

Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region Health Centers

Central West End · South Grand · North County · St. Peters · West County · Fairview Heights, IL

Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading sexual and reproductive health care provider. For over 75 years, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region has served more than one million women, men and teens since 1932 throughout the greater St. Louis region. With six health centers throughout the area, PPSLR offers services on a sliding fee scale so that no one is ever turned away based on inability to pay.

Well-Woman Care

Vital to a woman's gynecological health, our well-woman exam includes a pap smear, pelvic exam, breast exam, information and education about different birth control methods, and STI and HIV testing.

Birth control

Used to prevent pregnancy and plan the timing of pregnancy, birth control is also commonly known as contraception. People have used birth control methods for thousands of years and PPSLR provides many safe and effective birth control methods today: Birth control pills, Depo-Provera, OrthoEvra, Nuvaring Vaginal Ring, Intrauterine Device, FemCap, Implanon, Vasectomy, Intrauterine contraception, Diaphragm, Vaginal Contraceptive Film, male condoms and female condoms.

Emergency Contraception

Emergency contraception, commonly known as the morning after pill or Plan B, is a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy up to five days after unprotected intercourse. The hormones in emergency contraception work by keeping a woman's ovaries from releasing eggs and by thickening a woman's cervical mucus. With an egg and with extra mucus to block sperm, pregnancy cannot happen. Emergency contraception is available to anyone on a walk-in basis.

Pregnancy Testing & Counseling

Pregnancy testing is available on a walk-in basis. Whether a woman chooses parenthood, adoption or abortion our counselors will provide assistance with information, referrals and obtaining medical advice and care.

Cancer Screenings

PPSLR offers screenings for women and men for breast, cervical, prostate and testicular cancer.

HPV Screening and Treatment

There are over 100 types of the human papilloma virus (HPV) with over 40 of those that affect the genital area – the vulva, vagina, cervix, rectum, anus, penis or scrotum. At any given time, about 20 million people in the U.S. have a type of HPV. High-risk types of genital HPV are linked to cervical cancer.

PPSLR offers screenings for HPV and vaccinations for those infected with the virus. Gardasil[®] is a three-shot regimen that protects against two forms of HPV that lead to cervical cancer. The vaccine is recommended for girls and young women ages 9-26 who have not yet been exposed to the virus. Eligible young women between 9 and 26 are able to receive the vaccine for free through a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

Urinary Tract Infection Diagnosis and Treatment

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are caused by bacteria that have spread from the rectum or vagina to the urethra and bladder. They may be caused by a sexually transmitted infection. UTIs include infections of the bladder — also called cystitis; the ureters — the tubes that lead from the kidneys to the bladder; and the urethra — the tube that carries urine from the bladder out of the body. Severe cases, left untreated, may cause kidney infection.

HIV Testing and Treatment

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is transmitted in blood, semen, vaginal fluids and breast milk. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is the most advanced stage of HIV. PPSLR offers confidential HIV testing through standard blood testing (with results available 2 to 3 weeks after testing) and rapid testing (with results available in ten minutes).

Testing and information about HIV is available on a walk-in basis. Free standard HIV testing is available for free at all PPSLR health centers on the first Thursday of every month.

Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing & Treatment

Herpes Testing & Treatment

A very common infection, herpes is caused by two different but closely related viruses: herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) and herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2). Both are easy to catch, remain in the body for life and can produce symptoms that come and go. Both forms of herpes can infect the oral or genital area. Up to 8 out of 10 American adults have oral herpes and about 1 out of 4 American adults have genital herpes. Millions of people do not know they have herpes because they never had, or noticed, the herpes symptoms.

Chlamydia

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection that is caused by a kind of bacteria and can infect the penis, vagina, cervix, anus, urethra, eye or throat. St. Louis is nationally ranked #1 in having the most people per capita infected with Chlamydia.

Gonorrhea

This sexually transmitted infection caused by bacteria can infect the penis, vagina, cervix, anus, urethra or throat. Sometimes called "the clap" or "the drip," gonorrhea can be a serious health risk if it is not treated. It affects about 600,000 women and men in the United States every year and St. Louis is nationally ranked #1 in cases of gonorrhea per capita.

Syphilis

Left untreated, the syphilis organism — spirochete — can remain in the body for life and lead to disfigurement, neurologic disorder or death. There are 35,000 new cases reported each year in the U.S. and St. Louis is ranked #5 in cases of syphilis per capita.

Vaginitis

Short for vulvovaginitis, vaginitis is any irritation in the vagina and is caused by allergies, infections, irritants (douches, feminine hygiene sprays and perfumed soaps), lack of the hormone estrogen or sexual activity.

Trichomoniasis

This infection is caused by the protozoan trichomona — a microscopic, one-cell animal. Often called "trich," more than eight million Americans are infected with trichomoniasis every year.

Bacterial Vaginosis

Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is a condition caused by a change in the balance of different kinds of bacteria in the vagina. BV is associated with premature delivery, low birth weight, and pelvic inflammatory disease and can increase the risk for HIV infection.