

sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

wildfact

78% of UA students had either one or no sexual partners during the past school year. (2009 Health & Wellness Survey, N=1,720)



How many students each academic year are diagnosed and treated for STDs and what are the top three?

A. The top three STDs among students here at the UA are the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Chlamydia and herpes. This is based on a combination of both clinical diagnoses and lab tests conducted at the Campus Health Service. HPV, for example, may be diagnosed by a health care provider through the presence of genital warts, during a woman's pelvic exam, or less frequently, through a Pap test. Often STDs will have no signs or symptoms, which is why getting tested is a good idea for you and your partner.

The following lab test results were recorded at Campus Health between summer 2008 and summer 2009. Keep in mind that a single patient may complete multiple tests during their visit, so the numbers reflect the total number of STD tests, not unique patients.

- Chlamydia – 3,213 total tests, 110 positives
- Gonorrhea – 3,021 tests, 5 positives
- HIV – 1,295 tests, 0 positives
- Syphilis – 1,108 tests, 0 positives
- Genital Herpes (herpes simplex virus 2) – 555 tests, 20 positives

- Oral Herpes (herpes simplex virus 1) – 309 tests, 88 positives (these may present on genitals)
- HPV – 533 tests, 163 positives

While about half of all UA students use the Campus Health Service each year, students also seek testing and treatment for STDs off campus through Planned Parenthood, the Pima County Health Department, or other clinics, so that is an important consideration to keep in mind when looking over these figures.

At the UA, we know that condom use is at an all-time high among students who are sexually active, the majority of students limit their number of sexual partners, and 46% of students who are single or dating have never had vaginal intercourse. In addition to getting tested, these are all good ways to reduce your risk of STDs.

To schedule an appointment at Campus Health, call 621-9202 or stop by the Highland Commons Building near 6th St. and Highland Ave. For information about STDs, call 621-4967 or go to www.health.arizona.edu and search for "STDs."



Have a question? Send it to sextalk@email.arizona.edu

SexTalk is written by Lee Ann Hamilton, M.A., CHES and David Salafsky, MPH, health educators at The University of Arizona Campus Health Service.