

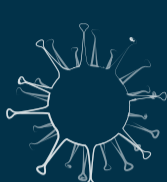
# PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS ARE KEY IN COMBATING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STDs)

**STDs**  
ARE AT A  
**RECORD HIGH**



**In 2019,**

There were more than **2.5 million** cases combined of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis reported in the United States – the highest number ever reported.<sup>1</sup>



## Chlamydia

rates increased by

**2.8%**

(2018-2019)

More cases of chlamydia were reported to the CDC than any other condition.<sup>1</sup>

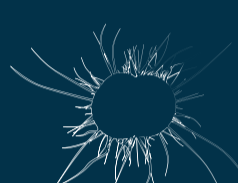
## Gonorrhea

rates increased by

**5.7%**

(2018-2019)

Each year, an estimated 550,000 gonorrhea infections are drug-resistant.<sup>1,2</sup>



## Syphilis\*

rates increased by

**11.2%**

(2018-2019)

Congenital syphilis rates increased by 41.4%. This poses devastating health consequences for women and their infants.<sup>1</sup>

\*primary and secondary



## INVESTING IN HEALTH DEPARTMENT STD PROGRAMS IS CRITICAL IN IMPROVING THE NATION'S RESPONSE TO STDs

STDs cost the United States approximately **\$16 billion**

in direct medical costs annually.<sup>3</sup>

However, health department efforts to prevent and control disease are **increasingly threatened** by budget cuts.

**In 2012,<sup>4</sup>**

**62%**

of local STD programs experienced **budget cuts**.  
**Because of these cuts:**

**43%**



Reduced clinic hours for STD services

**40%**



Reduced routine STD screening

**26%**



Increased fees or copays for STD clinical services

## PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS ARE THE BEST LINE OF DEFENSE IN REDUCING STD RATES

Leaders in health departments across the United States are taking action to combat STDs by:



**Monitoring** and identifying emerging STD trends in their jurisdictions



**Educating** key stakeholders and the public with data and best practices for STD prevention and control



**Linking** individuals to care



**Partnering** with local community leaders and healthcare providers to promote available services to affected populations

**IN ORDER TO PROTECT MORE AMERICANS FROM PREVENTABLE STDs, INVESTMENT IN STD PROGRAMS IS CRUCIAL.**

1. CDC. "Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2018." Available at [www.cdc.gov/std/stats18/](http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats18/). Accessed 11-1-2019.

2. CDC. "Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States." Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013/pdf/ar-threats-2013-508.pdf>. Accessed 11-19-2018.

3. Owusu-Edusei K, Chesson HW, Gift TL, et al. "The Estimated Direct Medical Cost of Selected Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States, 2008." *Sex Transm Dis.* 2013. 40(3):197-201. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23403600>. Accessed 3-6-2018.

4. Leichter JS, Heyer K, Peterman TA, et al. "US Public Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinical Services in an Era of Declining Public Health Funding: 2013-14." *Sex Transm Dis.* 2017. 44(8): 505-509. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28703733>. Accessed 3-6-2018.



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For local information, connect with your health department's STD program and visit [www.cdc.gov/nchstp/stateprofiles/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/stateprofiles/default.htm).