April 07, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

STD Impact is Focus of Awareness Month

The Centers for Disease Control estimate that there are approximately 19 million new cases of STDs each year in the United States, almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24. In addition, it is estimated that the medical costs associated with STDs are $16.4 billion annually.

In 2008, there were more than 1.5 million cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea, making them the two most commonly reported infectious diseases in the United States. Every year in Greene County there are approximately 1,000 reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea. Recent studies have revealed antibiotic resistance in treating cases of gonorrhea leading to concerns for treatment in the future.

Untreated STDs lead to long-term consequences, especially in young women. Consequences of STD’s include emotional stress, and a variety of health risks that can cause harm to a mother and possibly her baby. Approximately 24,000 women become infertile each year due to untreated STDs.

People can be proactive with their sexual health by practicing the following recommendations:

- **Contact your healthcare provider or local health department with questions regarding STDs and vaccines.** Vaccines are available to protect against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Hepatitis B.
- **Practice safe sex**
- **Get tested.** The Centers for Disease Control recommend all young women get tested for chlamydia annually!
- **Talk openly and honestly with your partners about STDs.** We can all make an impact on the health of the community.

In conjunction with National Public Health Week, on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department will be talking about STD’s. Information about STD’s as well as actions that people can take to practice good sexual health will be available on our website at [www.springfieldmo.gov/health](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/health).

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