

Key messages

- Sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) affect all age groups, ethnicities and sexual orientations and can cause chronic ill health as well as infection.
- Young people are at particular risk of STIs
- Advice and contraception are free and accessible.

Other important messages to consider

- Condoms offer protection against STIs, unlike other forms of contraception. No method of contraception is 100% effective.
- If you're worried you have HIV or any other STI, get tested now. The sooner you're diagnosed, the quicker you can access treatment, so you can lead a full and healthy life.
- Common STI tests are available from most GPs, as well as contraceptive/sexual health services. They only need a urine test or a simple swab that you can do yourself.

Why is it important?

- In Camden, 8.4 people in 1,000 (aged 15-59 years) are HIV positive. In Islington, the figure is 7.9 people in 1,000.
- Reducing the rate of STIs is a priority in both boroughs.
- Young people are particularly at risk of the transmission of STIs.
 - In 2012, Camden had a significantly higher rate of diagnosed chlamydia (2,701 per 100,000) in 15 to 24 years old than London and England.
 - (2012 diagnosis rates in Islington in this group were not significantly different to rates in London or England at 2,003 per 100,000.)
- Camden and Islington are high HIV prevalence areas, with late diagnosis remaining a significant problem.

Signposting to local services and online support

<p>Central and North West London NHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discreet sexual health and HIV services and information including STI testing and treatment (GUM), contraception, HIV and viral hepatitis testing, treatment and care. • www.cnwl.nhs.uk/services/sexual-health-hiv/
<p>Do it London - is a London-wide sexual health campaign aimed at increasing HIV testing and promoting safer sex to all residents in the capital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to a doctor, nurse or health adviser about their concerns around HIV and STIs, i.e. someone to support them through the testing process. • For more information go to: www.doitlondon.org/about/
<p>Young People's Sexual Health Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across Camden and Islington for up to 25 year olds • Confidential service • Email: camish.network@homerton.nhs.uk
<p>UrLife Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting to national and Camden local sexual health and other services • http://www.urlife.org.uk