

What do you think are the most common misconceptions regarding STIs?

Identify 2-3 misconceptions/myths regarding STIs.

Do you think these misconceptions differ on the global level?

Select one of the misconceptions you picked and provide a country and a way that you would try to address the misconception with accurate information.

Misconceptions/Myths Regarding STIs:

- "If I have an STI, I will know immediately."
- "If I only have oral sex, I can't contract a sexually transmitted infection."
- "With 21st Century medicine, there is no need to worry about STIs. It only takes a course of antibiotics and you are fine again!"

I believe these are some of the most common misconceptions regarding STIs, because with minimal knowledge about STIs/STDs, they may seem somewhat reasonable, whereas these statements are false to some extent.

Even thinking about these misconceptions at a global level, generally, I don't think these misconception differing on a global level, because these misconceptions can seem true at first glance. Without any further information regarding these myths, they can seem realistic.

"If I have an STI, I will know immediately." But in truth, most people can be asymptomatic with a variety of STIs. For example, in southwest Uganda, most individuals only know about HIV/AIDs and STDs because they have personally experienced them. Without much more education about STIs though, how would individuals know that one can be asymptomatic even when they do have an STI?

In southwest Uganda, many individuals don't have access to many standard health education materials and resources. A way to try to address further information to the public about these misconceptions with accurate information and more, is to make the effort to provide that appropriate health education within the society. Either through workshops or classes within their schools or within their general public areas, maybe even simply offering simple handouts regarding such information can be highly impactful.

Sources:

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