

Director's Update

Division of STD Prevention | CDC

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Publishes New Report on STIs

Dear partners in prevention,

I am pleased to share today that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) has published [Sexually Transmitted Infections: Adopting a Sexual Health Paradigm](#). CDC, through the National Association of County and City Health Officials, commissioned this consensus study report to explore sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and control in the United States and provide recommendations for action.

One in five people in the United States had an STI on any given day in 2018, totaling 68 million estimated infections that year. STIs are often asymptomatic and, as a result untreated. Untreated infections can have serious health consequences, including increased HIV risk, infertility, and/or severe pregnancy and newborn complications, including bone deformity, severe anemia, and brain and nerve problems, including blindness, and even death. And social inequity, which ultimately manifests as health disparities, means some populations remain unequally affected, including racial and ethnic minority populations, adolescent and young adults, and gay and bisexual men.

These are facts those of us working in our field can repeat in our sleep and the facts that propel us all forward in our daily work. They are also the facts that inspired HHS' 2020 publication, [Sexually Transmitted Infections National Strategic Plan for the United States](#) – the nation's first-ever plan of its kind for STIs – which will provide a roadmap for public health, government, community-based organizations and other stakeholders to develop, enhance and expand STI prevention and care programs at the local, state, tribal and national levels.

While the challenges are not new, the STI Plan gives us momentum toward new solutions. Likewise, we hope the new NASEM report will provide us with innovative ideas for approaching our work; perhaps a framework around which to implement the STI Plan.

In the coming weeks, I've asked leaders in various disciplines throughout our Division to examine this report and think creatively about how these recommendations can apply to our work. And I invite you to do the same.

As always, we are forever grateful for your collaboration and look forward to navigating this report and its implications together.

Best,

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US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention