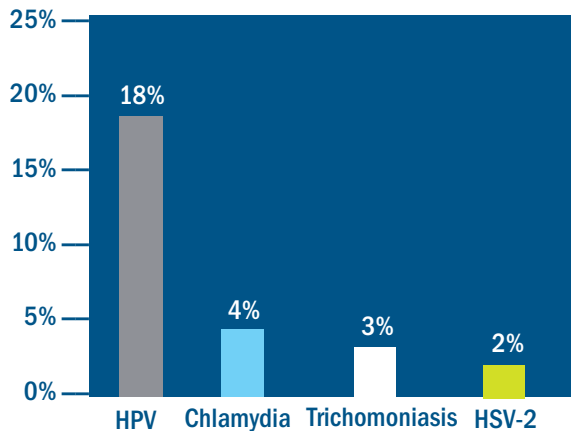




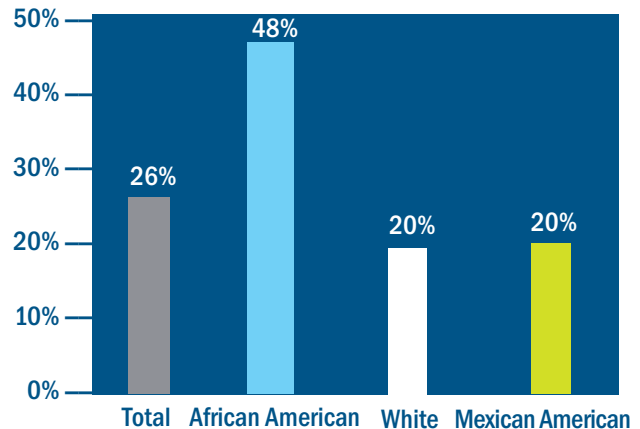
1 in 4 Teenage Girls Has a Sexually Transmitted Infection

A new study by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has estimated that approximately 3.2 million teenage girls (26%) aged 14-19 in the U.S. have at least one sexually transmitted infection (STI). Researchers analyzed data on a nationally representative sample of girls who participated in an annual health survey in 2003-04 (n = 838). Prevalence estimates for four common STIs were determined through testing:¹ human papillomavirus (HPV), which is associated with cervical cancer and genital warts, was the most prevalent by an overwhelming margin (18%), followed by chlamydia (4%), trichomoniasis (3%), and herpes simplex virus-2 (2%). African-American girls are infected at a significantly higher prevalence (48%) compared to white (20%) and Mexican-American girls (20%).² Approximately half of the surveyed girls reported ever having been sexually active. Among the girls testing positive for an STI, 15% had more than one.

Prevalence of Selected STIs Among U.S. Girls Aged 14-19, by STI, 2003-04



Prevalence of Any Selected STIs Among U.S. Girls Aged 14-19, by Racial/Ethnic Groups, 2003-04



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (March 11, 2008). Summaries of Highlighted Research. Department of Health and Human Services Press Release: 2008 National STD Prevention Conference. Retrieved March 13, 2008, from <http://www.cdc.gov/stdconference/2008/media/summaries-11march2008.htm>.

¹ Researchers note that overall prevalence rates may be even higher because HIV, syphilis, and gonorrhea were not included in the study.

² Other Hispanics and racial/ethnic groups were studied, but in insufficient numbers to calculate valid population estimates.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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