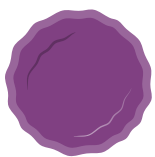


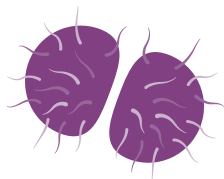
# Reported STDs in the United States, 2018

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are a substantial health challenge facing the United States, and the epidemic disproportionately affects certain populations. Many cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis continue to go undiagnosed and unreported, and data on several other STDs, such as human papillomavirus and herpes simplex virus, are not routinely reported to CDC. As a result, national surveillance data only captures a fraction of America's STD epidemic. CDC's STD Surveillance Report provides important insight into the scope, distribution, and trends in STD diagnoses in the country. Strong public health infrastructure is critical to prevent and control STDs, especially among the most vulnerable groups.

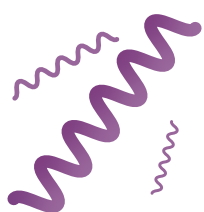
## RECORD HIGH STDs THREATEN MILLIONS OF AMERICANS



**Chlamydia**  
**1,758,668 cases**  
540 per 100,000 people



**Gonorrhea**  
**583,405 cases**  
179 per 100,000 people



**Syphilis (all stages)**  
**115,045 cases**  
35 per 100,000 people

Syphilis (primary and secondary)	Syphilis (congenital)
<b>35,063 cases</b>	<b>1,306 cases</b>
11 per 100,000 people	33 per 100,000 live births

## STD PREVENTION CHALLENGES

Maintaining and strengthening core prevention infrastructure is essential to mounting an effective national response. **LIMITED RESOURCES** make it challenging to quickly identify and treat STDs. Many state and local STD program budgets have been cut in recent years—resulting in staff layoffs, reduced clinic hours, and increased patient co-pays that can limit access to essential diagnosis and treatment services.



Antibiotics can cure chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. However, **LEFT UNTREATED**, these STDs put men, women, and infants at risk for severe, lifelong health outcomes like chronic pain, severe reproductive health complications, and HIV.



People who **CANNOT GET STD CARE** remain vulnerable to short- and long-term health consequences and are more likely to transmit infections to others—further compounding America's STD burden.



# SOME GROUPS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY STDs

## Syphilis

### NEWBORNS

**MORE THAN 1,300 CASES** of congenital syphilis were reported in 2018, which resulted in severe health complications and deaths among newborns. From 2017 to 2018 syphilis among newborns **INCREASED 40%**, from **24 TO 33 CASES PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS**.

### WOMEN

- Diagnoses of primary and secondary syphilis, the most infectious stages of the disease, **INCREASED 34%** from 2017 to 2018 (**3,722 CASES TO 4,995 CASES**) among women overall.
- The rise in congenital syphilis parallels increases in primary and secondary syphilis among women of reproductive age (a **36% INCREASE** from 2017 to 2018).

### GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

- Primary and secondary syphilis rates increased among men by **11%**—from **17 CASES PER 100,000** men in 2017 to **19 PER 100,000 MEN** in 2018.
- Men accounted for nearly **86% (30,034)** of all primary and secondary syphilis cases in 2018, and gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men accounted for **54% (18,760)** of all syphilis cases.
- CDC estimates **ABOUT HALF** of MSM who have syphilis also have HIV.

## Gonorrhea

### WOMEN

Gonorrhea diagnoses among women have increased for several consecutive years—from **232,587 CASES** in 2017 to **241,074 CASES** in 2018.

### GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

Gonorrhea diagnoses nearly doubled among men over the past five years (from **186,943 TO 341,401 CASES**). Data suggest that men who have sex with men are disproportionately affected by this disease.

## Chlamydia

### WOMEN

- Chlamydia is the most commonly reported STD, with nearly **1.8 MILLION CASES** reported in 2018.
- Young women (ages 15-24) account for **44%** of reported cases and face the most severe consequences of an undiagnosed infection.
- It is estimated that **UNDIAGNOSED STDs CAUSE INFERTILITY IN MORE THAN 20,000 WOMEN** each year.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE?

### TURNING BACK THE RISE IN STDs WILL REQUIRE RENEWED COMMITMENT FROM ALL PLAYERS:

CDC detects and rapidly responds to evolving STD threats, trains frontline health workers, and provides prevention resources to state and local health departments.

Providers should make STD screening and timely treatment a standard part of medical care, especially for adolescents, pregnant women and MSM.



State and local health departments should direct resources to STD investigation and clinical service infrastructure for rapid detection and treatment for people living in areas hardest hit by the STD epidemic.

Everyone should talk openly about STDs, [get tested regularly](#), and reduce risk by using condoms or practicing mutual monogamy.



For more information visit [www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom](http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom)