

NATIONAL CONDOM DAY

As Cupid takes flight this month the **American Social Health Association (ASHA)** wants people everywhere to be smart and be safe. To that end, ASHA recognizes February as National Condom Month 2011 and **February 14 as National Condom Day.**

Over 19 million new cases of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) occur in the U.S. each year, but many have no symptoms and go undetected. While condoms don't offer 100% protection against STIs, the evidence is overwhelming that among those who are sexually active, consistent and correct condom use greatly reduces the risk of contracting infections like HIV, chlamydia, and gonorrhea. Research has also shown that young women whose male partners use condoms regularly cut their risk of acquiring HPV significantly.

Lynn B. Barclay, ASHA president and CEO, says people don't practice safer sex for a variety of reasons: "People think they aren't at risk because they have few partners, they don't notice any obvious signs, or because STIs only happen to 'other people.' The reality is anyone who has sex can be at risk, regardless of age or background. Safer sex is important for all of us."

February 14th

Here are the facts:

- Each year, one in four teens contracts an STD/STI
- One in two sexually active persons will contract an STD/STI by age 25
- About half of all new STDs/STIs occurred among youth ages 15 to 24

Incorrect use of condoms can be a problem. For complete discussions on condom guidelines please visit: **ASHAstd.org** (ASHA), **iwannaknow.org** (for teens), and **quierosaber.org** (Spanish language site for teens).

For more information email: **CondomDay2011@aol.com.**