

STD

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ence in Chicago.

"Those numbers are certainly alarming," said sex education expert Nora Gelperin, who works with a teen-written website called sexetc.org. She said they reflect "the sad state of sex education in our country."

"Sexuality is still a very taboo subject in our society," she said. "Teens tell us that they can't make decisions in the dark and that adults aren't properly preparing them to make responsible decisions."

Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said the study shows that "the national policy of promoting abstinence-only programs is a \$1.5 billion failure, and teenage girls are paying the real price."

Similar claims were made last year when the government announced the teen birth rate rose between 2005 and 2006, the first increase in 15 years.

The new study by CDC researcher Dr. Sara Forhan relied on slightly older data. It is an analysis of nationally representative records on girls ages 14 to 19 who participated in a 2003-04 government health survey.

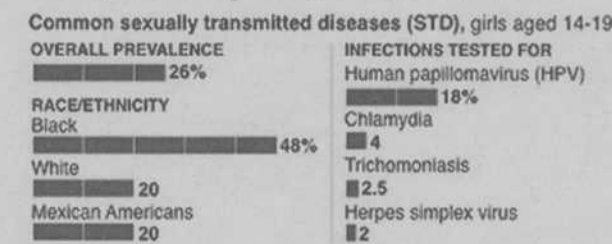
The teens were tested for four infections: human papillomavirus, or HPV, which can cause cervical cancer and affected 18 percent of girls studied; chlamydia, which affected 4 percent; trichomoniasis, 2.5 percent; and genital herpes, 2 percent.

Dr. John Douglas, director of the CDC's division of STD prevention, said the results are the first to examine the combined national prevalence of common sexually transmitted diseases among adolescent girls. He said the data, now a few years old, likely reflect current prevalence rates.

Disease rates were significantly higher among Black girls — nearly half had at least one STD, versus 20 per-

First study shows high STD rates

About 3.2 million teenage girls are infected with a common sexually transmitted disease, according to the first CDC study examining the national prevalence among adolescents.



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

cent among both Whites and Mexican-Americans.

HPV, the cancer-causing virus, can also cause genital warts but often has no symptoms. A vaccine targeting several HPV strains recently became available, but Douglas said it probably hasn't yet had much impact on HPV prevalence rates in teen girls.

The CDC recommends the three-dose HPV vaccine for girls ages 11-12 and catch-up shots for ages 13-26.

Chlamydia, which often has no symptoms but can lead to infertility, can be treated with antibiotics. The CDC recommends annual chlamydia screening for all sexually active women under age 25. Trichomoniasis, also treatable with antibiotics, can cause abnormal discharge and painful urination. Genital herpes can cause blisters but often has no symptoms. It's not curable but medicine can help.

The CDC's Dr. Kevin Fenton said given the dangers of some STDs, "screening, vaccination and other prevention strategies for sexually active women are among our highest public health priorities."

Douglas said screening tests are underused in part because many teens don't think they're at risk, but also, some doctors mistakenly think: "Sexually transmitted diseases don't happen to the kinds of patients I see."

Teens need to hear the dual message that STDs can be prevented by abstinence

and condoms, said Dr. Ellen Kruger, an obstetrician-gynecologist at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans.

"You've got to hammer at them," giving appropriate information at each stage of teen development to make sure it sinks in, she said.

She said there are a lot of myths out there, too — many sexually active teens think the withdrawal method will protect them, or that douching with Coca-Cola will kill STD germs.

Dr. Margaret Blythe, an adolescent medicine specialist at Indiana University School of Medicine, said some doctors hesitate to discuss STDs with teen patients or offer screening because of confidentiality concerns, knowing parents would have to be told of the results.

Blythe, who heads an American Academy of Pediatrics committee on adolescence, noted that the academy supports confidential teen screening.

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Position Description: Part-time organist/musician which will support the Music Ministry which includes four choirs (Cathedral, Male Chorus, Mission, and Youth). Must have experience playing a variety of church music (traditional, gospel, contemporary, anthems); attend choir rehearsals as assigned; teach choirs new music and train voices; provide practiced music to choirs and musical accompaniment to all worship services. Arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of service and depart approx. 10 minutes after conclusion of the service.

Position Requirements include:

- Ability to competently play organ
- Ability to read and arrange a variety of musical compositions for worship services
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- Personal commitment to Jesus Christ, the spread of the Gospel, and His church

Reasonable salary provided. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest, resume, and complete employment application to the address below. Deadline to submit a completed application package is **Sunday, April 6th, by 2 pm**. Application may also be downloaded at www.2ndbaptist.org.

Second Baptist Church
Attn: Personnel Administration
500 W. Madison Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89106
Phone: (702) 648-6155
Fax: (702) 648-8557

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Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas
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Occupancy Specialist

Salary: \$37,752 - \$60,424 per annum (plus excellent benefits package). The Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas is currently recruiting for the position of Occupancy Specialist. The incumbent will perform a variety of duties involved in determining eligibility for the issuance of Section 8 Housing Vouchers and will assist tenants and property owners under the Section 8 Housing Program.

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NOTE: This position is being re-advertised due to an insufficient number of qualified applicants. All applicants who previously applied need not re-apply under this advertisement.

Apply by: Thursday, March 20, 2008. An application packet can be picked up at 340 North 11th Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 or visit our web site at www.haclv.org. If you live out of state, please contact Human Resources at 922-6806; TDD: (702)386-0789 for an application and supplemental questionnaire. All applications must be received in the Human Resources Department by 5:00 p.m. on the closing date.

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Shooting

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in the city. He rushed for more than 1,000 yards last year, scored 11 touchdowns, returned punts and kickoffs and played defensive back. He was the Southern League's MVP last year and was an invitational All-City first-team selection.

About 500 people gathered at the killing site for a vigil for Jamiel two nights after the shooting. They included his classmates, teammates, teachers, Councilman Herb Wesson and Mayor Villaraigosa.

Among Jamiel's survivors is his 9-year-old brother, Thomas, who has been inconsolable over the loss of his brother, his hero.

Betty Pleasant writes for the Los Angeles WAVE