



January 28, 2011

Dear Colleague,

This annual letter highlights 2010 activities involving the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) and our external STD prevention colleagues. We also preview some issues and activities anticipated for 2011.

DSTDP Strategic Planning and Priority Activities

In 2010 DSTDP used its five-year [Strategic Plan \(2008-2013\)](#) to guide decision-making, human and financial resource allocation, and programmatic direction. DSTDP focused on the following three goals as top priorities for division activity: prevent STI-related infertility, reduce STI-related health disparities across and within communities and populations, and strengthen STD prevention capacity and infrastructure. Highlights of progress toward these goals include

- ***Preventing STI-related infertility***
 - Continued development of the National Chlamydia Coalition (NCC), in collaboration with the [Partnership for Prevention](#):
 - The National Chlamydia Coalition funded [10 mini-grants](#) to address local barriers to chlamydia screening.
 - NCC produced a [letter template](#) for member organizations to send to their state and district leadership to encourage chlamydia screening and direct them to resources.
 - Expansion of the number of jurisdictions in which [Expedited Partner Therapy \(EPT\)](#) is permissible to 27 states and Baltimore (as of November 2010), as compared to 10 states in 2006.
 - Collaboration with the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in the development of a resource guide entitled [Partnerships between Federally Qualified Health Centers and Local Health Departments for Engaging in the Development of a Community-Based System of Care](#), to promote collaboration between health centers and health departments.
 - Participation in the [CDC Public Health Grand Rounds](#) session, “Chlamydia Prevention: Challenges and Strategies for Reducing Disease Burden” (May).
- ***Reducing STI-related Health Disparities***
 - Monitoring the STD epidemic among men who have sex with men (MSM)
 - In STD clinics participating in the STD Surveillance Network (SSuN), HIV infection among MSM cases of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis ranges from 30% to 74%, depending on the clinic; and
 - Through case-based reporting, approximately 80% of all male P&S syphilis cases in the United States have accompanying sex of partner information, and about 62% of these cases are among MSM.
 - The Division’s STD Disparities Workgroup, in collaboration with the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP), is working on a project to implement routine sexual history, taking in healthcare provider settings that primarily serve African American men.
 - DSTDP is working with partners to develop coding guidelines for rectal Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAA) testing for MSM who have had receptive anal intercourse and/or receptive oral intercourse during the preceding year. This is expected to address difficulties some providers report in obtaining reimbursement.

- **Strengthening STD Prevention Capacity**
 - [Six PCSI grantees](#) have been funded for development and delivery of integrated health services. DSTDP program consultants will oversee the PCSI projects and coordinate activities with other CDC divisions.
 - Seven Federal Training Center Collaboration (FTCC) regional collaborative projects were developed and implemented by HHS-supported training programs (including the STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers [PTCs]) to improve the capacity of health professionals and prevention specialists to provide health services to racial and ethnic minority populations impacted by HIV/AIDS.
 - Several program improvement activities have occurred, including an assessment of congenital syphilis prevention laws and regulations among syphilis elimination high morbidity areas and nine national webinars on a number of program improvement topics.

DSTDP Staff Recognition, Awards, and Responses

Staff recognition and activities that occurred during 2010:

- **Cathleen Walsh** and **Charlotte Kent** sequentially served as Acting DSTDP Director.
- **Betty Apt** (22 years of federal service), **Diane Vitro** (29 years of federal service), **John Katz** (22 years of federal service), and **Manhar Parek** (31 years of federal service) retired.
- **Darien Ogburn** received the CDC Award for Excellence in Human Capital Management Employee Development.
- **Dan George** received the NCHHSTP William C. Watson, Jr. Medal of Excellence award.
- **James Lee** and **Janet Scott** received the NCHHSTP award for Outstanding Field Supervisor.
- **Bruce Furness** received the NCHHSTP award for Outstanding Field Program Management.
- **Harrell Chesson** received an ASTDA Achievement Award at the 2010 National STD Prevention Conference.
- Forty-three DSTDP staff members were deployed for this year's CDC **public health responses** to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, the earthquake disaster in Haiti, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and cholera outbreaks in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
- Twenty-four Commissioned Corps personnel in DSTDP received a USPHS Outstanding Unit Citation for involvement in this year's CDC response to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic.

