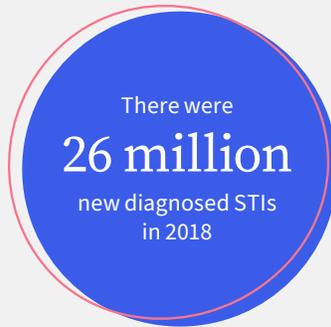
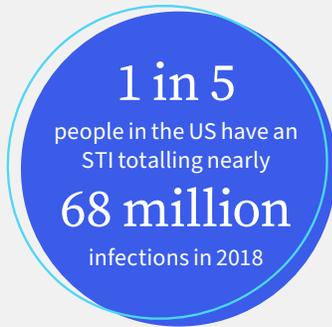


Women's Health

AUGUST 2021 | A NEWSLETTER FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Alarming Rates of STIs in the United States and its impact on health care¹:



New STIs total
nearly \$16 billion
in direct
medical costs

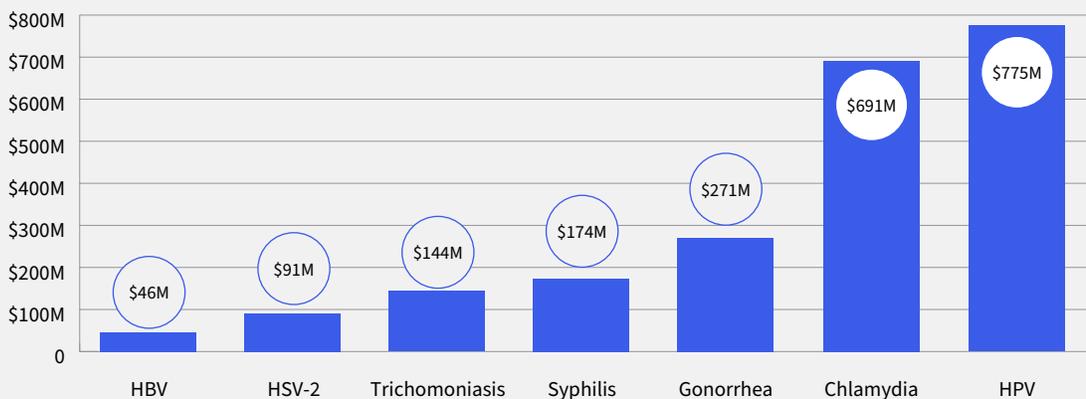


Youth aged 15-24
26% of total costs



Women 25%
of total costs

\$1.1 billion
in direct medical cost
attributed to **chlamydia,
gonorrhea, and syphilis**
common, preventable
infections



**\$13.7B
HIV**

Direct medical costs by infection

Dilemma

Persistent rises in the rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the United States constitute an epidemic and public health crisis with profound implications. The rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and congenital syphilis have increased significantly. The rate of chlamydia, the most commonly reported bacterial STI that can infect both men and women, increased by approximately 19% from 2014 to 2018.² Between 2009-2018 the rate for gonorrhea increased greater than 80%.³ The rates of primary and secondary syphilis and of congenital syphilis increased almost every year since 2001 and 2012, respectively.³

Consequences

The consequences of the STI epidemic are vast. STIs can lead to long-term, irreversible health outcomes such as chronic pelvic pain, infertility, adverse pregnancy outcomes, neonatal death, and congenital abnormalities, and can facilitate HIV acquisition when left untreated.² STIs cost Americans billions of dollars each year in direct medical expenses. Combined, the health and economic toll can affect the quality of life and prosperity of millions of people.²

Coordinated, innovative approaches and sustained efforts are needed to reverse this increasing trajectory and to curtail the ever-growing burden of STIs.² The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released on December 17, 2020 the first-ever national plan to address the public health crisis caused by alarming increases in rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the United States over the past six years.⁴

To learn more about the STI Plan, visit www.hhs.gov/STI.

For more information about STI prevention and treatment, visit www.cdc.gov/STD.

Impact

According to HHS:

"The impact of the STI epidemic does not fall equally across all populations and regions. Adolescents and young adults, men who have sex with men, and pregnant women are disproportionately impacted by STIs. Social determinants of health contribute to a substantial unequal burden of STIs in Black, American Indian/Alaska Native and Hispanic communities. In addition, people living in the Southern and Western regions of the U.S. are disproportionately affected."⁴

Vision

This inaugural STI Plan lays out a clear vision for preventing those consequences:

"The United States will be a place where sexually transmitted infections are prevented and where every person has high-quality STI prevention, care, and treatment while living free from stigma and discrimination.

This vision includes all people, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, geographic location, or socioeconomic circumstance."²

Click [here](#) to learn more about Labcorp's STI testing portfolio

August Health Awareness Calendar

- Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month
- National Breastfeeding Month
- National Rainbow Baby Day (August 22)
- World Breastfeeding Week (Aug 1-7)



View [past editions](#) of Labcorp's Women's Health Newsletter

References

1. Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevalence, Incidence, and Cost Estimates in the United States. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/prevalence-2020-at-a-glance.htm>. Accessed April 9, 2021.
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4. HHS Releases First National Strategic Plan to Address Sexually Transmitted Infections. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/17/hhs-releases-first-national-strategic-plan-to-address-sti.html>. Accessed April 9, 2021.