National Coalition of STD Directors

CHLAMYDIA, GONORRHEA & SYPHILIS: STDS ON THE RISE

What are sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)?

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are passed from person to person through sexual activity. These infections can be bacterial, viral or parasitic. While many STDs can be cured or treated with medication, the consequences of untreated STDs can include: infertility, pregnancy complications, cervical cancer, pelvic inflammatory disease, birth defects, and an up to 5-fold increased risk of HIV transmission.

A public health crisis

The U.S. has the highest rate of STDs in the industrialized world, with approximately twenty million new cases of STDs each year. This will cost the healthcare system $16 billion dollars. These rates mean severe healthcare concerns for all members of society.

STDs in the U.S. are at the highest levels ever recorded and continue to increase yearly

Syphilis increased	Chlamydia increased	Gonorrhea increased	Congenital Syphilis increased
15.7%	83%	40%	45%

since 2003

Reasons for concern: The cost of STDs in the U.S.

Health outcomes

STDs can be life threatening. If untreated, STDs can lead to serious health outcomes including pelvic inflammatory diseases, infertility, and event death. Congenital syphilis (mother-child) leads to infant death or unviability in up to 40% of cases and is on the rise. STDs also increase the chances of acquiring incurable STDs like HIV.

Hefty price tag

STD prevention avoids STD costs. It's estimated that STDs alone burden the health care system with $16 billion in health care costs.

Syphillis

Syphilis is an STD that is spread during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. If left untreated syphilis can cause serious health problems, and if left untreated in a pregnant woman, the infection can be transmitted from the mother to the unborn baby (congenital syphilis). Without adequate treatment syphilis can spread to the brain and nervous system (neurosyphilis) and, in some cases, lead to death.

Congenital Syphillis

Congenital syphillis is when a pregnant mother who has syphilis spreads the disease through the placenta to her unborn infant.

Once eradicated, congenital syphilis is on the rise and at historic levels. Among 40% of congenital syphilis cases result in still birth, while others have resulted in birth defects.

Syphilis in the U.S.

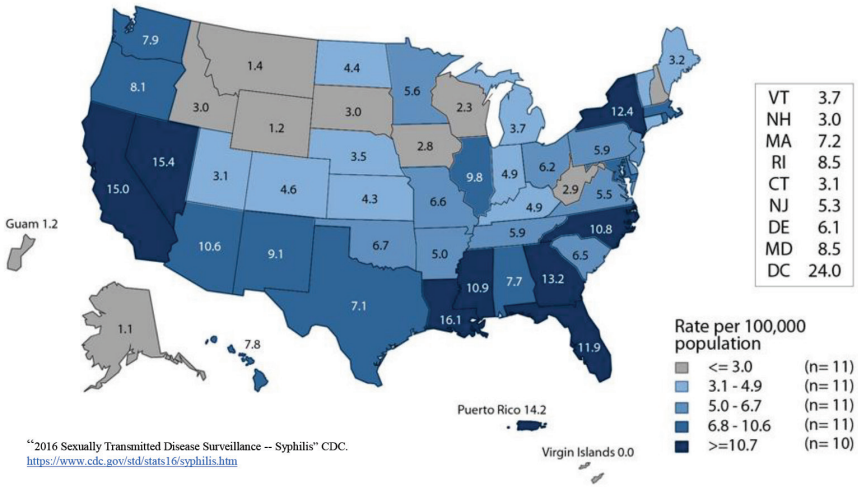
The United States is currently seeing the highest rates of primary and secondary syphilis it has ever seen. Western U.S. is seeing highest rates of primary and secondary syphilis, followed by the South and the Northeast, and then the Midwest.

15.7%
Increase in syphilis cases
since 2003

35.7%
Increase in cases of women with syphilis
between 2015-16.

$29.6
Million[1]
estimated amount that syphilis will cost the health care system

Rates of reported primary and secondary syphilis by state (2016)



"2016 Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance -- Syphilis" CDC.
https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats16/syphilis.htm

Reasons for concern

Increases of syphilis among women are of particular concern because congenital syphilis rates increase as the rate of primary and secondary syphilis increases among women.

Congenital syphilis can cause a baby to be born too soon, too small or even lead to a still birth. If a baby is born with syphilis, the baby could become blind or deaf or have problems with teeth, bones and joints. Congenital syphilis results in infant death 40% of the time

Syphilis can lead to long-term health concerns if left untreated, including brain or eye damage. Therefore, the increasing rates of syphilis are alarming and have real health care impacts for many men and women in the United States.