Consultations/Meetings

Consultations allowed engagement with colleagues on a variety of important STD prevention topics:

- DSTDP conducted **Regional Gonorrhea Meetings** (January and February) in Regions V and IX with STD directors, epidemiologists, and IPP partners to discuss how program managers are assessing data and considering and implementing new gonorrhea control strategies.
- More than 750 public health leaders participated in the [2010 National STD Prevention Conference](#) (March).
 - During the conference, at CDC's Global Health Odyssey Museum, a special exhibit, [VD: Values, Rights, Public Health](#), was dedicated to the history of venereal disease in the 20th century.
 - Internal and external stakeholders met during the conference to conduct a "values strategy" (framing) conversation on the disproportionate burden of STDs within the African American community. A summary of the process and outcomes of the framing conversation [is available](#).
- DSTDP convened a **Sexual Health Consultation** (April), *A Public Health Approach for Advancing Sexual Health in the United States: Rationale and Options for Implementation*. The consultation provided discussion of the rationale, vision, and priority actions for a public health approach to advance sexual health in the United States.
- DSTDP staff provided technical expertise toward a global **cephalosporin-resistant gonorrhea** outbreak response plan during a WHO consultation in Manila. (April).
- DSTDP, with CDC's Public Health Law Program, and the Centers for Law and the Public's Health hosted an **Expedited Partner Therapy Consultation** (May) on legal and policy issues related to the implementation and adoption of laws and policies related to EPT.

- A *Data Security and Confidentiality Guidelines Consultation* (June) was held to develop guidance on data sharing across the four NCHHSTP divisions.
- NCHHSTP convened, in collaboration with DSTDP, the *Strategic Realignment of Funding to Support Priorities in Sexual Health and STD Disparities Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities Consultation* (July) to discuss goals aimed at reducing health disparities and promoting health equity.
- DSTDP staff and partners coordinated the inaugural *CDC Public Health Symposium on Homelessness* (August). The symposium showcased CDC's work while national, federal, and local partners presented their perspectives on homelessness as a public health problem in the United States.
- The [National Coalition of STD Directors Annual Meeting](#) (October) focused on partnerships, health reform, program capacity, and electronic STD surveillance and case management systems.
- At the [National Chlamydia Coalition Annual Meeting](#) (October), discussions centered around approaches to ensuring confidential access to sexual and reproductive health services, an online exchange for chlamydia social marketing materials, and initiatives to increase provider education regarding chlamydia screening. Innovative local approaches to increasing chlamydia screening were also highlighted.

New Tools

New tools to enhance STD prevention program delivery were developed:

- In early 2010, the STD/HIV PTCs and DSTDP rolled out the *STD Program Management Course*, targeting new STD program management staff. The course is being adapted to a web-based format to increase the reach of the course.
- *STD*MIS*, an application used by state and local health departments to manage surveillance and program activity data in support of local STD control activities, underwent a complete revision in 2010. Installation and training for the new release, version 5.0, will begin in January 2011.
- A new e-learning course has been offered- *VCA-E₃, a visual case analysis (VCA)* for partner services staff responsible for syphilis case management.
- Over 500 pages of the [DSTDP website](#) were migrated into the new cdc.gov template providing a cleaner, fresher, and more modern format. DSTDP also collaborated on a new [HPV portal](#).
- Several data reports were published in 2010:
 - 2008 STD Surveillance Supplements for [Chlamydia](#), [GISP](#), and [Syphilis](#) were published in electronic format.
 - [Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2009](#) is the most current surveillance data on STDs in the United States. This report is available online and in hard copy.
 - An associated fact sheet, [Trends in Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 2009](#), provides a summary of trends and highlights of data from the aforementioned report.

