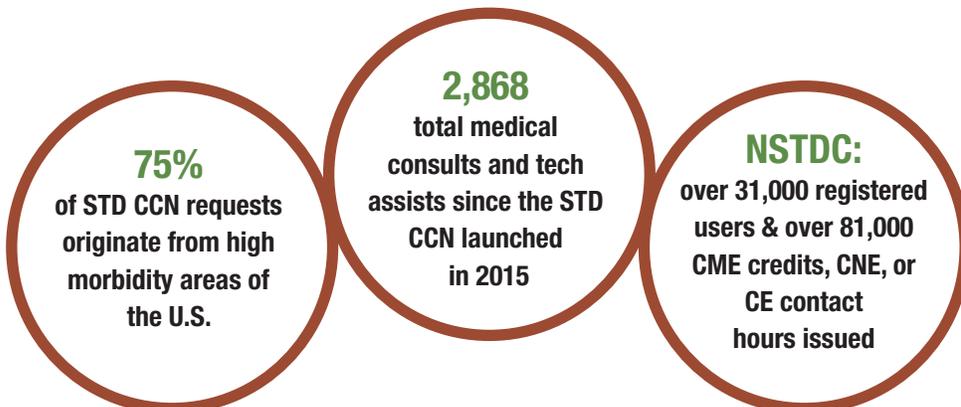


Community Connections, Nationwide Impacts: CDC's National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers Delivers Vital Support to Clinicians

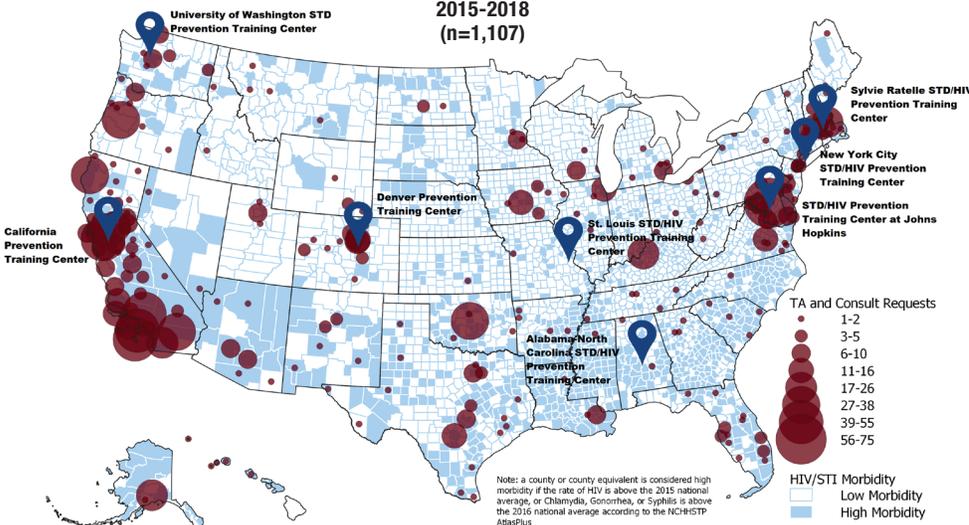
STD Prevention SUCCESS STORIES

Sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates are at all-time highs, with everyone from Gen Z'ers to Baby Boomers at risk of infection. For healthcare providers, comprehensive assistance is available to tackle this surge. Thanks to CDC's National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers ([NNPTC](#)), an extensive educational and healthcare training system throughout the U.S., clinicians have access to crucial clinical resources to help diagnose, treat, and prevent STDs.

With origins in a few small STD model clinics several decades ago, today's NNPTC is now a system of four National and eight Regional Prevention Training Centers (PTCs) located around the country that offer a wide range of training and support for STD healthcare providers, academic institutions, and researchers. Two cornerstone services of the the NNPTC – the STD Clinical Consultation Network ([STD CCN](#)), and the National STD Curriculum ([NSTDC](#)) – offer support to enhance the caregiving efforts of providers across the country.



STD CCN Technical Assistance and Consult Requests by County
2015-2018
(n=1,107)



Responsive Provider Support Ensures Healthier Communities

STD providers throughout the U.S. benefit from the insights and educational opportunities offered by CDC's [NNPTC](#):

"I have consulted the [California PTC via the] PTC Clinical Consultation Network ([STD CCN](#)) thirteen times since October 2018. It has been extremely helpful for me to be able to ask questions to an expert about complex clinical issues that arise with STDs; Thank you to the STD CCN for offering this service to ensure I can do the best possible for patients in my jurisdiction."