[1]Owusu-Edusei K, et al. *The estimated direct medical cost of selected sexually transmitted infections in the United States*, 2008. Sex Transm Dis 2013; 40(3): pp. 197-201.

Gonorrhea

Gonorrhea is a common infection that is found in the genitals, rectum, in throat. Gonorrhea is spread through vaginal, anal, or oral sex. If left untreated in a pregnant woman, gonorrhea can be passed from mother to child.

Gonorrhea in the U.S.

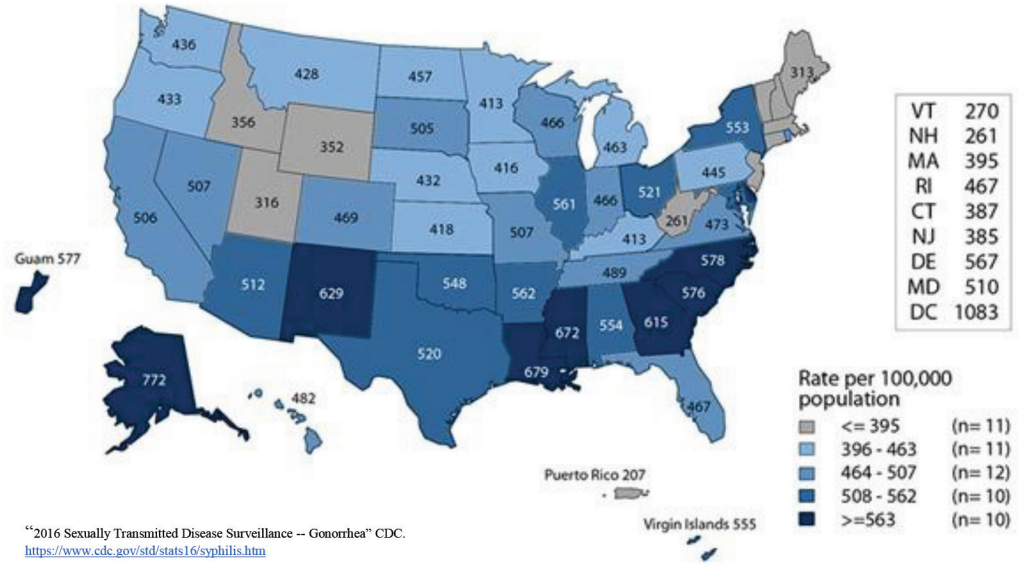
The United States has seen a rise in gonorrhea between 2013 and 2016. The South is seeing the most cases of gonorrhea.

48.6%
Increase in gonorrhea cases
since 2009

23.8%
Increase in the Midwest
since 2015

$248.7
Million[1]
estimated amount that gonorrhea will cost the health care system

Rates of reported gonorrhea cases by state (2016)



"2016 Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance -- Gonorrhea" CDC. https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats16/syphilis.htm

Reasons for concern

Gonorrhea can cause lifetime effects for men and women. Women can experience pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), long term infertility, and possible deadly ectopic pregnancies. The infection in men can cause a painful condition in the testicle area and can lead to infertility. In some cases, gonorrhea can spread to the blood or joints and become life-threatening.

Untreated gonorrhea also increases an individual's chance of getting or giving HIV.

Gonorrhea is becoming resistant to antibiotics. England recently saw its first case of Super-Resistant Gonorrhea. This will have financial and life-time consequences.

[1]Owusu-Edusei K, et al. *The estimated direct medical cost of selected sexually transmitted infections in the United States*, 2008. Sex Transm Dis 2013; 40(3): pp. 197-201.

Chlamydia

Chlamydia is spread through vaginal, anal, or oral sex. If left untreated, chlamydia can cause serious damage to a woman's reproductive health system including pelvic inflammatory disease and the inability to get pregnant.

Chlamydia in the U.S.

