

Announcement

STD Awareness Month — April 2013

April is STD Awareness Month, an annual event calling attention to the impact of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States. This month-long observance provides individuals, doctors, and community-based organizations an opportunity to address ways to prevent some of nearly 20 million new cases of STDs that occur in the United States each year (1), costing the U.S. health-care system nearly \$16 billion in direct medical costs (2), and placing a substantial human and economic burden on the nation.

STDs can lead to serious health problems if not diagnosed and treated early. Undetected and untreated STDs can increase a person's risk for human immunodeficiency virus infection and cause other serious health consequences, such as infertility. However, most STDs are treatable, and many are curable. STD screening can help detect disease early and, when combined with appropriate treatment, is one of the most effective tools available to protect one's health and prevent the spread of STDs to others.

Additional information about STDs and resource materials that can be shared with patients and community members are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/std>.

References

1. Satterwhite CL, Torrone E, Meites E, et al. Sexually transmitted infections among U.S. women and men: prevalence and incidence estimates, 2008. *Sex Transm Dis* 2013;40:187–93.
2. Owusu-Edusei K Jr, 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;40:197–201.

Errata

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In the *MMWR* supplement, “Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years and Adults Aged 19 Years and Older — United States, 2013,” on page 7, in the third bulleted item under footnote 13, the text should read, “For children aged **2 months** through 10 years with high-risk conditions, see below.” On page 8, under Additional Vaccine Information, in the fourth bulleted item, the last reference should read, “American Academy of Pediatrics. **Immunization in Special Clinical Circumstances**. In: Pickering LK, Baker CJ, Kimberlin DW, Long SS, eds. Red book: 2012 report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 29th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics.”