Philadelphia Youth in Crisis

Adolescents and Sexually Transmitted Infections
The Story of J.M.

J.M. is a 19-year-old girl from West Philadelphia who first had sexual intercourse at age 11 with a 13-year-old boy from her school. Within 2 years she had had Chlamydia twice. On entering high school, she found she was pregnant in December. She had her third child earlier this year. She now lives with her current partner, the father of her youngest child.
Philadelphia High School Students
Sexual Risk Behaviors

- 63% ever had sexual intercourse
- 15% had sexual intercourse for the first time before 13 years
- 26% had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life
- 46% had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before survey

Source: CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2009
Philadelphia High School Students
Youth Sexual Behavior

Ever Sexual Intercourse  First Intercourse Before Age 13 Years

Source: CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2009
Philadelphia Department of Public Health, 2011
Philadelphia High School Students

Youth Sexual Behavior

Source: CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2009
Philadelphia youth more likely than other American youth to have an STD

- Philadelphia 10-14 year olds are 5.3 times as likely to have *Chlamydia* as American teens overall. The rate of *Chlamydia* among 15-19 year olds in Philadelphia is 3.5 times the national rate in the same age group.

- The rate of *gonorrhea* among 15-19 year olds in Philadelphia is 3 times the national rate, and among 10-14 year olds it is 4 times the national rate.
The Story of M.W.

M.W. is a 16-year-old girl who started having sex when she was 12 years old. At 13 her 16-year-old “boyfriend” beat her up regularly. While she did not want to have sex with his brother, she did when they forced her to have sex with them both and bragged about it at school. Neither boy used a condom. She maintains that her HIV infection came from the brother, who regularly gets drunk and has forced sex with younger girls.
Philadelphia High School Students
Behaviors that Put Youth at Risk

- 37% did not use a condom during the last sexual intercourse
- 12% report having been forced to have sex
- 11% drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse

Source: CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2009
Philadelphia High School Students
Youth Dating/Sexual Violence

Source: CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2009
The Story of T.A.

T.A. is an 18 year old young man who first had sex with another man at age 14. He has had 9 lifetime sexual partners. He uses condoms the first time he has sex with someone, but as a relationship progresses he stops using them. He had tested negative for HIV six months ago though he did have gonorrhea at age 16 and syphilis at 17. He doesn’t know anyone who is HIV positive and is his age, so he does not see himself at risk. A few months ago an ex-boyfriend whom he had sex with over a 7 month period contacted him and told him that he had tested positive. T.A. now tests positive for HIV.
Philadelphia High School Students
Youth Report Lack of Education

15% of students surveyed said they were never taught about HIV or AIDS in school

Despite the fact that The School District of Philadelphia has a required semester of Health Education

Despite the fact that the Department of Public Health offers STD screening in every public high school annually

Source: CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2009
Syphilis is increasing in Philadelphia youth

Youth are also making up a greater percentage of syphilis cases

- 2004 15-19 year olds accounted for 1% of all syphilis cases
- 2010 youth accounted for 7% of syphilis cases.

Philadelphia Department of Public Health, 2011
Nearly all Philadelphia HIV cases in youth are **sexually transmitted**

Youth (13 – 24) represent 25% of all newly diagnosed HIV cases.

In the City’s STD clinic 47% of youth found to have HIV had a previous history of gonorrhea, *Chlamydia* and/or syphilis.

Youth with HIV in Philadelphia

Racial/Ethnic Distribution

70% of newly diagnosed youth are African American

Philadelphia Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Rates
Race/Ethnicity and Age Group, 2010

Black youth rate is 26 times White rate

Note: Native American/Alaskan Native and Asian/Pacific Islander rates were excluded due to small case counts.

Source: Philadelphia Department of Public Health, STD Control Program
What Can We Do as a City?

- Institute broad education for young people about reproductive health.
- Promote wide availability of condoms, in health care sites, schools, recreation centers, and in private establishments like video arcades, laundromats, barber shops, hair salons, etc.
- Change our approach to partner testing and treatment to include a broader social network.
Philadelphia High School Students
Youth Sexual Behavior

Source: CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2009