Meeting the Challenge in the Community: We're Still Here!

Stephanie S. Arnold Pang Senior Director, Policy and Government Relations



Disclosure

Disclosure: Stephanie Arnold Pang has no financial interest to disclose.

Goals of Presentation

- Overview of Sexual Health Epidemics
- COVID: Grief, stress, and opportunities
- Current Trends Impacting Our Work
- What you can do-we're still here!
- How to Engage with NCSD

About You!

- Who are you? Where do you work?
- What are your jobs/positions?

Stephanie's Midwestern Roots



You can take the girl out of the Midwest...

I am *so excited* about this pub cheese, you have no idea. That's all I've wanted every evening after dinner.

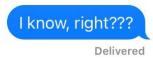
And the meal is going to be perfect—thank you.

Read 3:21 PM

Today 3:21 PM



But honestly, spreadable cheese is the most upper Midwestern craving that I could have imagined...







My life in STDs





NCSD Mission & Vision

MISSION

To advance effective STL prevention programs and services in every community across the country. NCSD does this as the voice of our membership. We provide leadership, build capacity, convene partners, and advocate.

VISION

A nation without sexually transmitted diseases.

Revisiting our mission & vision: Moving towards a sexual health & wellbeing framework, and away from a disease model.

What We Do



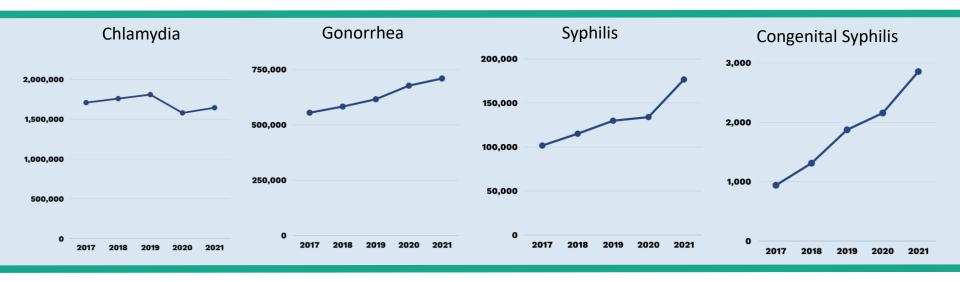


National Leadership & Strategic Communications

(V) Promoting Health Equity



Why We Do It

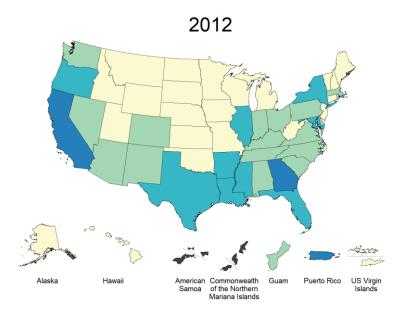


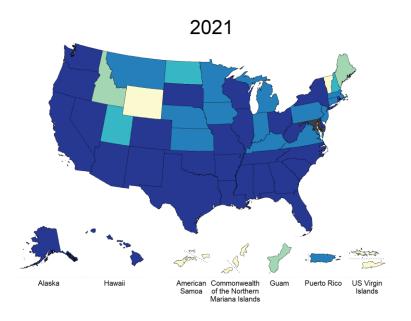
https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/2021/default.htm, accessed May 1, 2023

Infectious Disease Trends

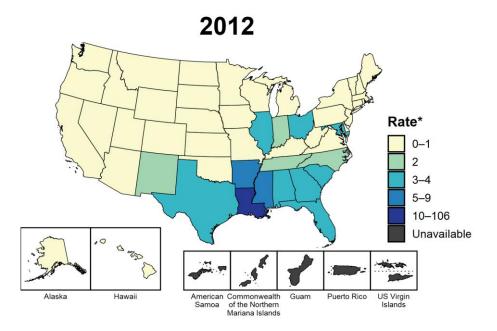
Primary and Secondary Syphilis Is Rapidly Increasing Across All Areas of the United States

Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Rates* of Reported Cases by State, United States and Territories, 2012 and 2021





