

sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

factoid 78% of UA students had either one or no sexual partners during the past school year. (2006 Health and Wellness Survey, n= 3102)

Q. If a person has symptoms of an STD (itching, pus, etc.) but has never engaged in any sort of sexual activity, could they still have an STD?

A. While the definitions of “sexual activity” run the gamut depending on individual and societal views, the requirements for contracting an STD tend to be more specific. Strictly speaking, anything that involves skin to skin contact in and around the genital region – including vaginal or anal intercourse, oral sex, and/or sex play that involves rubbing or touching – can result in the transmission of an STD.

The flip side of the coin, however, has a few exceptions. Getting an STD without skin to skin contact is rare, but can happen. The best example is pubic lice (better known as “crabs”) which although considered an STD, may also be contracted through sharing contaminated clothes, towels or bedding.

If you have concerns about symptoms such as itching or discharge that suggest an STD, seeing a health care provider right away is the best first step. On one hand, it may be nothing at all; on the other, the diagnosis may require treatment. Either way, the outcome is better than waiting and worrying.

Campus Health Service offers confidential and convenient STD testing right here on campus in the Highland Commons Building, located at the northwest corner of 6th St. and Highland Ave. Appointments can be made at 621-9202, though walk-ins are also welcome. Condoms, which are the best form of STD protection after abstinence, are available for sale at the Campus Health Pharmacy at a significant discount.

For more information on STDs or to signup to have SexTalk emailed directly to you through SexTalk Express, visit www.health.arizona.edu.

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

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