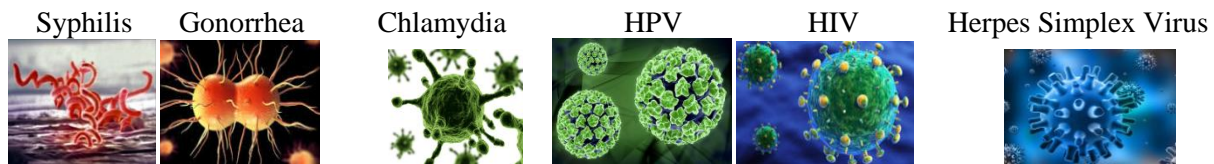


Sexually Transmitted Infections and Ethnic Communities in Canada

Canada draws immigrants from countries where the prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) is high. There is very little information of STIs in ethnocultural population in Canada. The Canadian Ethnocultural Council has gathered data on STI-related statistics reported in the home countries for five communities (Chinese, East Indian, Egyptian, Filipino, and Vietnamese). It is possible that some of the reported data may be applicable to the selected populations in Canada.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 1 million people acquire an STI every day. In Canada, STIs continue to be a growing public health concern. The consequences of STIs have a profound effect on sexual and reproductive health. The most common STIs are Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, HPV (that can cause genital warts), HIV (that can cause AIDS), and Herpes Simplex Virus (that can cause genital herpes).



A lack of awareness about the STIs and their prevention may be contributing to the increase in rates of infection. People infected with STIs often have no symptoms, which increases the difficulty in estimating how widespread the infections are. STIs are commonly found in people with HIV infection. Having an STI can increase an individual's risk of HIV infection and transmission.

**Getting tested is the only way to know your status.
There are effective treatments, and they work best when started early.**

Information on STIs for each of the communities which the CEC has been working with is available in *Fact Sheets* in English and in the language of each of the five communities. For detailed information please refer to the 2015 Training Manual for Healthcare Providers, Part 2: *“Hepatitis C and Other Related Communicable Diseases in High-Risk Immigrant Ethnic Populations: Sexually Transmitted Infections and Tuberculosis Co-infections.”* All resources are available on the hepatitis C portal of the CEC website (www.ethnocultural.ca/hepC).

Disclaimer: The information provided is for reference only. For details on the diseases, please consult a healthcare professional.