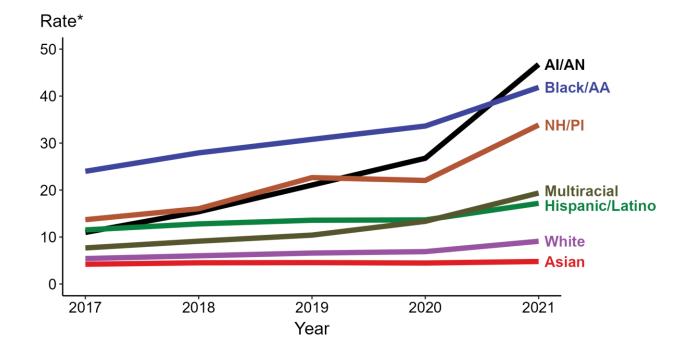
Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Rates of Reported Cases Among Women Aged 15–44 Years by State, United States and Territories, 2012–2021



* Per 100,000



Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Rates of Reported Cases by Race/Hispanic Ethnicity, United States, 2017–2021

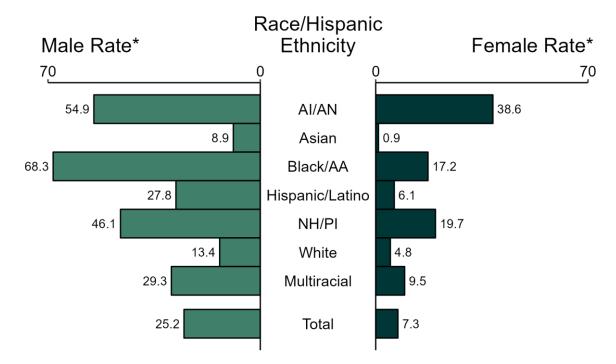






ACRONYMS: AI/AN = American Indian or Alaska Native; Black/AA = Black or African American; NH/PI = Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Rates of Reported Cases by Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Sex, United States, 2021



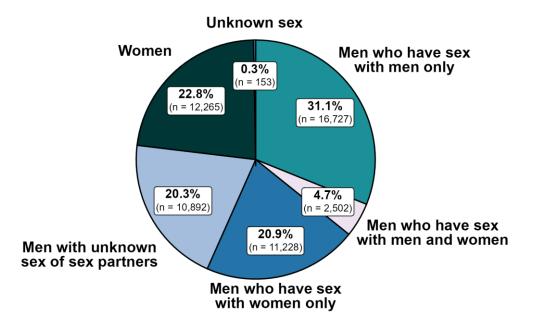
* Per 100,000

ACRONYMS: AI/AN = American Indian or Alaska Native; Black/AA = Black or African American; NH/PI = Native Hawaiian or

other Pacific Islander

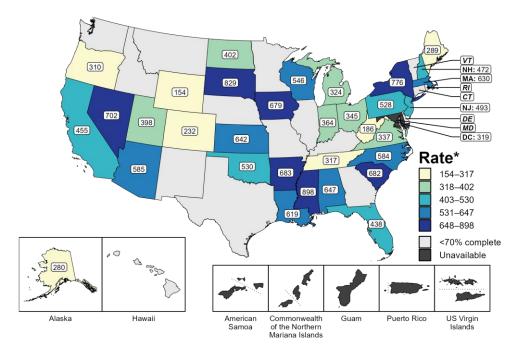
NOTE: Total includes all cases including those with unknown race/Hispanic ethnicity.

Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Distribution of Cases by Sex and Sex of Sex Partners, United States, 2021





Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Estimated Rates of Reported Cases Among MSM by State, 33 States and the District of Columbia, 2021



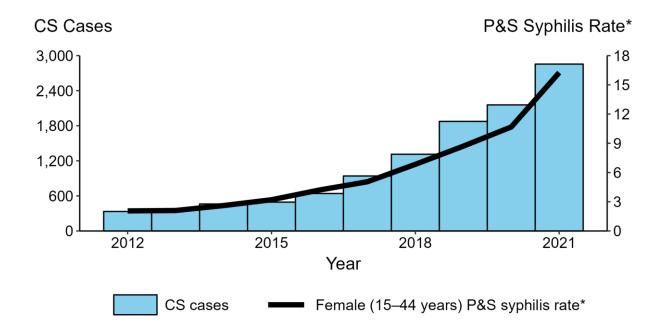
* Per 100,000



NOTE: Figure displays rates for states reporting ≥70% completeness of sex of sex partners data for male primary and secondary syphilis cases in 2021. Population estimates for MSM in US territories are unavailable.

