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Health District observes STD Awareness Month; Encourages testing

LAS VEGAS – During the first three months of 2008, Southern Nevada recorded more than 2,000 cases of Chlamydia, more than 600 cases of gonorrhea, and more than 50 syphilis cases. Each of these can be easily treated and cured. As part of National STD Awareness Month, the Southern Nevada Health District encourages everyone to get tested and get the facts about sexually transmitted diseases. The health district's STD clinic provides testing, treatment, exams, referrals, and counseling. All visits are confidential. The clinic is open Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For information, contact the clinic at (702) 759-0708 or visit the health district website www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org.

The health district's drop-in clinic provides low-cost services. Exams, including treatment (if necessary) are \$25. The clinic is located inside the main location, 625 Shadow Lane. Diagnosis and treatment of several STDs are provided as well as test result reports, high-risk behavior counseling, and referrals.

There are nearly 19 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases in the United States annually. Because symptoms do not develop, people are not aware they are infected and unknowingly infect their partners. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends routine Chlamydia testing for women under age 26, and for women who are pregnant or have new or multiple partners. CDC also recommends routine HIV testing for those ages 13-64.