The most recent CDC data suggest that sexually transmitted infection rates have continued to rise.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can lead to long-term health consequences like infertility, increased risk of HIV transmission, and, with syphilis, serious illness and even death in infants. CDC continues to support US jurisdictions like Tennessee (TN) as we work together to turn the tide on STIs.

Syphilis & congenital syphilis rates are rising in the US and Tennessee

Primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis are the most infectious stages of syphilis and represent new infections. From 2017 to 2021, P&S syphilis rates rose 72% in the US and rose 86% in Tennessee.

Congenital syphilis (CS) occurs when syphilis is passed to a baby during pregnancy. From 2017 to 2021, CS rates rose 219% in the US and rose 288% in Tennessee.

Chlamydia & gonorrhea are the most common bacterial STIs in Tennessee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 Cases in Tennessee</th>
<th>39,227</th>
<th>18,768</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>new cases of chlamydia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>new cases of gonorrhea</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are often asymptomatic. Preventing the spread of these STIs relies on screening to detect infections and starting treatment early.
CDC provided $5,641,695 to Tennessee to prevent & control STIs in 2022

$1,809,512

**Strengthening STD Prevention and Control for Health Departments (STD-PCHD)** provides all states and 9 cities and territories with 5-year funding to prevent and control STIs. In 2022, total STD-PCHD funding was $95.5 million.¹

$3,832,183

The **Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Workforce Development Funding** was a $200 million per year investment to support 21st century outbreak response via the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Experienced CDC field staff are an asset to programs they are directly embedded in, often filling leadership roles and providing expertise that may be challenging to sustain at the state and local level. **Eight of the 76 CDC STI prevention field staff positioned throughout the US is stationed in Tennessee health departments.**

CDC supports states’ STI prevention and treatment efforts by:

- Providing on-the-ground support
- Promoting treatment best practices
- Monitoring STI trends
- Turning data into action

Prevention-focused policies can help reduce STI rates

**Prenatal Syphilis Screening** is legally required during the first visit only in Tennessee. CDC recommends all pregnant women should be screened for syphilis at the first prenatal visit, and at 28 weeks and delivery if the mother lives in a community with high syphilis rates or is at risk for syphilis.

**Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)** provides patients’ sex partners with STI treatment without a physical exam. EPT is authorized for treating chlamydia in Tennessee.

For more information, visit: [http://www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std)

¹ CDC STI funding and $8,000,000 from CDC HIV funding.

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