ACRONYMS: MSM = Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men; MSW = Men who have sex with women only

Congenital Syphilis — Reported Cases by Year of Birth and Rates of Reported Cases of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Among Women Aged 15–44 Years, United States, 2012–2021

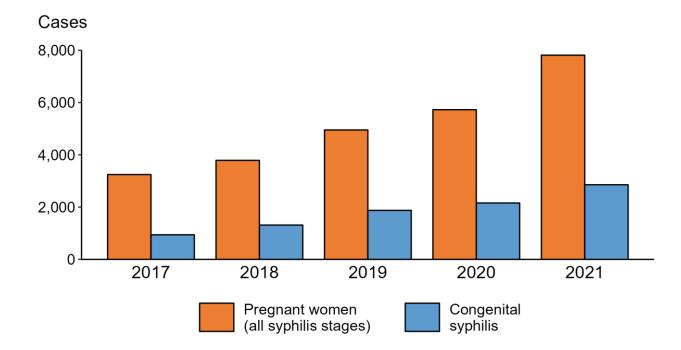


* Per 100,000



ACRONYMS: CS = Congenital syphilis; P&S Syphilis = Primary and secondary syphilis

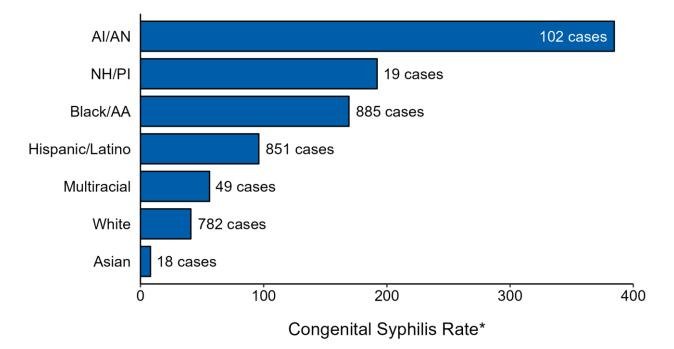
Syphilis— Reported Cases of Syphilis (All Stages) among Pregnant Women and Reported Cases of Congenital Syphilis by Year of Birth, United States, 2017–2021



NOTE: The percent of cases missing information on pregnancy status decreased from 14.0% in 2017 to 9.3% in 2021.



Congenital Syphilis — Case Counts and Rates of Reported Cases by Race/Hispanic Ethnicity of Mother, United States, 2021



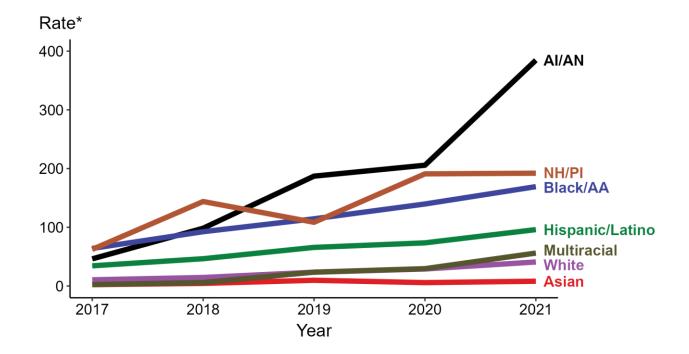
* Per 100,000 live births

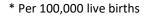


NOTE: In 2021, a total of 149 congenital syphilis cases (5.2%) had missing, unknown, or other race and were not reported to be of Hispanic ethnicity.

