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Subject: sexually transmitted disease

Lowering the rates of gonorrhea - strategies successfully used? Funding sources?

Screening Programs

Many men and women with gonorrhea are asymptomatic. This means that without testing, asymptomatic individuals could pass the disease to new partners without even knowing their partners were at risk. The CDC specifically recommends that all sexually active women under age 25 undergo gonorrhea screening at least once a year. In [one health plan](#), after introduction of a new performance measure focused on screening young women for chlamydia, screening of eligible women increased from 55% in 1998–99 to 72% in 2000–01.

Access to Confidential STD Services

Because many new cases of gonorrhea and other STDs are found among young adults and adolescents who may remain on their parents' insurance plans, confidentiality of screening and treatment records remains a concern to public health officials. [Studies](#) have shown that adolescents and young adults may avoid or delay seeking healthcare for sensitive services to ensure that their illness remains private. Although the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and other laws provide guidelines for confidential care to minors, providers may not be aware of these provisions. Physician [assurances of confidentiality](#) increase young adults and adolescents' willingness to disclose sensitive health information, but these assurances are rarely given.

Expedited Partner Therapy

[Expedited Partner Therapy](#) (EPT) is a strategy that relies on patients to deliver treatment to partners who may also be infected. Research has demonstrated that this strategy is effective at reducing reinfection. A frequently encountered barrier to implementing EPT is concern from health care providers regarding the legality of the practice, including

privacy concerns and liability concerns for providers that prescribe and provide treatment without physical examination. Research has demonstrated that supportive policies alleviating these concerns is correlated with increased use of EPT.

CDC's Community Approaches to Reducing Sexually Transmitted Diseases (CARS)

The CDC's [Community Approaches to Reducing Sexually Transmitted Diseases \(CARS\)](#) project is designed to use community engagement methods to build the capacity of communities around STD prevention. Approaches taken by awardees included opening STD screening and clinical resource centers in at-risk communities, conducting testing via mobile units in communities facing high rates of STD prevalence and offering advancement opportunities including job readiness trainings, GED and SAT prep classes. Early successes in the program include increased screening rates in low-income communities and an increased sense among community stakeholders that their voices were being listened to by policy makers.

Other Resources

CDC Gonorrhea Resources

The CDC maintains a [landing page](#) of gonorrhea resources including resources for individuals, physicians and policy makers.

CDC Screening Recommendations

The CDC provides [guidelines](#) for who should be screened for STDs and how often.

Strengthening STD Prevention and Control for Health Departments

This [competitive award opportunity](#) provides funding for health departments to strengthen STD prevention and control programs for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. The opportunity supports strategies and activities to: eliminate congenital syphilis; prevent antibiotic resistant gonorrhea; reduce primary and secondary syphilis; prevent STD-related pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, and infertility; address STD-related outbreaks; and reduce STD-related health disparities.

Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP)

Antibiotic resistance (AR) is the ability of bacteria to resist the effects of all of the drugs used to treat them. This means the germs are not killed and they will continue to reproduce. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, the bacterium that causes the sexually-transmitted disease gonorrhea, has developed resistance to nearly all of the antibiotics used for gonorrhea treatment. [The Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project \(GISP\)](#) was established in 1986 to monitor AR trends in *N. gonorrhoeae* bacteria in the United States. GISP is a collaborative project among selected STD clinics and their state or local public health authorities, GISP regional laboratories, and CDC. Public health officials and healthcare providers use the data collected in GISP to ensure that gonorrhea is successfully treated with the right antibiotic.

CDC Effective Interventions Toolkit

CDC's [Division of STD Prevention](#) and partners published evidence for the effectiveness of various STD control interventions for today's STD program staff. In a time with fewer resources and more prevention options than ever before, this information offers a menu of options to help programs identify which interventions best meet their needs.

Healthy People 2020 Database of Evidenced-Based Interventions and Resources

The [Healthy People 2020 database](#) includes only programs with high quality evidence evaluating their effectiveness.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance Utah 2007-2016

A [comprehensive look](#) at the rates of gonorrhea transmission and other STDs in Utah.