

## AK14. STI KNOWLEDGE SCALE

### USE WHEN YOU WANT TO EVALUATE:

#### Outcomes :

- ✓ Awareness and knowledge

#### Intervention types:

- ✓ Targeted education activities for priority population
- ✓ Targeted awareness activities for priority population
- ✓ Skill building sessions to increase capacity to engage in risk reduction behaviors
- ✓ Outreach to priority populations for awareness and education

#### Suitable for all priority populations:

- ✓ All

#### Interventions for:

- ✓ HIV
- ✓ STI

### DESCRIPTION

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This scale is a 27-question measure of STI knowledge, covering human papillomavirus (HPV), hepatitis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia.

#### WHY THIS TOOL MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- ✓ Scale is able to detect differences among groups with different knowledge level (valid)
- ✓ Questions fit together well and give stable measurement over time (reliable)
- ✓ Suitable for before and after testing of a program's effects
- ✓ Easily completed and analysed
- ✓ Could easily be programmed to be given electronically

#### Developed in:

- ✓ English

### ADMINISTRATION, DESIGN, SCORING and ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

#### ADMINISTRATION

- These questions will take about 15 minutes to fill out each time.
- Tell participants why you are using the questionnaire, being clear that it is to evaluate the intervention, to help make it better and not them.
- Participation should be voluntary, so tell participants that it is ok if they do not complete the questionnaire, and assure participants that there are no negative consequences if they don't want to complete, it. Give them a way to do something else at the same time that is similar to completing the survey so that confidentiality of this decision is protected (For further information on ethical considerations in carrying out evaluations, see [Ethics Resources](#))
- If used in a group setting, ensure that people feel safe and that the space is confidential; no one can see their answers (can see their screen or papers), and put completed questionnaires into a sealed envelope.

**Measuring before and after intervention** (this is the best option because it measures real change)

1. **WHEN TO USE:** Have the questionnaires filled out before the intervention or at the very beginning of it, and again after, as close to the end as possible (often the very last session is not suitable because it may be a celebration, or have low attendance).

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2. **LINKING RESULTS:** Include a way to match the same person's pre and post questionnaires while protecting confidentiality, for example using a password that respondents generate and remember (see [Tips for passwords](#)).

3. **SCORING:** Create each person's total pre-program and post-program STI Knowledge Scores by calculating their total number of correct answers, with a score of zero for wrong and a score of 1 for correct. Questions 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 14 are **TRUE** as worded and questions 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 are **FALSE**. Count "don't know" answers as wrong. Scores can range from 0 to 27.

4. **ANALYSIS:** Compare the pre and post scores for each individual, noting how many people improve, how many stay the same, and how many get worse.

**Measuring change only after the end of an intervention:** (this is the second best option, because people often think the intervention has had more effect than it really did)

1. Adapt all the questions so that they ask people what their answer is now and what it was before the intervention

For example, for question 1, ask: "Now I think genital herpes is caused by the same virus as HIV." AND "Before the workshop, I thought genital herpes is caused by the same virus as HIV." (See an [example](#) of a questionnaire with before and after versions)

2. **SCORING:** Create each person's total pre-program and post-program STI Knowledge Scores by calculating their total number of correct answers, with a score of zero for wrong and a score of 1 for correct. Questions 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 27 are **TRUE** as worded and questions 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 are **FALSE**. Count "don't know" answers as wrong. Scores can range from 0 to 27.

3. **ANALYSIS:** Compare the pre and post scores for each individual, noting how many people say they improve, how many stay the same, and how many get worse.

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		True	False	Don't Know
1.	Genital herpes is caused by the same virus as HIV.	T	F	DK
2.	Frequent urinary infections can cause chlamydia.	T	F	DK
3.	There is a cure for gonorrhea.	T	F	DK
4.	It is easier to get HIV if a person has another sexually transmitted infection.	T	F	DK
5.	Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is caused by the same virus that causes HIV.	T	F	DK
6.	Having anal sex increases a person's risk of getting Hepatitis B.	T	F	DK
7.	Soon after infection with HIV a person develops open sores on his or her genitals (penis or vagina).	T	F	DK
8.	There is a cure for chlamydia.	T	F	DK
9.	A woman who has genital herpes can pass the infection to her baby during childbirth.	T	F	DK
10.	A woman can look at her body and tell if she has gonorrhea.	T	F	DK
11.	The same virus causes all of the sexually transmitted infections.	T	F	DK
12.	Human Papillomavirus (HPV) can cause genital warts.	T	F	DK
13.	Using a natural skin (lambskin) condom can protect a person from getting HIV.	T	F	DK
14.	Human Papillomavirus (HPV) can lead to cancer in women.	T	F	DK
15.	A man must have vaginal sex to get genital warts.	T	F	DK
16.	Sexually transmitted infections can lead to health problems that are usually more serious for men than women.	T	F	DK
17.	A woman can tell that she has chlamydia if she has a bad smelling odor from her vagina.	T	F	DK
18.	If a person tests positive for HIV, the test can tell how sick the person will become.	T	F	DK
19.	There is a vaccine available to prevent a person from getting gonorrhea.	T	F	DK
20.	A woman can tell by the way her body feels if she has a sexually transmitted infection.	T	F	DK
22.	A person who has genital herpes must have open sores to give the infection to his or her sexual partner.	T	F	DK
21.	There is a vaccine that prevents a person from getting chlamydia.	T	F	DK
23.	A man can tell by the way his body feels if he has hepatitis B.	T	F	DK
24.	If a person had gonorrhea in the past he or she is immune (protected) from getting it again.	T	F	DK
25.	Human Papillomavirus (HPV) can cause HIV.	T	F	DK
26.	A man can protect himself from getting genital warts by washing his genitals after sex.	T	F	DK
27.	There is a vaccine that can protect a person from getting hepatitis B.	T	F	DK

**Source:**

Jaworski, B., Carey, M. (2007) **Development and Psychometric Evaluation of a Self-administered Questionnaire to Measure Knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Diseases**, AIDS Behav (2007) 11:557–574