



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas Encourages Young Texans to “Get Yourself Tested” This April**

Austin/Dallas/Fort Worth/Paris/Tyler/Waco—The eighth annual **GYT: Get Yourself Tested** campaign kicks off in April with online and on-the-ground activities across the country. GYT is designed to promote sexual health and address the disproportionately high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among young people under 25. The national campaign is a collaborative effort of MTV, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas’ health centers offer same-day appointments for low or no cost testing and treatment for STIs. Patients can walk in, call, or go online to make an appointment. In many cases, patients who receive a positive diagnosis for an STI leave that appointment with prescription medication to treat the infection.

In addition to health services, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas also brings age-appropriate, medically accurate health education to thousands of people each year. Throughout the month of April, radio, digital, and print ads encouraging young people to seek testing for STIs will appear throughout Central and North Texas.

Half of the estimated 20 million STIs contracted each year occur among the under-25 age group, although they only represent one-quarter of the sexually active population. In fact, **1 in 2 sexually active young people in the U.S. will contract an STI by age 25—and most won’t know it.** Common STIs include chlamydia, gonorrhea, human papillomavirus (HPV), trichomoniasis, and HIV.

**“Regular STI testing is part of staying healthy, and is a great way to take care of yourself and your partner. The good news is that nearly all STIs—including HIV—are treatable, and many are curable,”** said Beth Watson, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas Vice President of Health Services. **“Most STIs have no symptoms. That means testing is usually the only way to know your status. That allows you to pursue treatment options quickly, and take steps to keep your partner safe.”**

Last year Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas provided **98,136** tests, treatments, and/or vaccinations for STI’s, including **14,777** HIV tests and **450** HPV vaccinations.

### **LEARN MORE**

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to get regular updates on events, reports and important health information throughout the year as part of our [Planned Parenthood 2016: Your Partner for a Healthy Community](#) campaign.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION:** #GYT #PartnerforHealth

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Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas provides healthcare and education services to nearly 85,000 Central and North Texans each year in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Paris, Tyler, Waco, and surrounding communities. Schedule your next appointment at [ppgreatertx.org](http://ppgreatertx.org) or call us at **1-800-230-PLAN**. Now accepting insurance.