-Dr. Erin Gustafson, Public Health Officer, Lake County Health Services Department, Lakeport, CA

"Over the years, I've used the various STD CCN and [National STD Curriculum](#) documents as a periodic review for myself, as a teaching tool and reference for new clinicians in training, and as a quick reference when putting together clinical lectures on STIs."

-Dr. Thomas Cherneskie, New York City PTC Faculty Member, and Supervising Physician, Chelsea STD Clinic, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

"It has been very useful to have the STD Training Centers as a resource for policy and STD clinic operations as well as individual patient care. Being able to contact an STD expert [at the Denver PTC] and have them respond quickly, often the same day, with clear and accurate information is such an asset in providing care in a public health system where we don't have ready access to specialists."

-Dr. Sharon K. Melville, Medical Director, Public Health, Region 7, Texas Department of State Health Services

Each one, teach one

The STD Clinical Consultation Network (STD CCN), a centralized expert advice system that STD healthcare providers can tap into for answers to some of their most difficult STD questions, is an invaluable resource that's always close at hand. It is available nationwide – offering answers to clinicians' most puzzling or pressing STD questions no matter where they live.

“Whenever I am challenged by a syphilis question, the online Clinical Consultation Network is my go-to resource,” said Dr. Junda Woo, Medical Director of the City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. “We love the Denver PTC. We rely on them – they train all our new clinicians,” she added.

Connections that go well beyond an initial consultation or training session are common – fostering collaborations that encourage improved sexual health outcomes in communities throughout the U.S. “When we have a difficult case that pushes the limits of what the CDC’s **STD Treatment Guidelines** can shed light on, we go to Dr. Brad Stoner and his team at the St. Louis PTC,” said Dr. Paul Hunter, a clinician and Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. “He and his team are so adept at keeping us up to speed on proper STD prevention and treatment. Everything I know about syphilis is due to Brad’s guidance.”

“When I call, I’m looking for something I can’t find on my own, and they always deliver the answers I need,” said Norma Rolfsen, a family nurse practitioner for the HIV Care Program of the Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation at Mercy Hospital in Chicago. Rolfsen is referring to the HIV/STD PTC in St. Louis, Missouri and the integral role they play in the essential healthcare she delivers to patients. “We absolutely count on this connection. They are excellent educators – accessible, knowledgeable, and creative. They can help you work through the most complex

questions. If a pregnant woman needs syphilis treatment, and is allergic to penicillin, I know the St. Louis PTC is a phone call away.”

Trusted bedrock of STD healthcare education

When clinicians, nurses, and healthcare providers need to quickly find up-to-date information on over 20 different STDs or to earn CME, CNE, and CE contact hours, an ever-increasing number visit the **National STD Curriculum (NSTDC)**. It offers 7 interactive modules (self-study or quick reference) and 15 Question Bank topics with over 150 interactive board review style questions based on the 2015 CDC **STD Treatment Guidelines**.

This comprehensive educational resource, funded by CDC and managed by the University of Washington (UW) and the UW STD Prevention Training Center, gives clinicians support to grow and round out the knowledge, experience, and skills needed to answer the ever-changing demands and challenges that crop up in STD prevention and treatment.

“I initially completed the curriculum to gain more knowledge on STD’s, gain clinical certification, and to evaluate how the system worked,” said Ivonna Mims, the STD Nurse Manager for the HIV/STD service at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. “I was extremely pleased with how comprehensive the material and exams were and decided to implement the curriculum as a prerequisite for nurses registered in my STD Academy that I hold every 3 months. It is an amazing comprehensive teaching tool that has positively impacted learning about STDs for Oklahoma nurses.”

Dr. Stephanie Cohen, Medical Director of the San Francisco City Clinic, says the educational resources are indispensable: “The National STD Curriculum is a great addition to the educational material we provide to the over 100 trainees a year who rotate through San Francisco City Clinic. It’s well-written, easy to navigate, evidence-based, and allows us to easily track each trainee’s progress through the modules.”

“Well-rounded, informed clinicians protecting sexual health from the community level on up has always been the goal of PTC training and outreach,” said Dr. Laura Bachmann, Chief Medical Officer in CDC’s Division of STD Prevention. “From the very beginning, the NNPTC was created to help shape responsive STD providers capable of connecting to patients with a personal – yet professional – touch, encouraging communities to be comfortable, active participants in their own sexual health protection. We all benefit the most when we all work together.”

Learn MORE at [cdc.gov/std](https://www.cdc.gov/std)

- [CDC’s NNPTC](#)
- [National STD Curriculum](#)
- [STD Prevention Courses](#)