

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cynde Cerf, 602.263.4225
media@ppaz.org

Planned Parenthood Arizona Encourages Young People to “Get Yourself Tested” This April

Planned Parenthood Arizona joins the American College Health Association (ACHA), the Kaiser Family Foundation, MTV, National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSd), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in a national campaign.

ARIZ., April 7, 2014— The sixth annual **GYT: Get Yourself Talking, Get Yourself Tested** campaign kicks off April (National STD Awareness Month) with online and on-the-ground initiatives across the country. **GYT** is a national campaign designed to promote sexual health and address the high rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) among people under 25.

Half of the estimated 20 million sexually transmitted diseases contracted each year occur among the under-25 age group, although they only represent one-quarter of the sexually active population. In fact, one in two sexually active young people in the U.S. will contract an STD by the time they're 25 — and most won't know it.

“Getting tested is an important part of being healthy and taking control of your sexual health. Many STDs don't have symptoms, so the only way to know your status is getting tested,” says Dr. Laura Dalton, DO, MBA, Director of Family Planning and Primary Care at Planned Parenthood Arizona. “Getting tested is easy and the sooner you know your status, the sooner you can be treated.”

During the month of April, Planned Parenthood Arizona is providing special pricing for select sexual health care services:

- Chlamydia & Gonorrhea test for individuals: \$50.00
- Chlamydia & Gonorrhea test for Couples: \$100.00
- Screening, birth control consult, and one pack of birth control pills: \$100

“Planned Parenthood is proud to offer affordable, nonjudgmental, compassionate health care and factual information about sexual health to the young people in our community. There is no better way to stay healthy than getting tested, talking to your partner about STDs, and using condoms correctly and consistently,” says Vicki Hadd-Wissler, Director of Education at Planned Parenthood Arizona.

The GYT campaign’s efforts to promote discussion and testing of STDs among young people are making a difference. A new [study](#) published in the March 2014 issue of *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* found evidence that suggests that the GYT campaign has successfully increased STD testing among youth during STD Awareness Month.

During last year’s GYT campaign, Planned Parenthood health centers nationwide tested almost 154,000 individuals.

GYT was launched in April 2009 as an ongoing promotion under It’s Your (Sex) Life, a longstanding public information partnership of MTV and the Kaiser Family Foundation. More information on GYT, testing and events in Arizona can be found online at www.ppaz.org.

###

Planned Parenthood Arizona: *In the community for 80 years, Planned Parenthood Arizona is the leading sexual health organization in Arizona. The organization provides health care, education and outreach services to more than 90,000 men, women, teens and parents annually. Planned Parenthood Arizona operates health center locations statewide. For more information, please visit www.ppaz.org. Or, find us at www.facebook.com/PlannedParenthoodAZ or [@PPArizona](https://twitter.com/PPArizona) on Twitter.*