



Bell County Public Health District
<http://www.bellcountyhealth.org>

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bell County, Texas — April is Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) awareness month. Bell County has some of the highest STD rates in the State Of Texas. For Gonorrhea, Bell County ranks second in the state and third in the state for Chlamydia. That puts Bell County rates higher than rates for larger cities such as Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.

The Bell County Public Health District is working with area leaders to reduce STD rates in Bell County. Much of the solution will be driven through education and behavior change recommendations.

The most reliable way to avoid STD infections is to not have sex. People who are sexually active may not even know if they have an STD. Symptoms can be absent with STDs so infection may not be apparent to an individual or their partner(s). Annual testing for STDs is recommended for the sexually active to identify treatment needs if they exist and reduce the spread of disease. Exposure risks can be reduced with sound education about STDs and the proper use of appropriate protection during sexual contact. Part of a good STD reduction strategy is to include candid discussions between parents and their children about STDs and how to prevent them. This is perhaps the most difficult solution to achieve, but may be the most important long term solution in reducing STDs in Bell County.

For more information about STDs, their prevention and treatment visit the Bell County Public Health District website at: www.bellcountyhealth.org or call the Belton Clinic at: 254-939-2091.

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