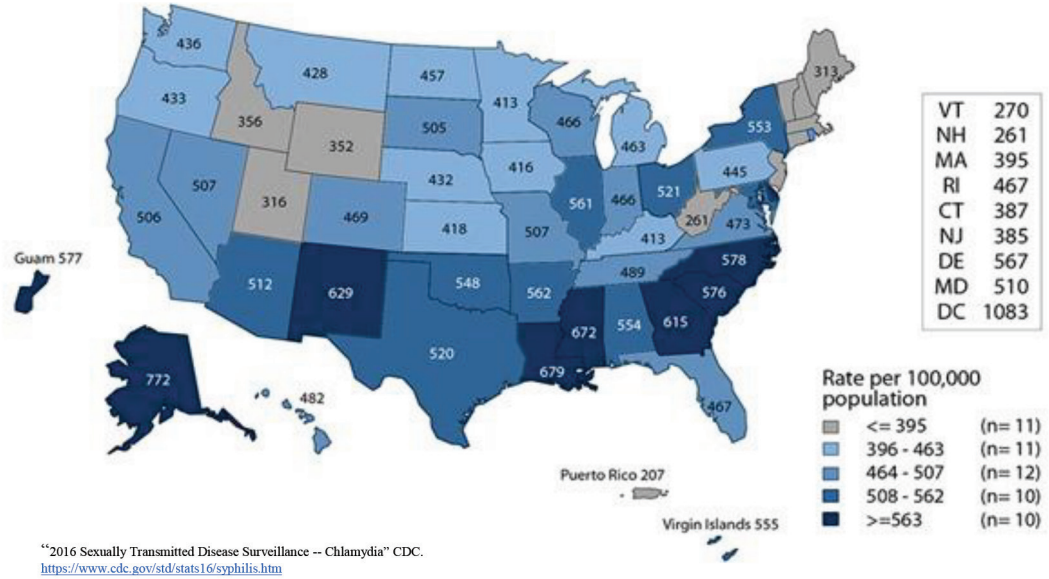
The United States has seen a dramatic increase in chlamydia since 2000.

4.7%
Increase in chlamydia cases
since 2015

9.2%
Increase in cases of men with chlamydia
between 2015 and 2016

$868
Million[1]
estimated amount that chlamydia will cost the health care system
This includes pelvic inflammatory disease.

Rates of reported chlamydia cases by state (2016)



"2016 Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance -- Chlamydia" CDC. https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats16/syphilis.htm

Reasons for concern

Chlamydia can have dramatic long- term effects for men and women. Women can experience pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, and possible deadly ectopic pregnancies. The infection in men, can sometimes spread to the testicles and cause infertility. Untreated chlamydia also increases an individual's chance of getting or giving HIV.

[1]Owusu-Edusei K, et al. *The estimated direct medical cost of selected sexually transmitted infections in the United States*, 2008. Sex Transm Dis 2013; 40(3): pp. 197-201.

NCSD's Role in combating STDs

Capacity Building
NCSD seeks to build the capacity—skills, knowledge base, infrastructure, and resources—of our members by providing technical assistance and training, developing and sharing informational resources, and facilitating peer learning and support.

Policy and Advocacy
NCSD educates policy makers, public health professionals, organizational allies and the general public about why STDs are a public health priority and what is needed to address them most effectively.

National Leadership and Strategic Communications
NCSD serves as, and amplifies, the voice of our members. We seek to create a sense of urgency around the issue of STDs and communicate how the issue fits into the broader sexual health landscape.

Promoting Health Equity
NCSD ensures that disproportionally affected communities—those at the heart of the U.S. STD epidemic—are the focus of STD programs and services and receive the most attention and support.

Organizational Strengthening
NCSD strives to diversify financial support, build staff capacity, and enhance board leadership to maximize organizational sustainability and impact.

What you can do:

Get informed
There are policies that interact with local STD program including: expedited partner therapy, third trimester syphilis testing in high risk areas, extragenital testing, and needle exchange programs.

Support STD prevention
Federal and State level STD funding supports important staff who are on the front lines of STD prevention, including Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) and other department of health staff. It also supports testing, treatment, and prevention efforts. More resources and funding results in health departments being able to reach more people and prevent the healthcare and health costs of STDs.

Connect with your local STD program and NCSD
Visit one of our resources listed below to find out how you can play an active role in reducing the nation's STD epidemic.

Resources:
Health Departments across the United States are responsible for tracking, preventing and treating cases of STDs. For more information about what your state is doing for syphilis, chlamydia or gonorrhea visit your local health department's website or reach out to NCSD and we can connect you

For information about how to support local health departments visit National Coalition of STD Director's (NCSD) website at: ncsddc.org

For information about how to prevent and identify syphilis, gonorrhea or chlamydia, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at: cdc.gov/std/syphilis, cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea, or cdc.gov/std/chlamydia

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ncsddc.org