Caused by:
- Viruses
- bacteria (cured if you take meds must be treated early on)
- parasites (easiest to treat, creams and antibiotics)

Major problem because STD treatment costs high, unaffordable for some

Young people are at particular risk of STDs

Some don’t have immediate symptoms
People who look very healthy may have them
Lots of people have them w/o knowing it

Serious long-term consequences
- Pain (arthritis, ectopic pregnancies)
- Disfigurement
- Reproductive system damage (ex. sterility=can’t have child)
- Cancer (many different types)
- Death

Most often transmitted through
- Vaginal sex
- Anal sex
- Oral sex
- Genital contact (HPV and herpes) =>skin-to-skin contact can transmit
- Pregnant or breastfeeding woman infecting child
- Sharing needles or injection equipment (ex. IV drugs, tattoos, piercings)

Anyone who is sexually active has risk, but these behaviors can increase risk:
- Having multiple partners
- Abusing drugs, including alcohol
- Unprotected sex

HIV/AIDS
- HIV=human immunodeficiency virus =>it is a virus, you will have it for life
  =>leads to AIDS if not treated at early stage
- AIDS=acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- HIV attacks and weakens body’s immune system=susceptible to various infections and diseases
- If you treat HIV early, you can survive/live by taking meds and keeping virus at dormant state
- Standard length before going into AIDS=around 15yrs
- Many don’t develop symptoms until long after being infected
- Only way to be certain=to get tested
- Goes after white blood cells =>T cells
  =>if T cells count below 200=AIDS