Scientific and Program Development

Important scientific and programmatic developments during the past year include:

- MMWR publications and special issues
 - [Syphilis Outbreak Among American Indians—Arizona, 2007–2009](#) (February, MMWR)
 - [Seroprevalence of Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 Among Persons Aged 14–49 Years—United States, 2005–2008](#) (April, MMWR)
 - [Congenital Syphilis—United States, 2003–2008](#) (April, MMWR)
 - [Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2010](#) (December, MMWR)
 - Eleven articles in a [special supplement issue](#) of *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, resulting from the Chlamydia Immunology and Control Expert Advisory Meeting (June)
 - The role of emergent properties and structural patterns in the epidemiology and prevention of STDs was the focus of a *Sexually Transmitted Infections* [supplement issue](#) (December).
- *New ACIP policy notes* (May) on recommendations for [bivalent HPV vaccine use in females](#) and guidance for [quadrivalent HPV vaccine use in males](#).
- Activities to support *STD Awareness Month* (April)
 - This year's [GYT: Get Yourself Tested \(GYT\)](#) campaign focused on “get yourself talking”

- The [STD Awareness Month website](#) now includes widgets to provide information on STD testing sites and toolkits to assist with local media and evaluate GYT.
 - STD testing clinics that offer vaccinations for HPV and Hepatitis B have been added to [findSTDtest.org](#).
 - A collegiate campaign, "[Get Tested. Make it Contagious.](#)" employed new and traditional media approaches to encourage STD testing on three college campuses in Georgia.
- DSTDP's activities with *global reach* in 2010 included
 - Identification of *Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis* as one of CDC's inaugural Winnable Battles for advancing global health;
 - A long-term collaboration with the [WHO Global Initiative for the Elimination of Congenital Syphilis as a Public Health Problem](#),
 - A joint WHO/CDC publication [Roadmap for the Global Elimination of Congenital Syphilis](#), discussing the burden, progress, and challenges for global elimination efforts,
 - Identification of 10 high-burden countries for focusing national scale-up efforts,
 - Congenital syphilis program assessments in northern Mali, Mongolia, and Mozambique;
 - Enhancement of STI control efforts within Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama through technical assistance to train laboratory personnel and laboratory instrumentation upgrades in Guam;
 - Technical assistance to Honduras, Tanzania and the Dominican Republic in laboratory-based STI surveillance among populations at high HIV risk;
 - In collaboration with PAHO, DSTDP completion of data collection for an HPV prevalence and vaccine acceptability study in Jamaica and analyses that are underway; and
 - Completion of two collaborative studies with CDC's Division of Reproductive Health and partners in Colombia on STI and reproductive health risk among displaced women.

Looking Forward 2011

Evolving public health landscapes are changing the way we look at sexually transmitted diseases as a public health concern:

- DSTDP activities will support White House policy priorities such as the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#) and the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#), both released in 2010.
- DSTDP will publish *Guidelines for the Laboratory Diagnosis of Gonorrhea, Chlamydial Infection, and Syphilis* in spring 2011.
- WHO will release the *Investment Case for Eliminating Congenital Syphilis: Promoting Better Maternal and Child Health & Stronger Health Systems*, completed in 2010 with DSTDP.
- A final report is expected for the CDC supported project *Informing the Base Realignment and Closure Process (BRAC): A Health in All Policies (HiAP) Approach*.
- An MMWR will be published on the public health implications of *reverse sequence serologic screening for syphilis* with treponemal tests is expected in early 2011.
- State and local STD programs can expect a toolkit with legal and policy resources to assist with adoption and implementation of *expedited partner therapy* in policy and practice.

In December, NCHHSTP announced the selection of Dr. Gail Bolan as the Division's new director in a [Dear Colleague Letter](#), which highlights her experience and accomplishments in public health. Please join me in welcoming Gail Bolan to the Division of STD Prevention, effective January 31.

Sincerely,

/Darien L. Ogburn/

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 National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention