



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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*Center for AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
A World Health Organization Collaborating Center  
for AIDS and STD*

May 27, 2005

Congressman Henry Waxman  
8436 West Third Street, Suite 600  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Congressman Waxman,

In response to the letter I received from you requesting my opinion on the HHS 4parents.gov website, I have reviewed the chart regarding STDs and condom effectiveness and found several areas that were incomplete or inaccurate. There are several changes I would make, and these are highlighted in the attachment to this letter. I appreciate the opportunity to review this document and to give feedback through your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'King K. Holmes'.

King K. Holmes, MD, PhD  
Professor of Medicine  
Adjunct Professor of Microbiology, Epidemiology  
Director, Center for AIDS and STD  
University of Washington  
Head, Infectious Diseases  
Harborview Medical Center

# Talk Topics

**WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STDs:** There are over 30 STDs. The most common bacterial and viral STDs are:

	Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Diseases			Viral Sexually Transmitted Diseases		
Common STDs	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Syphilis	HSV: Herpes Simplex <u>Virus</u>	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and Genital Warts	HIV
Where is it found?	Vagina, cervix, urethra, throat and <u>rectum</u>	Vagina, cervix, urethra, throat and <u>rectum</u>	Genital area and/or on mouth	Vagina, cervix, urethra, <u>penis</u> , anus, mouth, throat and all genital areas	Vagina, cervix, urethra, <u>penis</u> , anus, scrotum, mouth, throat and all genital areas	Blood, semen, <u>cervical and vaginal fluid</u> , breast milk
What are the possible symptoms?	May or may not have early symptoms, discharge from penis and vagina, chronic low stomach pain, pelvic infection/fever, infertility may result (mostly in women), can infect babies	Vaginal or <u>urethral</u> discharge, chronic low stomach pain, pelvic infection/fever, infertility may result (mostly in women), can infect babies	Painless chancre (sore), untreated it can spread to the brain and/or heart, can cause <u>stillbirth</u> , birth defects and lesions on infants' skin and other problems with their organs	Painful blisters, fever, swollen glands, symptoms reoccur throughout life, can infect	Few early symptoms, may cause warts, can cause cancer of the cervix, <u>vulva</u> , <u>vagina</u> , anus and penis, can infect babies	<u>Early symptoms of flu-like illness</u> , rash, destroys immune system, multiple severe infections, no known cure, fatal illness, can infect babies
How can it be spread?	<u>Vaginal, anal, and oral sex</u> , and mother to child	<u>Vaginal, anal, and oral sex</u> , and mother to child	<u>Vaginal, anal, and oral sex</u> , contact with sores, mother to child	<u>Vaginal, anal, and oral sex</u> , contact with infected skin, mother to child	<u>Vaginal and oral sex</u> , contact with infected skin, mother to child (rare)	<u>Vaginal, anal, and oral sex</u> , IV drug use, mother to child
Can condoms help if always used (100% of the time and correctly)?	Condom use is associated with <u>significantly</u> decreased risk.	Condom use is associated with <u>significantly</u> decreased risk. (Risk reduction is <u>at least</u> 50%)	Condom use is associated with <u>significantly</u> decreased risk.	Condom use is associated with <u>significantly</u> decreased risk.	<u>Recent evidence suggests</u> that condom use reduces risk of HPV infection, and the risk of HPV-associated	Condom use decreases the risk of HIV transmission by approximately <u>80-95%</u> .

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					diseases. <u>N</u>	
<b>How many infected teens are infected?</b>	3-14% of women age 15-24 who visited family planning clinics (2002) <u>Rates in young men are similar.</u>	0.1 to 2.8% of women age 15-24 who visited family planning clinics (based on reporting states). <u>Rates in young men are similar.</u>	In 2002, there were about 350 cases of primary and secondary syphilis in 15-19 yr olds.	The most recent estimates show that depending on race/ethnicity, 4.5 - 8.8 percent of teens 12-19 are infected with <u>genital herpes</u>	About 28 to 46% of women under 25 are estimated to be infected with HPV. <u>Rates in young men are similar.</u>	<u>Each year in the US, about 40,000 people become infected with HIV. About 40% of these are teenagers</u>
<b>What are the treatments?</b>	Antibiotics <u>(should be given as soon as possible, before permanent damage occurs)</u>	Antibiotics <u>should be given as soon as possible, before permanent damage occurs</u>	Antibiotics <u>should be given as soon as possible, before permanent damage occurs</u>	Symptom control, <u>prevention of recurrences,</u> but no cure	Monitor through pap smears for <u>cervical cancer changes,</u> Surgery for cervical <u>cancer and precancer lesions</u>	<u>Medicines (antiretroviral drugs) are life-saving, but don't cure HIV infection. Lifetime treatment is required. No cure</u>
<b>Sources:</b>						
<u>Holmes KK, Levine R, Weaver M. Effectiveness of condoms in preventing sexually transmitted infections. Bull WHO 2004;82 (6):454-61.</u>						
<u>Winer RL, Hughes JP, Feng Q, O'Reilly S, Kiviat NB, Koutsky LA. The effect of consistent condom use on the risk of genital HPV infection among newly sexually active women. Abstract to be presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial meeting of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 10-13, 2005.</u>						
Ahmed S, Lutalo T, Wawer M, et al. "HIV Incidence and Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevalence Associated With Condom Use: A Population Study in Rakai, Uganda, " AIDS. 2001, 15: 2171-2179.						
Baeten JM, Nyange, PM, Richardson BA, et al. "Hormonal Contraception and Risk of Sexually Transmitted Acquisition. Results from a Prospective Study.," American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. 2001; 185: 380-385.						
<u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <a href="#">Tracking the Hidden Epidemics: Trends in STDs in the United States 2000.</a></u>						
National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention, Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention, <u><a href="#">Basic Statistics: Cumulative AIDS Cases by Age.</a></u>						
Wald A, Langengerg AG, Link K, et al. "Effect of Condoms on Reducing the Transmission of Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 From Men to Women," JAMA. 2001; 285: 3100-3106.						

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**Deleted:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2002. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2003