

Antibiotic Resistance (AR) Solutions Initiative

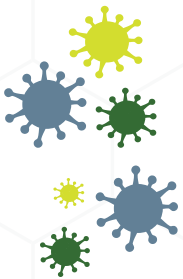
Antibiotics have successfully treated gonorrhea for several decades; however, the bacteria has developed resistance to nearly every drug used for treatment.

Drug-resistant gonorrhea is an urgent threat.



Gonorrhea is a common, sexually transmitted disease

- » About 820,000 new gonorrhea infections occur each year in the U.S., and less than half are detected and reported to CDC
- » An estimated 246,000 are resistant to at least one antibiotic



Untreated gonorrhea can cause 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
- » Can cause infertility and ectopic pregnancies
- » Spreads to the blood, causing heart and nervous system infections
- » Increases healthcare costs



Growing resistance threatens treatment and control

- » 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

- » Improve monitoring systems to rapidly detect resistant infections
- » Rapidly respond to resistant infections to stop spread

How will CDC's Solutions Initiative fight drug-resistant gonorrhea?

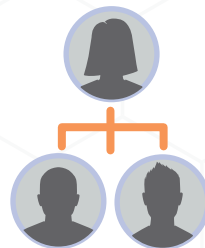


Ensure that less than 2% of all gonorrhea infections are resistant to the current treatment



Rapidly detect resistant gonorrhea

- » Expand the availability of resistance testing
- » Reduce time to get test results to providers so that patients can be treated in a timely manner



Ensure effective and timely 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

Rapid gonorrhea detection, monitoring, tracking, and treatment will help prevent the spread of resistance.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention