

sextalk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

factoid Over 52% of UA students utilized the Campus Health Service in the past year.

Q. How many UA students get tested for STDs?

A. A lot. From October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008, several thousand students underwent testing for sexually transmitted diseases at the Campus Health Service. Our lab conducted over 1200 blood tests for HIV and more than 3500 urine tests for chlamydia and gonorrhea. In addition, over 300 tests for herpes simplex were requested (some blood tests and some cultures of visible sores). Many women also are tested for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) during pelvic exams and Pap tests. While Campus Health serves a high proportion of UA students, many students may seek testing in their home community, from Planned Parenthood or the Pima County Health Department.

In terms of positive results, the top three STDs on campus are chlamydia (#1 in the U.S.), HPV, and herpes. Many students seek testing even when they don't have any symptoms. Most students opt for chlamydia and gonorrhea screening since these infections rarely have symptoms but can have complications if left untreated. HIV testing is a very important test to consider. Test options can be discussed with your medical provider and may depend on your sexual history, any visible signs or symptoms, or your partner's health history.

If you are interested in STD testing, Campus Health is located in the Highland Commons building at 1224 E. Lowell St. (between Villa del Puente Residence Hall and the 6th St. parking garage). If you have questions about testing, call 621-4967. For an appointment, call 621-9202.

Q. Does Campus Health offer confidential testing? I don't want my parents to find out what I'm getting tested for.

A. Campus Health does offer confidential testing for sexually transmitted diseases. Test results become part of your medical record and cannot be accessed by anyone (parent, partner, professor, other medical providers outside Campus Health) without your written authorization. You can charge the visit for STD testing to your Bursar's account or pay the same day you are seen.

If you choose to charge to your account, when you receive your monthly statement it will not say what your visit was for. It will simply say "Campus Health charges." This is done to protect your privacy.



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.