ACRONYMS: AI/AN = American Indian or Alaska Native; Black/AA = Black or African American; NH/PI = Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Congenital Syphilis — Rates of Reported Cases by Year of Birth, Race/Hispanic Ethnicity of Mother, United States, 2017–2021

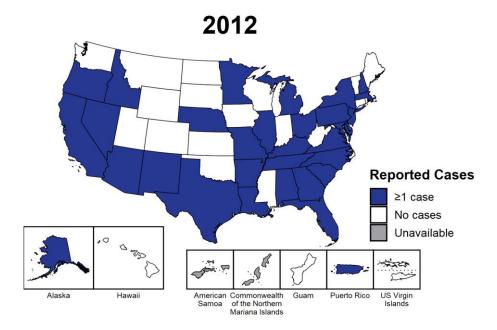






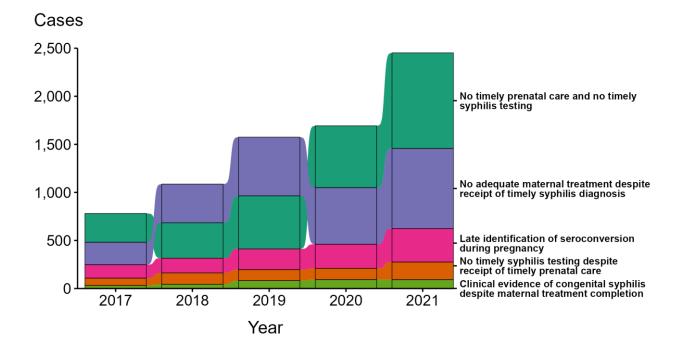
ACRONYMS: AI/AN = American Indian or Alaska Native; Black/AA = Black or African American; NH/PI = Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Congenital Syphilis — Reported Cases by Year of Birth and State, United States and Territories, 2012–2021





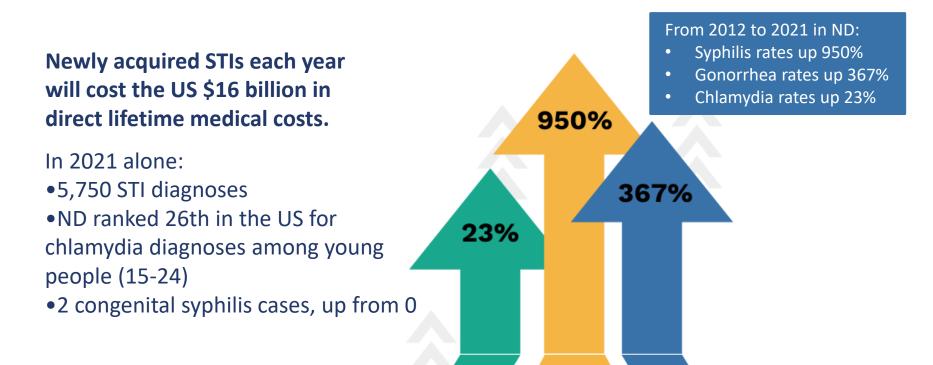
Congenital Syphilis — Missed Prevention Opportunities among Mothers Delivering Infants with Congenital Syphilis, United States, 2017–2021





NOTE: Of the 9,141 congenital syphilis cases reported during 2017 to 2021, 1,553 (17.0%) were not able to have the primary missed prevention opportunity identified due to insufficient information provided to CDC related to maternal prenatal care, testing, or treatment.

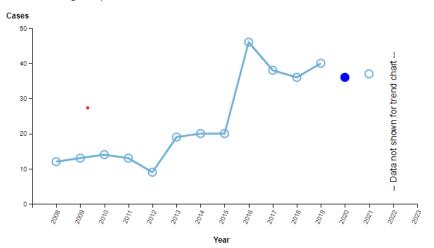
North Dakota Stats



North Dakota Stats - HIV

± || ⊞

HIV diagnoses | 2008-2022 | Ages 13 years and older | All races/ethnicities | Both sexes | All transmission categories | North Dakota



Footnotes: Data for years 2021 and 2022 are preliminary (subject to a 12-month reporting delay). Data for the year 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to HIV testing, care-related services, and case surveillance activities in state/local jurisdictions. Inclusion of 2020 through 2022 data in trend assessments is discouraged. Data by transmission category presented based on sex assigned at birth and are adjusted for missing transmission category. See Technical notes for more details on data availability and stratifications. NA- Not Applicable. Since 2016, HIV diagnoses in individuals 13+ have increased overall in ND.

