown/