

# Sexually Transmitted Diseases compromise Americans' health and cost millions of dollars in healthcare

Annual medical cost for treatment of



SYPHILIS \$48M



GONORRHEA \$198M



CHLAMYDIA \$632M

## STDs Have Surged, Reaching an All-Time High

Gonorrhea has increased 63% since 2014:

- ▶ 580,000 cases of gonorrhea reported in 2018, the highest number since 1991
- ▶ There is now only 1 recommended regimen of antibiotics to treat gonorrhea



Syphilis has increased 71% since 2014, with more than 115,000 cases in 2018.

Chlamydia has increased 19% since 2014, with more than 1.7 million cases in 2018.

## Several Factors May Be Contributing to This Dramatic Rise



- ▶ Decreases in condom use among vulnerable groups
- ▶ Cuts to STD programs at state and local levels
- ▶ Increasing drug use
- ▶ Unstable housing

## Some Groups Are More Affected

### Gay, Bisexual & Other Men who Have Sex with Men

- ▶ 54% of syphilis cases occurred within this population in 2018
- ▶ 42% of men who have sex with men who have syphilis also have HIV in 2018
- ▶ Data suggest men who have sex with men are disproportionately affected by gonorrhea

### Youth

- ▶ 15-24 year-olds make up about 25% of the sexually active population but account for half of the 20 million new STIs that occur in the United States each year
- ▶ Young women (ages 15-24) account for 44% of reported chlamydia cases

### Pregnant Women & Infants

- ▶ Syphilis rates among women increased 173% from 2014-2018
- ▶ Significant increases in congenital syphilis mirror increases in syphilis among women
- ▶ 94 infants died in 2018 due to syphilis-related complication, an avoidable tragedy

## The US Government's STD Prevention Investments Save Lives & Money

CDC annually prevents an estimated 5.6 million cases of gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia, and 3,200 STI-attributable HIV infections, averting \$2.4 billion in lifetime healthcare costs.



72% of potential cases of congenital syphilis were prevented by STD public health programs in 2017.

## CDC/HHS Are Leading the Way

STD prevention investments enable states and local jurisdictions to

- ▶ Detect and rapidly respond to evolving STD threats
- ▶ Train frontline health workers
- ▶ Provide prevention resources to state and local health departments and education agencies



CDC supports more than 1,600 disease intervention specialists, who help stop the spread of infections by finding people who are unaware they have been exposed to an STD, help them get tested, and connect them to timely treatment.

HHS is leading an initiative to develop the first-ever US government action plan for STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care. The plan will highlight strategies essential to reverse the STD trends affecting the nation.

