Students prime age for infection

Increased sexual activity of university-aged people makes the group particularly prone to syphilis.

"It's not something that's causing any panic or people running to the checks, but we check for it all the time," McKinney said. "What we really need to do is to get the information out, because it's not common, but it's there and we see it."

In the first stage of syphilis, the bacteria Treponema pallidum causes painless sores, called chancre, which can grow in the rectum or cervix, reducing noise. During the second stage, the bacteria spread to the bloodstream and cause skin rashes, often on the palms and soles. Syphilis is most common during the primary and secondary stages, and a person's chance of contracting HIV increases. Once syphilis transitions into the third stage, visible symptoms like rashes, disappear, but internal damage occurs to organs and the central nervous system can be fatal.

The Alberta government launched an awareness campaign in March to help stop the spread of syphilis, which has affected Albertans from 15-61 years old. Also of concern is the fact that nine babies have been born with the infection in the past two years.

Off of campus, the Sexually Transmitted Disease Centre (1111 Jasper Avenue) provides free confidential assessment, testing and counselling for sexually transmitted infections and HIV, among other services.

U of A Scholarships are the solution!

Undergraduate Student Awards

The Student Awards Office has several scholarship competitions running over the summer. Each competition has it's own set of criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the following descriptions.

For more information on these and other competitions please visit our website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards or the Student Awards Office at 1-80 Students' Union Building.