Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative

Antibiotics have successfully treated gonorrhea for several decades; however, the bacteria has developed resistance to nearly every drug used for treatment.

Drug-resistant gonorrhea is an urgent threat.

Common, sexually-spread infection

- About **820,000** people in the U.S. get gonorrhea each year
- Fewer than **1/2** of new infections are detected and reported to CDC
- An estimated **246,000** are **resistant to at least 1 antibiotic**

Growing resistance threatens treatment

Untreated gonorrhea can cause dangerous and permanent health problems:

- Increases chances of getting or giving HIV, the virus that causes AIDS
- Spreads from mother to baby during childbirth, causing blindness in the baby
- Causes severe reproductive complications
- Spreads to the blood, causing heart and nervous system infections
- Increases healthcare costs

Difficult to detect, monitor, and stop spread

- Few U.S. labs can test for resistance
- Few healthcare settings have access to these lab tests
- Slow detection of resistance leads to treatment that may not work and delays a rapid response

Action needed

- Rapidly detect resistant infections and improve monitoring systems to stop spread

How will CDC's Initiative fight multidrug-resistant gonorrhea?

Ensure that less than 2% of all gonorrhea infections are multidrug-resistant

Rapidly detect resistant gonorrhea

- Expand the availability of resistance testing to better treat patients
- Reduce time needed to get test results to healthcare providers

Effective treatment

- Use test results to choose correct antibiotics for patients
- Prevent health complications and stop spread with appropriate treatment

Public health action

- Alert patients and local health departments of a resistant strain quickly
- Identify and contact sexual partners faster to limit spread of resistant strains

Increase monitoring and awareness

- Alert healthcare professionals and communities about resistant strains
- Find hot spots
- Predict potential outbreaks

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