

WHO IS AT RISK OF GETTING AIDS?

The fact is that AIDS can affect anyone, but there are several groups at a high risk of contracting the disease.

A sexually active person who is not maintaining a relationship with a regular partner, and does not take precautionary measures to exercise safe sex, is at risk of contracting AIDS.

Homosexuals and bisexuals are most at risk and represent a high percentage of AIDS cases in Canada.

Intravenous drug users who share contaminated needles or syringes are also at a high risk for contracting AIDS.

It is important to note, however, that you cannot catch the virus from toilet seats; from sharing food or kitchenware; from swimming pools or whirlpools; from water fountains; or from a hug or a handshake.

No research anywhere in the world has found a case of AIDS transmitted in any of these ways.

Extensive studies of families of AIDS patients have found not one case of the disease being spread through everyday contact.

PREVENTING AIDS

Please refer to page 6 of this pamphlet.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

CHLAMYDIA – WHAT IS IT?

Chlamydia is a bacteria that can give rise to many complications in men, women and children. It is estimated that Chlamydia affects 5-10% of the female population and that there are over 1 million cases in Canada. Chlamydia is infectious from the moment of contact with an infected person.

Symptoms:

Some people infected with Chlamydia will not experience any noticeable symptoms. Women who have symptoms can experience vaginal discharge and itching, lower abdominal discomfort, painful urination and bleeding between menstrual periods.