



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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Kalamazoo County Launches Free Condom Campaign for STD Awareness Month

KALAMAZOO, MI— April is STD Awareness Month, and the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department encourages those who are sexually active to practice safer sex. Cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea, two of the most common STDs, continue to increase each year in Kalamazoo County. Often those who are infected do not have any symptoms, and are unaware they are spreading the disease. Condoms remain one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of STD transmission.

To combat the spread of STDs, and in observance of STD Awareness Month, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is launching the Wear One campaign and offering FREE condoms to local businesses throughout Kalamazoo County. The Wear One Campaign was developed in 2014 by the Ottawa County Department of Public Health to increase free condom availability, create awareness, and promote the acceptance of condom use. The goal of Wear One is to decrease STDs and unplanned pregnancies by removing barriers to condom access. To date over 30 counties across Michigan have participated in the Wear One campaign.

Several counties in Michigan have successfully carried out the Wear One campaign in their communities. Health departments provide condom packets to local business partners for distribution to the public at no cost. Condom packets include ten condoms, a packet of lubricant, and an informational card on STD prevention. The CDC supports condom distribution programs as a structural intervention to prevent the spread of STDs, including HIV.

"It is important that we promote condom use as an effective method for STD prevention," said James Rutherford, Health Officer for Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. "By making condoms available, accessible, and acceptable to community members, we are working to reduce the burden of sexually transmitted diseases in our county and reduce medical costs associated with disease diagnosis and treatment."

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is currently seeking local businesses to partner in the Wear One campaign. Please visit www.kalcountry.com/WearOne for more information on how to become a Wear One site.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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