HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and Tuberculosis

HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and tuberculosis (TB) cause substantial illness and death in the U.S. at considerable cost to the healthcare system. More than 20 million STD and tens of thousands of HIV, hepatitis C, and TB infections occur each year. The lifetime healthcare costs for Americans who are infected each year may total more than $19 billion. CDC focuses efforts on policies, research, education, and program activities with the greatest impact to reduce infections, prevent illness, decrease disparities, and save lives.

75%  About 75% of the 3 million adults with hepatitis C in the U.S. are unaware of their infection.

1 in 5  About 1.2 million Americans live with HIV infection, and 1 in 5 don’t know they are infected.

Thanks to regular treatment, Angie has achieved viral suppression.
KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Tested nearly 100,000 people for hepatitis B and C over 2 years so they could take steps to get lifesaving care.
- Identified the first decline (1.5% decrease) in rate of chlamydia infections, a sexually transmitted disease, since national reporting began.
- Launched several targeted campaigns for preventing HIV and connecting people to treatment, including "Start Talking. Stop HIV." for gay and bisexual men at high risk for HIV and "HIV Treatment Works" for people with HIV.
- Helped reduce U.S. cases of TB from 25,103 in 1993 to 9,582 in 2013—the lowest ever.

LIVING WITH HIV: TREATMENT = LIFE

Angie breaks into dance whenever the mood and music move her. She won’t let her HIV rob her of anything in life. Staying in care and on treatment helps her be the best mother, wife, and HIV prevention educator she can be. She tells other HIV-positive women, “All the fear that you have can be overcome. Every day I wash down my pills with a prayer.”

Nearly 1.2 million people are living with HIV in the U.S. The key to managing HIV is viral suppression treatment, which greatly reduces HIV in an infected person’s body. By getting care and taking medicines that suppress HIV, people can achieve nearly normal lifespans and greatly reduce the chance of transmitting HIV to others.

CDC funds efforts that encourage people to get tested so that they know their status and, if positive, can start taking HIV medications, remain in care, and adhere to treatment. It is critical for people to know their status and get treatment if infected with HIV. Only about 30% of people living with HIV successfully suppress the virus. But for those in medical care, that number jumps to 76%.