

THE IMPACT OF STDs AND HIV/AIDS ON TEENAGERS IN GEORGIA

THE NUMBERS

- In Georgia, 21,685 teens ages 10-19 were reported to have a newly diagnosed sexually transmitted disease (STD) in 2006, including 15,613 cases of chlamydia, 6,051 cases of gonorrhea and 21 cases of primary and secondary syphilis. Experts believe that many cases of STDs are not diagnosed or, if diagnosed, are not reported, making the impact of STDs on teens much higher* (*DHR Division of Public Health/ STD Epidemiology Annual Report, 12/06*).
- Persons infected with STD(s) are at least two to five times more likely than uninfected persons to transmit or acquire HIV from an infected partner through unprotected sex (<http://www.cdc.gov/std/hiv/STDFact-STD&HIV.htm>).
- Young adults ages 20-29 years have accounted for 19% of all AIDS cases reported in Georgia from 1981 through December 2006. Given the lengthy period of time between HIV infection and the development of AIDS, most of these young people are likely to have been infected during adolescence (*DHR Division of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Team, 2/08*).
- Alcohol and drug use affects whether young people have sex, how many partners they have and whether they use condoms to guard against disease (*Kaiser Family Foundation, January 2002*).

THE GOOD NEWS

- Reversing trends of the past two decades, fewer young people are engaging in risky sex behaviors. For the years 1991-2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports a steady decline in the proportion of high school students who have ever had sexual intercourse (54.1% to 46.8%) and the proportion who have had sex with multiple partners (18.7% to 14.3%). Additionally, among currently sexually active students, condom use increased from 46.2% to 62.8% (*CDC, 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, June 2006*).

WHERE TO GO FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HIV/AIDS

- Visit your doctor, your local health department, or contact the Division of Public Health at (404) 657-2700.
- Call the Georgia HIV/STD Information Line at 1-800-551-2728. You won't have to give your name. They can answer your questions or refer you to community outreach programs.
- Call Helpline Georgia at 1-800-338-6745 for information about drug treatment programs.

* These data results reflect reported cases during January - December 2006 from the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, STD Epidemiology Team.