
COSAF
Presentation
STI/HIV
Referendum

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What is STI/HIV testing?

- HIV and STI testing helps detect sexually transmitted infections like HIV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia.
- The most common symptom of an STI, including HIV, is no symptom. If left untreated, STIs such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis can lead to long-term, irreversible health outcomes.
 - Examples of these health outcomes are blindness, neurological manifestations, infertility, birthgiver to child transmission of birth defects, etc.
- STI rates are at an all-time high in the United States (CDC, 2021).
- The National STI Plan calls on public health entities to synergize STI and HIV advocacy, as STI prevention and treatment success is integral to the success of HIV prevention and treatment.

How often do students need to test?

- In general, according to the CDC, anyone who has had oral, vaginal and/or anal sex should get tested at least annually for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HIV. Anyone at an increased risk for syphilis should be screened for that as well.
- Everyone ages 13-65 should have an HIV test at least once in their lifetime, and at least annually if certain risk factors are present (e.g., having multiple sexual partners without condoms or pre-exposure prophylaxis, people who inject drugs, people who are receiving treatment for a sexually transmitted infection, etc.).
- Some people – such as sexually active gay, bisexual and other sexually active queer folks – may benefit from more frequent testing (i.e., every 3-6 months) for both STIs and HIV.

UC Davis + College Student Testing Statistics



- **In Yolo county there are no free testing sites.** Students must travel to Sacramento if they need to access free testing.
- UC Davis is located across Sacramento County, which the CDC considers priority jurisdiction for HIV infections, and students often travel to Sacramento County to socialize.
- Out of students who are from the age of 13-24, only 56% only knew their HIV status.
- Among UC Davis students, shows that only 15.9% of students responded that they have had at least one HIV test in their lifetime lower than the UC average of 25.5% (from American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment III, conducted in Spring 2021).
- NCHA also found that 30% of students who were on another insurance plan reported delays or avoided medical or mental health services due to privacy concerns.



Current Barriers to Students Getting Tested

The most common barriers to STI/HIV testing include:

- **Cost**
- **Privacy Concerns**
- Underestimation of need for testing*
- **Time / Personal Schedule**
- Fear of needles (but not all HIV tests use them!)
- Fear of a Positive Result
- **Stigma*** and Systemic Oppression
- Mistrust of the Healthcare System

The bolded barriers can be addressed through free testing for all students.

*Extra education can be provided on these topics to advertise the free testing service by SCHS.

Costs of STI/HIV Testing at SCHS

With UC SHIP

Free for students with UC SHIP, who only make up 51% of UC Davis students

Out of Pocket Costs with NO Insurance

Currently: \$100 for each testing event

Starting the 2024-2025 school year: \$305 for each testing event



4 Year Interval (If testing costs stay the same)	Comprehensive STI/HIV Testing Cost without Fee Proposal for Non-SHIP students (3 months interval testing)	Comprehensive STI/HIV Testing Cost for All Students with new Fee , including non-SHIP students (3 months interval testing)
Year 1	\$1220 (\$305 per testing event, 4 times a year)	\$51.23
Year 2	\$1220	\$51.23
Year 3	\$1220	\$51.23
Year 4	\$1220	\$51.23
Total	\$4,880 dollars for 4 Years	\$204.92 for 4 Years



Why does testing need to be provided as a free service by the university?



Ensuring that STI/HIV testing is as freely available as possible would:

- Support students' physical and mental health
- De-stigmatize STIs/HIV
- Normalize testing
- Support students who cannot access transportation
- Support students with inflexible schedules (ex: working, etc.)
- Follow recommended public health practice to provide widespread preventative care

Free testing helps maintain privacy and removes financial barriers – particularly for students who are insurance dependents and/or don't have the UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UC SHIP).



Which Students Would Benefit the Most from Free STI/HIV Testing?



It is estimated that free STI/HIV testing would have the most impact for students who:

- Are lower income/Medi-cal (and therefore more likely to experience food and housing insecurity)
- Are unable to travel off-campus
- Do not have comprehensive health insurance plans
- Have concerns about insurance navigation and privacy
- Are part of those communities most affected by STIs/HIV (e.g., queer, trans, BIPOC, undocumented students, etc.)



What is the referendum asking for?



- \$17.08 new student fee per quarter, followed by CPI adjustments after Spring 2023, in order to provide for: free HIV and STI testing for all undergraduate students, regardless of their insurance status.
- A yes vote will “support the passage of this new student fee in order to provide free HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis testing regardless of insurance status.”
- A no vote will “will reject the passage of a new student fee, and continue the status quo of students without UC SHIP, which is 1 in 2 UCD Students, to pay out of pocket for HIV /STI testing.”



WHY does this referendum have to be passed NOW?

- Health subsidies for STI/HIV testing are expiring at the Student Health Center.
- All students who are not on UC SHIP will be charged the full amount to get STI/HIV testing.
- With the subsidies, the price is \$100 for a full panel currently, but after 2024, the price is going up to \$305 per student for a full panel.

How did we get the \$17.08 Amount?

- We are asking for \$17.08 per quarter.
- \$40.98 per year needed for testing services + 25% going to financial aid = \$51.23.
- Only students who have free testing right now are UC SHIP students. Using that percent of UC SHIP students who use the service when they have it for free, calculations were made to determine the cost for all students.
- The total estimated cost using that is \$1,302,932.
- \$1,302,932 divided by 31,797 undergraduates = a fee of \$40.98 a quarter
- 25% going to financial aid is \$10.25.

Things to Note

Aren't HIV/STI costs already lowered at the Student Health and Counseling Center?

- The subsidy for lowered HIV/STI testing is ending this year.
- Starting 2024-2025, costs for students are reverting back to the original testing costs, which is \$305 per testing event if students don't have UC SHIP.
 - Only 44% of undergraduate students are opted into UC SHIP.

How comparable is UC Davis testing costs with other UCs?

	Cost: GC/CT in 3 Sites; HIV; Syphilis	Cost: HIV Blood Draw
Berkeley	\$91	\$23
Davis	\$100	\$30
Santa Cruz	\$104.50	\$0 - \$28
Santa Barbara	\$184	\$90
San Diego	\$55 - \$200	\$14 - \$115
Irvine	\$68 - \$246	\$25 - \$46
Los Angeles	\$250	\$0 - \$49
Riverside	\$798.05	\$375

Currently, UC Davis is the second least expensive university for a comprehensive testing panel. However, after the increase starting in 2024, UC Davis will become the second most expensive university for a HIV/STI testing event.

Things to Note (continued)

Will students have to pay twice for HIV/STI Testing at SCHS if they are opted into UC SHIP?

- UC SHIP costs for preventative testing covers HIV/STI testing at other locations, not just at the SCHS, so “paying twice” is not an accurate picture of their coverage.

What if the funds for the quarter run out and students still need testing?

- Because this funding estimate is directly from the SCHS, it is highly unlikely that the funds for the quarter will run out.
- If they do, the testing costs will revert to the costs they were previously. This will be made clear on the referendum.
- If this occurs consistently, Student Affairs, who will be controlling the fund, can increase the rates in future years.

Can't non UC SHIP students use the Health Equity fund to cover their testing?

- The Health Equity fund is designed for one time big expenses, not for continual testing that should occur every 3 months for many students.