In 2015, there were 20 new diagnoses, which jumped to 46 in 2016 and included 37 new diagnoses in 2021.

*Most recent data from https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/nchhstpatlas/maps.html, accessed April 2023.

North Dakota Stats - Hepatitis

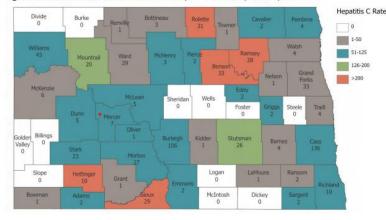


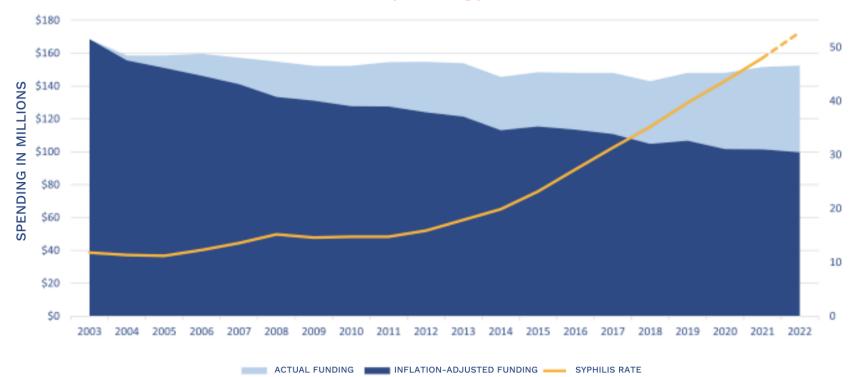
Figure 35. ND HCV case counts and rate per 100,000 by county, 2021

In 2021, there were 653 reports of people newly identified with a positive Viral Hepatitis C lab result.

According to the state report, "none were acute [because] symptom history was not reported and/or testing occurred outside the acute phase."

Annual CDC STD Prevention Budget FY2003 - FY2022

41% decrease in purchasing power since 2003



* Funding numbers do not include Working Capital Fund **Syphilis rate trend is predicted after 2021

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

YOUTH RISK DATA SUMMARY & BEHAVIOR TRENDS REPORT SURVEY 2011-2021

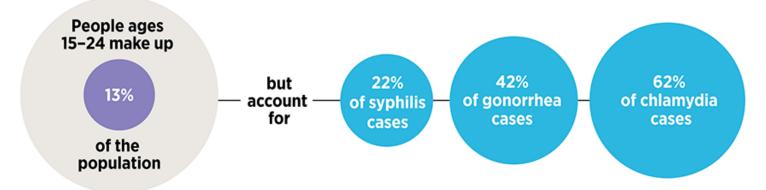
Major Findings:

- Risky sexual behaviors are decreasing, but so are protective behaviors like condom use and STI/HIV testing.
- Substance use is generally decreasing but still too high.
- Experiences of violence, including sexual violence, are not declining and in some cases are increasing.
- Poor mental health and suicidal thoughts & behaviors are increasing for nearly all groups of youth.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/yrbs_data_summary_and_trends.htm?ACSTrackingID=DM103654&ACSTrackingLabel=April%202023%20DASH%20Partner%20Update&deliveryName=DM103654

Adolescent Health

② Young people are disproportionately burdened by STIs



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Census Bureau.

www.guttmacher.org

Federal Policy Wins

- Increased funding for STD prevention in FY'23
- Congress began process of moving the grant year for PCHD recipients
- Congress "held harmless" PCHD recipient funding levels
- Increased flexibility in CDC grants due to mpox advocacy
- Presidential support for a National PrEP Program and a Viral Hepatitis Elimination Program

