# **Shaving or waxing your vagina could kill you, new research reveals**

PUT down your razors ladies – going bare down there could be deadly.

By [Laura Hampson](http://www.dailystar.co.uk/journalists/laura-mitchell) / Published 8th December 2016ETTY

Ever since Carrie Bradshaw of *Sex And The City* made the [Brazilian wax a cultural phenomenon](http://www.dailystar.co.uk/fashion-beauty/492727/Vagina-Brazilian-wax-bikini-line-pubic-hair-removal-kill-fatal-infection-STDs) back in 2000, women the world over have [been waxing and shaving their pubic hair](http://www.dailystar.co.uk/real-life/472993/Pubic-hair-trends-2015-cost-vagina-sanitary-products).

But a new study from the University of California has revealed people who regularly groom down there are 75% more likely to [develop a sexually transmitted infection](http://www.dailystar.co.uk/love-sex/545559/STI-STD-symptoms-quiz-sexual-health-myths) than those who don't.

STIs are already the most common infection among adults. This year STIs were reported to be at a record high, with 1.5 million cases of chlamydia, 400,000 of gonorrhea and almost 24,000 of syphilis recorded in the US in 2015 alone.

These reported cases were highest among the 15-24 age group, who also account for half of the nearly 20 million new STIs each year.

The survey asked 7,580 US residents aged 18-65 about their grooming habits, sexual behaviours and STI history.

They concluded one of the reasons for the correlation between STIs and shaving your pubic hair is shaving could directly result in "epidermal microtears" which could allow transmission of bacteria or viruses like HPV.

"Our hypothesis is that grooming is positively related to STIs,” researchers wrote.

“A better understanding of the relation between pubic hair grooming and STI risk could lead to improved STI-reduction strategies.”

The study also found "extreme groomers" (who removed their pubic hair more than 11 times a year) and "high-frequency groomers" (those who trimmed daily or weekly) were at a considerably greater risk.

The authors of the study also suggested those who trim or remove their pubic hair more frequently may be "more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour" and have a "larger number of sexual partners", increasing their chance of receiving an STI.

However, researchers said there is one upside to the grooming trend: you are less likely to catch pubic lice if you're a groomer.