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The Department operates in accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Visit us on the web at:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Burnette, PIO
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February 12, 2024

Condom Use More Important Than Ever

As we approach Valentine’s Day and National Condom Day, the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department reminds the community that condom use is vital to helping prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and syphilis.

Northwest Ohio recently reached a historical high in the number of syphilis cases, a stark reminder that prevention through condom use will help keep our community healthy.

Syphilis can be spread through all modes of sexual contact (oral, vaginal and anal). Three site testing is a method that goes beyond testing urine for infection. If any STI is suspected, ask your healthcare provider about three site testing, or schedule an appointment with the health department by calling (419) 213-4100 or visiting our website, www.lucascountyhealth.com.

Pregnant women who are diagnosed with syphilis pose a particular risk of spreading it to their baby. Syphilis during pregnancy has been proven to increase the risks for stillbirth, miscarriage, infant death, and maternal morbidity. Timely syphilis testing and treatment are essential in preventing these outcomes for mothers and their babies.

If you are sexually active, the following actions can lower your chances of getting syphilis:

- Use condoms the right way every time you have sex. (Condoms can help prevent the spread of syphilis by preventing contact with a sore. However, sores may occur in areas not covered by a condom. Contact with these sores can still transmit syphilis.)
- Include testing for syphilis in your routine sexual health screenings to ensure timely treatment if necessary. Syphilis can only be diagnosed via a blood test.

Condoms are available for free at the health department during business hours.

Syphilis Cases in NW Ohio: 2011-2023