Federal Policy Landscape

Challenges:

- Split Congress: Democrats control the Senate and Republicans control the House
- High levels of partisanship
- Public health policy "fatigue" in Washington

Opportunities:

- Senate HELP Committee exploring bipartisan health care workforce shortage solutions
- Educating new members

Federal Funding: NCSD Priorities

	Final FY'21 Funding	Final FY'22 Funding	Final FY'23 Funding	President's FY'24 Budget Proposal	NCSD's FY'24 Funding Request
CDC – Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP)	\$161.8 m	\$164.3 m	\$174.3 m	\$174.3 m	\$312.5 m (includes \$18 m one time)
CDC – Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)	\$34.1 m	\$36.1 m	\$38.1 m	\$90.1 m	\$100 m
HRSA – STI Clinical Services Demonstration Project	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$200 m

STI National Strategic Plan

Intended to bring together an all-of-government response to achieve the following:

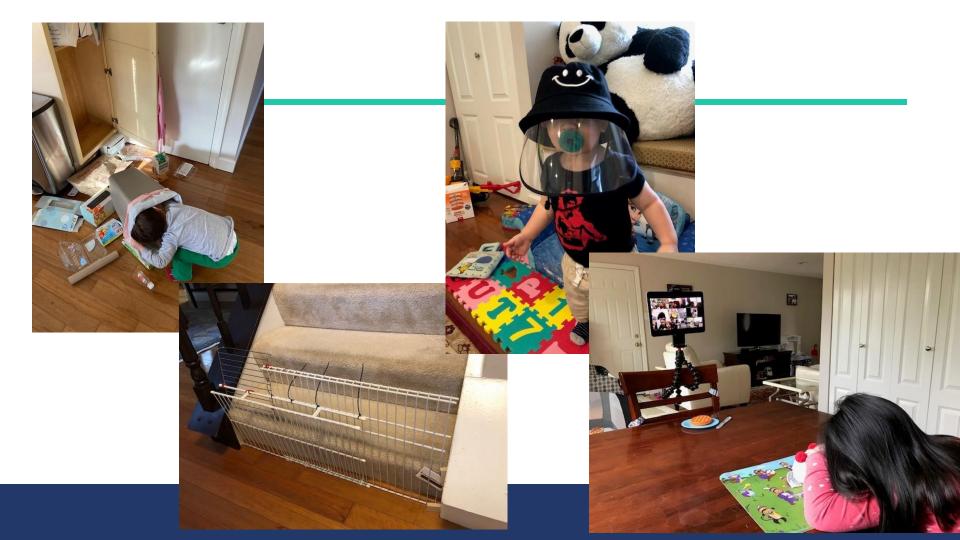
- Goal 1: Prevent New STIs
- Goal 2: Improve the Health of People by Reducing Adverse Outcomes of STIs
- Goal 3: Accelerate Progress in STI Research, Technology, and Innovation
- Goal 4: Reduce STI-Related Health Disparities and Health Inequities
- Goal 5: Achieve Integrated, Coordinated Efforts That Address the STI Epidemic

...The next step is an implementation plan, which should be published in the next month.

Impact of COVID on Infectious Diseases

Challenges and Opportunities





COVID & Grief



Emotional Intelligence



That Discomfort You're Feeling Is Grief

by Scott Berinato



COVID-19: Coming to an STD Program Near You

- News of COVID-19 hits the US in January
 - National public health emergency February 3
 - COVID-19 national emergency March 13
- Health departments jump into action



- Contact tracing and partner services expertise found in STD programs
- Redeployments, reassignments, overtime assignments
- Program disruptions, services halted

COVID-19 & The State of The STD Field

MAY 2020

- **83%** were deferring STD services or field visits
- **57%** of DIS redeployed to COVID
- **62%** of programs could not maintain HIV/Syphilis case loads
- 66% decrease in clinical capacity
- Only 32% of DIS had capabilities to perform field visits remotely or virtually

