

Glossary

RISKS OF ADOLESCENT SEXUAL ACTIVITY

A

asymptomatic showing no signs of a disease or disorder even though an infection or disease is present

asymptomatic stage a stage of an infection in which the infectious agent, such as HIV, is present but there are few or no symptoms of the infection

C

chlamydia (kluh MID ee uh) a bacterial STD that infects the reproductive organs and that causes a mucous discharge

E

epidemic the occurrence of more cases of a disease than expected

G

gonorrhea (GAHN uh REE uh) an STD that is caused by a bacterium that infects mucous membranes, including the genital mucous membranes

H

human papilloma virus (HPV) a group of viruses that can cause genital warts in males and females and can cause cervical cancer in females

P

pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) an inflammation of the upper female reproductive tract that is caused by the migration of a bacterial infection from the vagina

S

sexually transmitted disease (STD) an infectious disease that is spread by sexual contact

syphilis (SIF uh lis) a bacterial STD that causes ulcers or chancres; if untreated, it can lead to mental and physical disabilities and premature death