

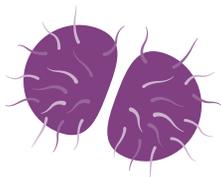
Reported STDs in the United States, 2019

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.

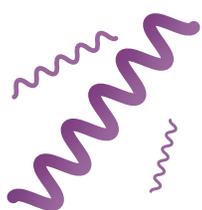
RECORD HIGH STDs THREATEN MILLIONS OF AMERICANS



Chlamydia
1,808,703 cases
553 per 100,000 people



Gonorrhea
616,392 cases
188 per 100,000 people



Syphilis (all stages)
129,813 cases
40 per 100,000 people

Syphilis (primary and secondary)	Syphilis (congenital)
38,992 cases	1,870 cases
12 per 100,000 people	49 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. State and local reductions in STD screening, treatment, prevention, and partner services have resulted 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 people, including infants, at risk for severe, lifelong health outcomes like chronic pain, 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

NEARLY 2,000 CASES of congenital syphilis were reported in 2019, which resulted in severe health complications and deaths among newborns. From 2018 to 2019 syphilis among newborns **INCREASED 41%**, from **34 TO 49 CASES PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS**.

WOMEN

- Diagnoses of primary and secondary syphilis, the most infectious stages of the disease, **INCREASED 30%** from 2018 to 2019 (**4,995 CASES TO 6,493 CASES**) among women overall.
- The rise in congenital syphilis parallels increases in primary and secondary syphilis among women of reproductive age (a **28% INCREASE** from 2018 to 2019).

GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

- Primary and secondary syphilis rates increased among men by **8%**—from **19 CASES PER 100,000** men in 2018 to **20 CASES PER 100,000 MEN** in 2019.
- Men accounted for nearly **83% (32,402)** of all primary and secondary syphilis cases in 2019, and gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men accounted for **47% (18,381)** of primary and secondary syphilis cases.
- CDC estimates **ALMOST HALF (44%)** of gay and bisexual men who have syphilis also have HIV.

Gonorrhea

WOMEN

Gonorrhea diagnoses in women increased from **241,074 CASES** in 2018 to **253,359 CASES** in 2019.

GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

- Gonorrhea diagnoses steadily increased among men from **341,401 CASES** in 2018 to **361,586 CASES** in 2019.
- Data suggest that men who have sex with men are disproportionately affected by this disease. In 2019, gonorrhea rates were **42X HIGHER** among gay and bisexual men compared to heterosexual men in STD Surveillance Network areas.

Chlamydia

WOMEN

- Chlamydia is the most commonly reported STD, with over **1.8 MILLION CASES** reported in 2019.
- Young women (ages 15-24) account for **43%** 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?

REVERSING 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 gay and bisexual men.



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