

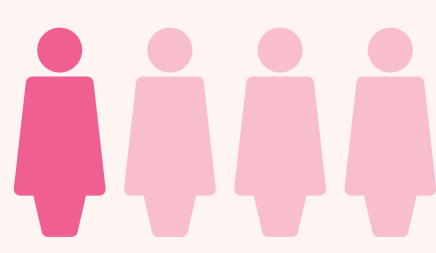
# Get the FYI on STIs

Learn what women had to say about symptoms, testing and treatments for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in a recent survey

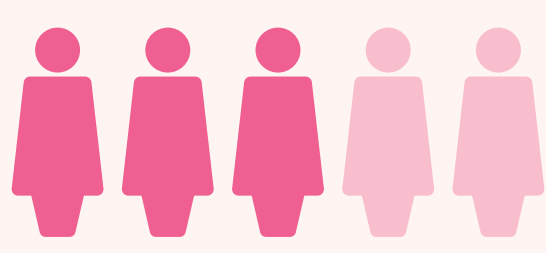
Everyone who is sexually active is at risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). And knowing you have an STI can help you get timely treatment to protect you and your partner(s).

**But too many women aren't getting tested because they think they're not at risk.**

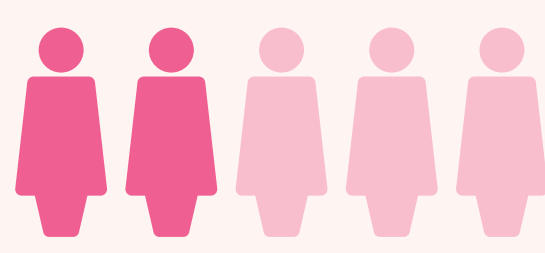
Our survey said:



Only about  
**1 in 4**  
women think they are at risk



Nearly  
**3 in 5**  
are "not at all concerned" about getting an STI in the next year



**2 out of 5**  
women haven't been tested for STIs

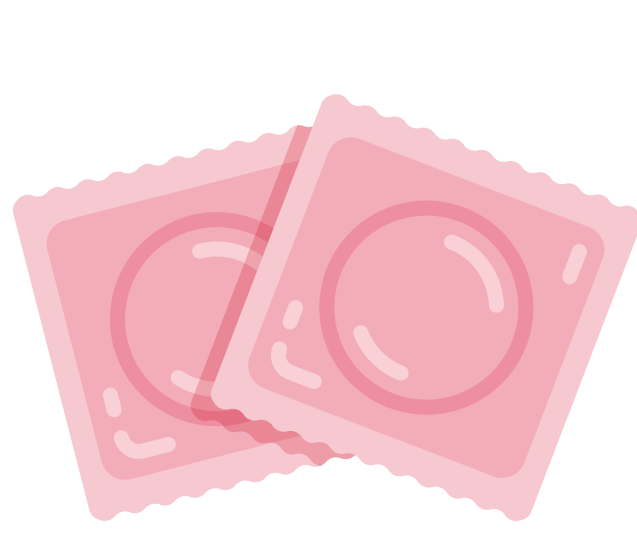
Testing is important because it helps:



Ensure timely treatment



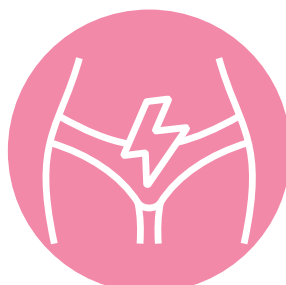
Prevent complications



Protect partners

**A majority of women get STI testing because of symptoms**

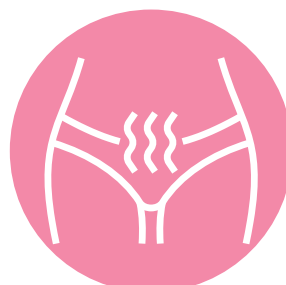
**3 out of 5**  
women have had at least 1 vaginal symptom:



Pain

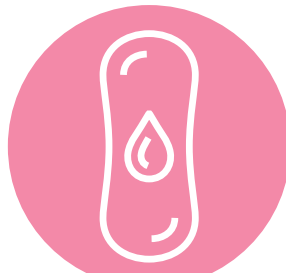


Burning



Odor

Most common symptom:  
vaginal discharge **46%**



Discharge



Irritation



Inflammation

**Vaginitis** — inflammation of the vagina — happens when there's a change in the yeast or bacteria in the vagina. It can cause similar symptoms to STIs and can also be caused by some STIs.

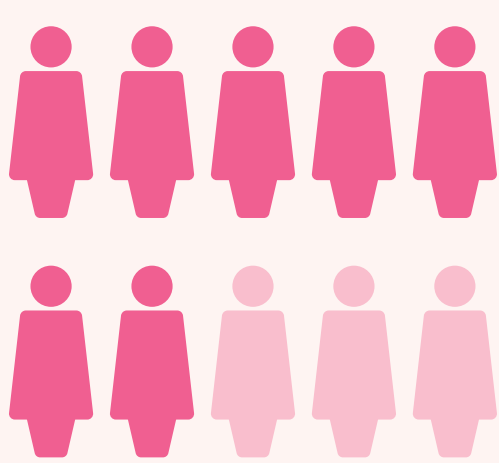
STI mythbuster:

**21%**  
said all STIs cause symptoms

**FALSE:**  
Not all STIs have symptoms.  
**Testing is the only way to protect your health and fertility.**

You can get tested for STIs at many different places:

- Healthcare provider's office
- Urgent care
- Community health clinic
- Planned Parenthood
- Emergency room
- Medical lab
- Pharmacy
- Public health department



Nearly  
**7 out of 10**  
women surveyed would go to a healthcare provider's office for vaginitis.

**3 in 5**

women identify at least 1 barrier to STI testing

Top reasons for not getting tested:

**"I am embarrassed or ashamed."**

**"I cannot afford the cost."**

If you get tested, you can get treatment.

It's important not to let concerns like embarrassment or cost keep you from being tested.

And treatment has many benefits:

- Confirm STIs
- Relief from symptoms
- Prevent serious complications like PID
- Reduce risk of infertility

## STI treatments

Oral antibiotics  
Vaginal creams  
Antiviral medications  
Lotions  
Surgical procedures  
Laser treatment

## Vaginitis treatments

Antibiotics  
Oral medications  
Antifungal cream or suppositories  
Estrogen creams, tablets or rings  
Lifestyle changes (wearing loose clothing, changing laundry detergent, etc.)



Most women surveyed didn't know about the benefits of vaginitis treatment — especially younger women (18–44) and women with lower incomes.

**Remember:** Not all STIs show symptoms, so if you're having sex — **get tested.**