

# The Facts About Condoms



1902 W Sloan St · PO Box 163 · Stephenville, TX 76401  
254-965-6031 · www.ctpcc.org · email: carecenter@ctpcc.org



Some say condoms make sex "safe." But how well do condoms work? Can you still get a sexually transmitted infection (STI)? Can you still get pregnant? ***YES! Condoms simply reduce your risk, they don't eliminate it.*** And about 1 of every 5 teen couples using condoms for birth control get pregnant within a year. So even if you use a condom every time you have sex, you're still at risk for STIs and pregnancy.

## The STI Epidemic

Every year nearly 9 million people under the age of 25 get a new STI (sexually transmitted infection). If you are or have been sexually active, you could have an STI. Some STIs are accompanied by symptoms, others are not. ***You could have an STI and not know it.*** Some types STIs make you sick today and others have delayed onset. These include serious problems like cancer or infertility, and in severe cases can even result in death.



**Chlamydia** and **Gonorrhea** - If you use condoms every time you have vaginal sex, you can cut your chance of getting chlamydia or gonorrhea in half. While Chlamydia and gonorrhea are common among teens, most with these infections have no symptoms. Even if you have with no symptoms, these infections can still be spread. If left untreated, both chlamydia and gonorrhea can cause long-term complications and difficulty getting pregnant.

**Genital Herpes** - If you use condoms every time you have vaginal sex, you can cut your chance of getting genital herpes in half. Genital herpes infects 1 in 6 teens and adults, and is incurable. It can be treated (not cured) with medication, but without treatment sores will be recurring. Even with no symptoms, the infection can still be spread to others.

**HPV (Human Papillomavirus)** - HPV is a very common STI in the US, and to date there is no evidence that condoms eliminate your chance of getting HPV during vaginal, oral or anal sex.. About half of all sexually active college-age females get HPV, and most with HPV have no symptoms. HPV can cause genital warts or cancer of the cervix, penis or anus.

**HIV/AIDS** - With 100% correct and consistent condom usage, the chance of contracting HIV can be reduced by 85%. HIV/AIDS has killed nearly half a million Americans—and the number is growing.

**Condoms for Oral or Anal Sex** - Although using condoms for oral sex might reduce the risk for gonorrhea, it is unsure if using condoms during oral sex reduces the chance of getting HIV or other infections. Always using condoms for anal sex may cut the chance of getting HIV by up to half.

**The Real World** - Most people don't use condoms every time they have sex. In fact, people use condoms less often as they get older. Even when people do use condoms, they don't always use them correctly. Even if they are used correctly every time during have vaginal sex, they can still break or slip off.

## Condoms don't make sex safe, just less risky.