

Thought Lab 14.1: STIs: What to Know and How to Know It

Questions: What do young people need to know about how STIs can affect their bodies? What strategy would you design to reach this audience?

Procedure

1. In your group, choose one STI that will be the focus of our education program.
2. Use print and Internet resources to learn about the STI you chose. In particular, find out what effects the STI can have on the male and female reproductive systems. ICT
3. Organize your findings in a written report. Your report should include the following information:
 - the cause of the STI
 - the effects of the STI on the human body and, in particular, the male and female reproductive systems
 - why young adults are the age group at greatest risk for acquiring an STI
 - the issues and challenges involved in preventing and controlling the transmission of the STI
4. Using the information in your report, develop an education program aimed at young people. Decide on the two or three most important messages. Then decide how you will deliver these messages. For example, you could create print advertisements for a magazine, produce a music video, or write and perform a play. Deliver your presentation to your class.

Analysis

1. Which STIs are most likely to disrupt the function of the human reproductive system?
2. Which STIs are most likely to cause permanent damage to the human reproductive system?
3. Which education program do you think was the most effective? What made it effective?

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HANDOUT		

4. What do you think are the most serious challenges for health practitioners who want to reach young people in Canada? What could be done to meet these challenges?

Extension

5. Some strategies to control the spread of STIs raise social and ethical issues. For example, some people argue that people should be able to test themselves for STIs in the privacy of their own homes. Other people believe that tests should always be conducted in a health clinic so that the results can be recorded. Working with a partner, choose an ethical issue associated with STIs. Prepare a short debate to argue both sides of the issue. What did you conclude?