

Incidence, Prevalence, and Cost of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States



2021 CDC analyses^{1,2} provide the clearest picture to date of how common and costly sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are in the United States. CDC's latest estimates indicate that 20% of the U.S. population – approximately one in five people – had an STI on any given day in 2018, and STIs acquired that year cost the American healthcare system nearly \$16 billion in direct medical costs alone.

CDC's analyses included eight common STIs, four of which are easily treated and cured if diagnosed early: chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and trichomoniasis. Also included in the analyses are four sexually transmitted viruses: human papillomavirus (HPV), herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and hepatitis B virus (HBV). Many of these infections go undetected because they often have no symptoms and can have [serious health consequences](#).

STIs REMAIN COMMON AND COSTLY TO THE NATION'S HEALTH

STIs IN 2018 (PREVALENCE)



Nearly 68 million infections

ANNUAL NEW STIs IN 2018 (INCIDENCE)



26 million
STIs acquired in 2018

DIRECT LIFETIME MEDICAL COSTS OF 2018 NEW STIs

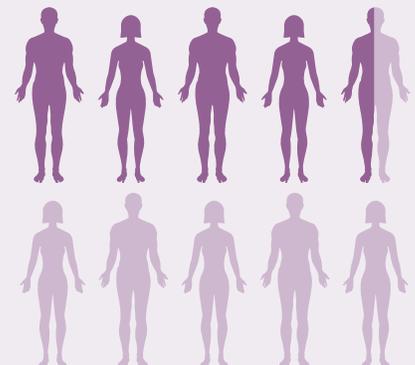


Nearly
16 billion
Total medical costs
(in 2018 dollars)

NEARLY HALF OF ALL NEW INFECTIONS OCCUR AMONG NATION'S YOUTH

America's youth shoulder a substantial burden of sexually transmitted infections.

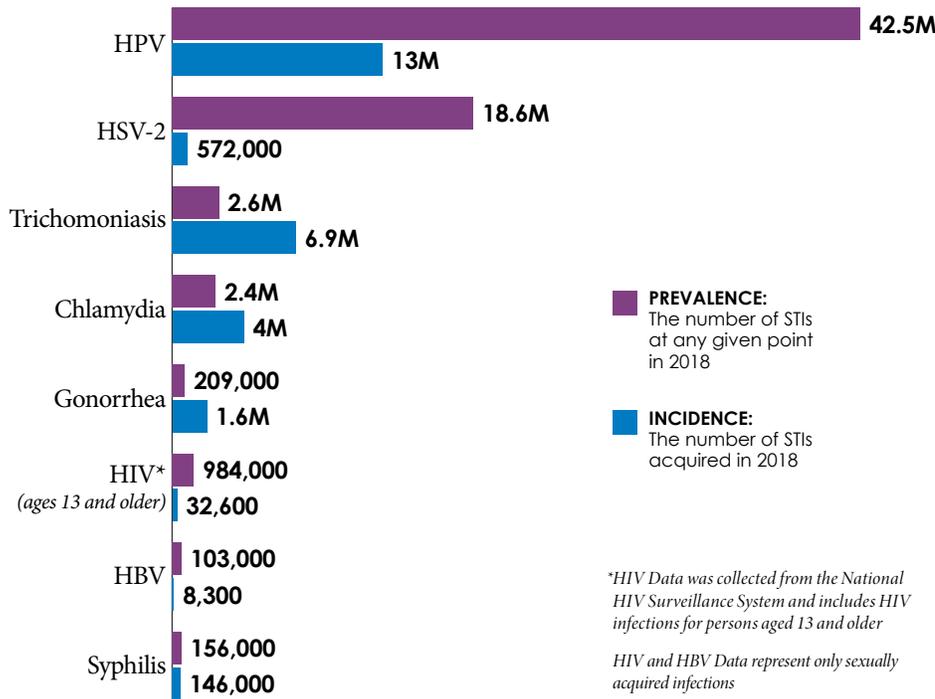
Nearly half (45.5%) of all new STIs in the country occur among young people (ages 15-24).



1. Kreisel, KM, et al. Sexually transmitted infections among US women and men: Prevalence and incidence estimates, 2018. *Sex Transm Dis* 2021; in press.
2. Chesson, HW, et al. The estimated direct lifetime medical costs of sexually transmitted infections acquired in the United States in 2018. *Sex Transm Dis* 2021; in press.

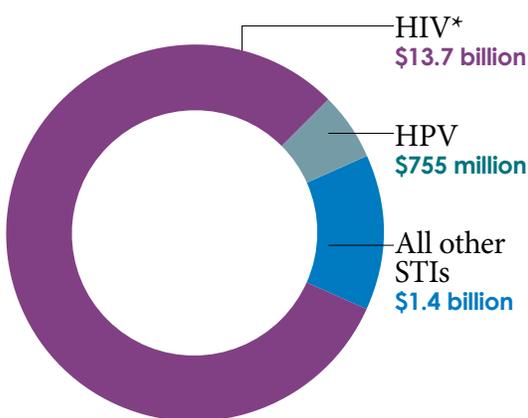
LATEST CDC ESTIMATES REVEAL NEARLY 68 MILLION STIs IN THE U.S., AND MORE THAN 26 MILLION NEW INFECTIONS

Estimated number of new and existing sexually transmitted infections



STIs COST THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM BILLIONS EACH YEAR

In 2018, new infections totaled nearly **\$16 billion** in direct lifetime medical costs



**HIV Data represent only sexually acquired infections*

\$ **CHLAMYDIA, GONORRHEA, and SYPHILIS** combined accounted for **\$1.1 billion** in direct medical costs

Care for young people (ages 15-24) accounted for about 60% of these costs

Care for women represented nearly **75%** of all STI-related direct lifetime medical costs (not including HIV care)

While medical costs alone are significant, the overall cost of STIs is higher when factoring in costs associated with lost productivity, other non-medical costs and STI prevention.



For more information visit www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom

Fighting STIs: prevention, diagnosis, and prompt treatment



PREVENTION

Because STIs are preventable, significant reductions in new infections are not only possible, they are urgently needed. Prevention can minimize the negative, long-term consequences of STIs and reduce healthcare costs. To do this, prevention efforts should:

- Focus on hard-hit populations. Young people and women face some of the biggest impacts and most significant consequences of STIs.
- Consider the social, cultural & economic conditions that make it more difficult for some sexually active people to stay healthy (e.g., poverty, unstable housing, drug use, lack of medical insurance or medical home, high burden of STIs in some communities).

More information on STD prevention is available [here](#).



DIAGNOSIS & PROMPT TREATMENT

For all individuals who are sexually active – particularly young people and women – STI screening and prompt treatment (if infected) are critical to protect a person's health and prevent transmission to others. If you are sexually active, be sure to talk to your healthcare provider about STI testing and which tests may be right for you. CDC's STI screening recommendations are available [here](#) and information for providers can be found [here](#).