



Most Widely Reported, Curable STDs Remain Significant Health Threat

CDC estimates that approximately 19 million new STD infections occur each year in the United States — almost half of them among young people 15 – 24 years of age. In addition to youth, women and minorities are also severely affected. The two most commonly reported infectious diseases in the United States are chlamydia and gonorrhea, both of which can result in infertility if left untreated.

Chlamydia

- ▶ Chlamydia remains the most commonly reported infectious disease in the U.S.
- ▶ CDC estimates that 2.8 million new infections occur each year
- ▶ More than 1.1 million cases were diagnosed in 2007 (less than half of the estimated number of infections) — routine screening and treatment are critical to reducing infections
- ▶ Young females 15 – 19 years of age have the highest chlamydia rate (3,004.7 per 100,000 population in 2007)
- ▶ **Racial disparities persist — 2007 reported chlamydia rates:**
 - Almost eight times higher among African Americans than among whites
 - Five times higher among American Indians/Alaska Natives than among whites
 - Three times higher among Hispanics than among whites

Gonorrhea

- ▶ Gonorrhea remains the second most commonly reported infectious disease in the U.S.
- ▶ Almost 356,000 cases were reported in 2007 (approximately twice as many new infections are estimated to occur each year as are reported)
- ▶ Rates among women remain slightly higher than rates among men (123.5 vs. 113.7 per 100,000 population in 2007)
- ▶ **Racial disparities in gonorrhea rates among the most severe — 2007 reported gonorrhea rates:**
 - Nineteen times higher among African Americans than among whites
 - Three times higher among American Indians/Alaska Natives than among whites
 - Twice as high among Hispanics than among whites

Preventing STD Infection

There are many actions individuals can take to protect themselves from STDs and their most severe consequences:

STD Screening

- ▶ CDC recommends annual chlamydia screening for all sexually active women under age 26, as well as older women with risk factors such as new or multiple sex partners.
- ▶ CDC also supports U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations to screen high-risk, sexually active women for gonorrhea.

Immunization

- ▶ Vaccines are available for the prevention of two common sexually transmitted viral infections: hepatitis B and human papillomavirus (HPV).

Abstinence and Reduction of Number of Sex Partners

- ▶ The most reliable ways to avoid infection with an STD are to abstain from sex (i.e., oral, vaginal, or anal sex) or to be in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner.

Correct and Consistent Use of Condoms

- ▶ Consistent and correct use of the male latex condom reduces the risk of STD infection.

More information about STDs is available at www.cdc.gov/std