



Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio

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**PLANNED PARENTHOOD MARKS NATIONAL CONDOM WEEK BY URGING  
PARTNERS TO PROTECT THEIR SEXUAL HEALTH**

*Nearly 19 million STDs and more than 3 Million unintended pregnancies occur each year*

*Columbus, Ohio*— With National Condom Week beginning today through February 21, Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio urges sexually active individuals to talk to their partners about the importance of using condoms to protect against sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and unintended pregnancy. Nearly 19 million STDs and more than 3 million unintended pregnancies occur each year, and condoms are the only form of contraception that also helps reduce the risk of STDs.

“Education and communication equip people to make responsible decisions about their health,” said Stephanie Kight, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio. “We provide comprehensive sexuality programs from abstinence to birth control—including the proper use of condoms—to help Ohioans protect their reproductive health. In 2011, we provided education classes and workshops to nearly 16,000 people.

“Data shows many people who have a sexually transmitted infection don’t even realize it, so it’s important for people to let their partners know that they want to use condoms every time they have sex to keep them both healthy.”

Contradicting long-established beliefs, a study published in the February issue of the *Journal of Sexual Medicine* found that men and women rated recent sexual experiences as highly pleasurable whether or not condoms were used.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2010* estimates that nearly 19 million STDs occur each year, nearly half of which are among 15- to 24-year-olds. Biological factors place women at greater risk of infection than men, and contribute to more severe health consequences for women, so Planned Parenthood’s line of stylish PROPER ATTIRE® condoms is designed to help women feel more comfortable buying and carrying condoms.

Every year Planned Parenthood health centers provide nearly 3 million women, men, and teens nationwide with health services, and more than 1 million with education to prevent STDs and unintended pregnancy.

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[Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio](http://www.ppgoh.org) has 21 health center locations and has served Ohioans with quality health services for 85 years. The affiliate offers a full range of reproductive health care services including life-saving cancer screenings, well woman exams, birth control, STI testing and treatment, comprehensive sexuality education, and more. More than 60 percent of the patients who rely on Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio are uninsured or underinsured. Learn more at <http://www.ppgoh.org>.