



Note to Leader

This section is not intended as a substitute for a sexual health education programme. The activities, information and actions provide a local and global justice perspective on issues relating to sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. If you would like information or training opportunities on running a sexual health programme, contact the National Youth Health Programme in NYCI, your local Health Board or your nearest Sexual Health Centre (see useful addresses section).

Aim

to explore young people's knowledge of sexual health around the world.

Age

13 years and over

Time

30 minutes

Materials

True and False sheets for each team, set of questions

What to do

Break into teams of three or four people. Label each team A, B, C and so on. Give each team a sheet marked 'True' and a sheet marked 'False'.

Alternatively use the symbols ✓ or ✗. Explain that you are going to call out a statement. The groups have 30 seconds to decide whether it is true or false. You then ask each team to hold up the appropriate sheet at the same time. Read out the correct answer, and if there is one, the explanation after each statement. At the end announce which team has the most correct answers. In the large group ask what statements surprised them and why.

True and False Statements

- STI stands for Sad Teenage Infection

False

STI stands for Sexually Transmitted Infection

- Some STIs have long-term health effects

True

STIs can be cured with medicine, but some can have long-term effects. For example, chlamydia can cause infertility in women

- You can't catch an STI the first time you have sex

False

- The only reason to use a condom is to prevent pregnancy

False

It also reduces the risk of infections such as chlamydia or HIV

- HIV and AIDS are not the same thing.

True

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that damages the body's immune system. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the late stage of HIV infection



True and False Statements

- The only way of getting HIV is through unsafe sex

False

Unlike STIs, HIV can also be passed on through drug and needle use, blood transfusions and blood products and mother to child transmission in breast milk

- You can tell if someone has HIV because they look tired and ill

False

You cannot tell if someone has HIV on the basis of how they look. It can take ten years for the onset of symptoms.

- Young people are most at risk of HIV infection

True

The age range of people most affected by HIV is 15-24 year olds.

- Every day 2000 young people become infected with HIV/AIDS

False

Approximately 8000 young people are infected with HIV each day.

- 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS

True

- There is no cure for AIDS

True

There is no cure but new medicines can help people feel healthier and live longer

- World AIDS Day is held on 1 December

True

- People in rich countries who have HIV/AIDS live healthier and longer lives

True

People in rich countries have better access to AIDS drugs and health care systems. In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 1% of people infected have access to AIDS drugs and many do not have access to basic healthcare.

- The World AIDS Day international symbol of AIDS awareness is a black ribbon

False

A red ribbon

- Young people are doing nothing to prevent the spread of STIs or HIV/AIDS

False

Young people are informing their friends and peers about sexual health in peer education programmes in Ireland and in developing countries.

- There is a strong link between access to education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS

True

Education is the strongest weapon for halting the spread of HIV/AIDS. If every child completed primary school, at least 7 million new cases of HIV would be prevented over a decade. Education also helps people living with HIV/AIDS to live longer, healthier lives.