

## **ACPD**

### ***Study shows 1 in 4 American teenage girls has a Sexually Transmitted Disease***

A study, released by The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has estimated that one in four (26%) of young women aged between 14 and 19 in the United States is infected with a common sexually transmitted disease.

The study was presented at the 2008 National STD Prevention Conference in Chicago on March 11th of this year and is the first to examine the national prevalence of common STDs among adolescent women in America.

The numbers equate to about 3.2 million teenage girls in the US who are living with at least one of the most common STDs (Human papillomavirus or HPV, Chlamydia, herpes and trichomoniasis).

Sara Forhan, M.D., M.P.H., who led the study, also drew attention to the fact that African-American teenage girls were more severely affected than white teenage girls. About 48% of the African American young women surveyed were infected compared to only 20% of the young white women. Forhan also highlighted that they only tested for the most common diseases and not all, suggesting that the prevalence of all STDs could be a great deal higher.

While many of the infections will clear, some can cause infertility and cervical cancer, showing that STD screening, vaccination and other prevention strategies are of a very high priority if the devastating effects of untreated STDs are to be stopped.