



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Treat Me Right

April is STI Awareness Month

Eau Claire, WI, April 17th, 2018- As rates of both chlamydia and gonorrhea continue to rise in Eau Claire County, we remind people to pay attention to their sexual health during STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) Awareness Month. To prevent STIs, it is important for you to ask your healthcare provider what you can do and work together so you can stay healthy.

Each year, there is an estimated 20 million sexually transmitted infections occur in the United States alone. And that number is on the rise. This is also true for Eau Claire County. The total number of cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea has been on the rise with 481 cases of chlamydia in 2016 to 507 cases in 2017 and 31 cases of gonorrhea in 2016 to 64 cases in 2017. Gonorrhea cases have jumped from 9 in 2007 to 64 in 2017.

The good news is that STIs are preventable! The only way to completely avoid getting an STI is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex. If you are sexually active, or thinking of becoming sexually active, there are steps to take to reduce the potential negative, long-term consequences of these infections.

- **Talk-** It is important to talk with your healthcare provider about your sexual health. Even if they do not bring it up, you should. They will likely ask you questions about sex as it relates to your health. Don't be nervous to ask them questions about STIs, testing, and protecting yourself.
- **Get Tested-** Getting tested is the only way you know for sure if you have an STI (some STI's don't have sign/symptoms). Many STIs can be easily diagnosed and treated.
- **Get Treated-** If either you or your partner is infected, both of you need to receive treatment (if available) at the same time to avoid getting re-infected.

The Family Planning Clinic at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department offers STI testing and treatment at low or no cost to you. The clinic also provides clients with a variety of birth control options and pregnancy testing. For more information, please visit bit.ly/FamilyPlanningClinic or call 715-839-6988 to make an appointment. To learn more about STIs, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/sam/>.

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