



Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

What are sexually transmitted infections?



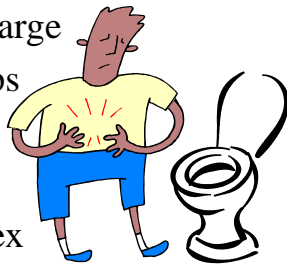
STIs are diseases spread by vaginal, oral, and anal sex.

These diseases have different signs. **Some have no signs.** You can give an STI to someone even if you do not know you have one. Patients often have more than one STI when they are tested.

What are the signs?

Common signs are:

- genital warts
- painful feeling when peeing
- swelling
- drips or discharge
- sores or bumps
- rash or itch
- foul smells
- pain during sex
- bleeding during sex



Go to the clinic if you see any signs.

What can STIs do?



STIs can lead to cancer, problems with pregnancy, or permanent damage to your body. **STIs can make it hard or impossible to get pregnant or father a child.**

Where can I be tested for STIs?

- Mobile Outreach Clinic
352-262-0162 (free for chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis, HPV, HIV)
- Alachua County Health Department
352-334-7910 (sliding scale)
352-334-7972 (free for chlamydia, gonorrhea)
- Archer Family Health Care
352-495-2550 (sliding scale)
- Palms Medical Group
352-377-7337 (sliding scale \$40-50)
- Planned Parenthood
352-377-0881 (\$85-120)
- ACORN Clinic
352-485-1133 (\$24 for patients)
- Archer STD Clinic
877-220-7843 (\$80 and up)



Should I be tested?

If you are sexually active, get checked for STIs often even if you do not see any signs. Remember, some have no signs.

You have a higher chance of having an STI if you have many sex partners or if you have sex with someone who has had many partners. Having sex without condoms also puts you at risk for getting an STI.

The risk for STIs is very high among 15 to 24 years olds.



How can I avoid getting an STI?

1. **Limit sexual activity.** Have sex only with one stable partner. You can avoid an STI by not having sex.
2. **Use condoms while having sex.** We give free condoms at the bus. Use our Condom Guide for tips on how to put on and use condoms.
3. **Get a vaccination** for Hepatitis and HPV. Contact the Health Department (352-334-7910) or your primary care provider for more information.



What if I test positive for an STI?



You should tell your partner(s) if you test positive for any STIs. They should also be tested. They can get sick if you do not tell them as soon as you find out.

There are treatments for some STIs. A health provider can cure certain diseases with antibiotics. Other STIs have no cure, but medicines can help with symptoms.

Visit the **American Sexual Health Association** <http://www.ashasexualhealth.org/> or **Planned Parenthood** <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/> for more information on STIs and sexual health.