

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

One in Four American Teenage Girls Has Sexually-Transmitted Infection, 04/14/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/health/jan-june08/sti_5-22.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How many girls ages 14-19 have sexually transmitted infections, according to the CDC study?

2. Why are the consequences of getting an infection worse for girls than boys?

3. How can you tell if you have an infection?

4. What advice do the doctors have for all teens?

5. What can be done to prevent infection?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What information in this story did you already know? What was new?

2. Why do you think teenagers are reluctant to get tested for sexually-transmitted infections? Is there a stigma? Are teens' lives too busy? What are the barriers to getting tested?

3. Did this article raise any questions about your own health or that of your peers? What steps can you take to answer your questions?

4. What local resources are available to help teens who want to get tested or counseling?

5. Is there anything your class can do to raise awareness of testing and treatment options?

Extension Activity

Write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.