

(Workowski, Berman, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010). Adolescents and women between the ages of 15 and 34 years old are most likely to become infected, especially if they have multiple partners. Many people are unaware that they are infected and transmit the disease unknowingly.

Five different viruses (hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D, and E) account for almost all cases of viral hepatitis in humans. These are discussed in [Chapter 22](#).

HIV is a bloodborne pathogen and transmission of the virus can occur through the perinatal period, sexual intercourse with an infected person, or sharing needles with an infected person. HIV is discussed in [Chapter 24](#).

Nursing Care Management

Nursing responsibilities encompass all aspects of STI education, confidentiality, prevention, and treatment. Part of the sex education of young people should include providing information about STIs, including their symptoms and treatment, and dispelling the myths associated with their mode of transmission. Many vulnerable adolescents are uninformed or misinformed about STIs.

Primary prevention efforts for STIs include encouraging abstinence and postponing sexual involvement, encouraging condom use, and ensuring vaccination for hepatitis A and B and HPV. Nurses play a role in secondary prevention by helping to identify early cases and referring adolescents for treatment. Nurses can also be involved in tertiary prevention by decreasing the medical and psychological effects of STIs; conducting support groups for adolescents with HIV, HSV, and HPV infections; and assisting pregnant adolescents in obtaining adequate prenatal screening and treatment of STIs.

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

PID is an infectious process that most commonly involves the uterine tubes, uterus, and rarely the ovaries and peritoneal surfaces. Multiple organisms have been found to cause PID and common agents include *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *C. trachomatis*, and a variety of other aerobic and anaerobic bacteria. It is estimated that each year 800,000 women of reproductive age experience an episode of PID,