

# Rising STDs

## Underfunded Prevention

STDs are currently at their **highest levels ever and have dire health consequences**. The Division of STD Prevention at CDC funds all 50 state health departments and seven large local health departments to engage in STD prevention and control. In most jurisdictions, this is the only funding stream for STD prevention. The current funding level is \$157.3 million

**STD prevention needs at least \$227.3 million to respond to the dramatic rise in STDs across the country.**

**What does a failure to prevent new STDs in America mean?** 20 million new cases of STDs are diagnosed each year. If we fail to respond, this number will continue to rise resulting in soaring health care costs and direct health effects to millions of Americans. We must increase funding for STD prevention to \$227.3 million annually to avert the below consequences.



### Increases in syphilis and congenital syphilis

Syphilis is at the highest levels ever and is associated with significant complications, including facilitating the transmission and acquisition of HIV. Congenital syphilis, mother-to-child transmission, is now at the highest rate since 2000. If left untreated passing on the infection during pregnancy can lead to infant death in up to 40 percent of cases.



### Infertility

In 2016, almost 1.6 million new cases of chlamydia were reported, but this statistic is believed to be less than one-quarter of all new cases. Up to 40 percent of women with untreated chlamydia develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) that can require hospitalization and one in five women with untreated chlamydia will lose the ability to have children.

### Federal CDC – STD Funding

FY17 **\$152.3M (-5M)**

FY18 **\$157.3M**

FY19 **\$157.3M**

FY20 ASK **\$227.3M**



### New cases of untreatable gonorrhea

Untreated gonorrhea can cause serious and permanent health problems including infertility in men and women. There is only one antibiotic option left to treat gonorrhea, and with drug resistant gonorrhea cases spreading in the world, it is only a matter of time before it arrives in the U.S. We must act now before it is too late.

**What is required to address the growing STD epidemics?** A national response is required to address the STD epidemics, including providing much needed resources to health departments.

**This response must include an increase of funding to \$207.3 million for STD prevention line at CDC and \$20 million for a special initiative to prevent new cases of congenital syphilis.**



**NCSDD**  
National Coalition  
of STD Directors

## Special Initiative for Congenital Syphilis Elimination



**What is Congenital Syphilis?** Congenital Syphilis (CS) occurs when syphilis, an STD, is passed from a mother to her baby during pregnancy or delivery. CS in the United States has seen a dramatic increase with devastating effects; reported cases has more than doubled between 2013 and 2017 from 361 cases to 918 – the highest number of recorded cases in 20 years. Up to 40 percent of children born to women with syphilis result in stillbirth or newborn death. Other cases can result in a miscarriage, low birth weight, and/or lifelong developmental issues.

**What can be done?** We need to fund STD Prevention. **\$20 million is needed** to help prevent and treat new cases of Congenital Syphilis. This funding will support the following:



**Screening** Increased syphilis screening for pregnant women and increased pregnancy testing for women with syphilis in a variety of settings can help to prevent any new cases of congenital syphilis.



**Treatment** Ensuring providers deliver the best care to women who have syphilis can prevent catastrophic health outcomes to the mother and their newborn.



**Training** To help ensure that providers are catching and treating syphilis early investments need to be made in training health professional staff, particularly in emergency rooms and urgent care centers. This can help to identify syphilis in women and to screen pregnant women without a recent history of syphilis testing and treatment.



**Partnerships** Increasing access to screening and treatment for congenital syphilis will require a more unified approach. Therefore, partnering with maternal and child health programs can help to ensure pregnant women at risk for syphilis are receiving prenatal care.



**Reporting** Data tracking and reporting can help to better identify areas for improved screening and treatment and general health care delivery for congenital syphilis.

### Making an Impact

NCSD is a national public health organization representing health department STD directors, their support staff, and community-based organizations across 50 states, seven large cities, and eight US territories. NCSD advances effective STD prevention programs and services in every community across the country. For more information, go to [ncsddc.org](http://ncsddc.org).

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