AUGUST 2020

- Only 2% of STD programs had not been involved in their state's COVID-19 contact tracing efforts
- **31%** were leading their state's response
- **75%** experienced significant disruptions
- **84%** implementing an innovation or had plans to implement soon

STD Programs during COVID

Survey Findings

As a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.:

- 83 percent of STD programs are deferring STD services or field visits
- 62 percent of STD programs cannot maintain their HIV and syphilis caseloads
- 66 percent of clinics report a decrease in sexual health screening and testing
- 60 percent of clinics are experiencing reduced capacity to treat STDs; 22 report their capacity is reduced by more than half their normal capacity
- 57 percent of DIS report that they or other DIS in their jurisdictions have been redeployed to COVID-19
- Only 32 percent of DIS have capabilities to perform field visits remotely or virtually

COVID testing blitz undermined screening, fight against STDs

By MATTHEW PERRONE April 7, 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — After an unprecedented push to test and track COVID-19, public health workers are grappling with a worrisome side effect: a collapse in screening for sexually transmitted diseases that have been on the rise for years.

Testing for diseases like chlamydia and gonorrhea plummeted in many parts of the U.S. last year as COVID-19 sapped away resources and staff. Health officials say this testing gap left them unable to track or control outbreaks of the diseases, which were already at record levels before the pandemic.

"It's clear there have been mass disruptions to testing, surveillance and clinical care and that's likely making sexually transmitted infections worse than ever," said David Harvey, executive director of the National Coalition of STD Directors, which represents state and local health workers.

Many STD clinics shut their doors or slashed their hours during the lockdowns last spring. Staffers who previously helped track the infections were reassigned to focus on COVID-19. And labs that process most STD tests were forced to ration supplies to focus on the flood of incoming COVID-19 samples.

Headlines on DIS/Contact Tracing from COVID



Headlines on DIS/Contact Tracing from COVID

04-22-20 | CORONAVIRUS

These disease investigation specialists usually track down STDs. Now they're doing COVID-19 contact tracing

The National Coalition of STD Directors is lending its disease intervention specialists to help find, test, and isolate people who have been exposed to the coronavirus.

Policy Response

PRESS RELEASE

\$1.13 BILLION U.S. INVESTMENT IN DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS (DIS) WILL TRANSFORM PUBLIC HEALTH

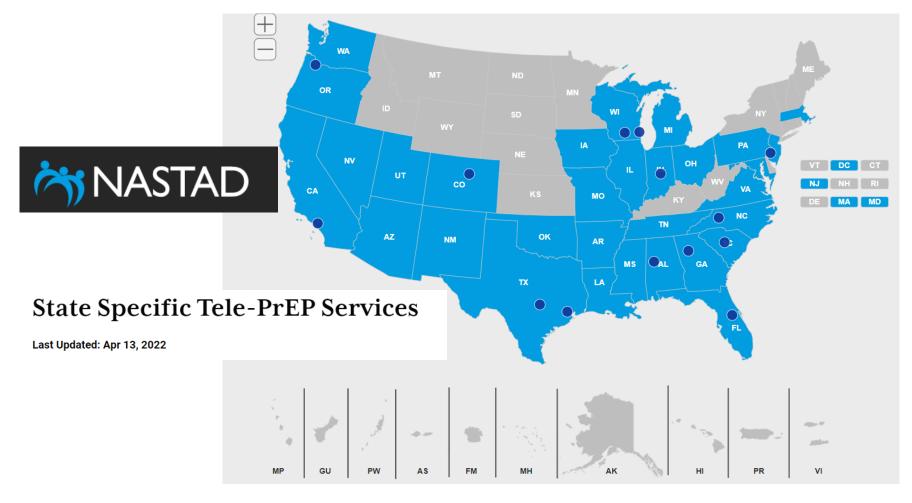
DIS Serve Historic Role in Fighting COVID and Other Infectious Disease Outbreaks



RELEASE DATE May 13, 2021

HIV Programs & COVID

- Increase in TelePrEP
- At home testing





State Specific Self-Testing Services

WA

МТ

WY

co

NE

Last Updated: Apr 20, 2022





Dakota!

DC

MD

NJ

VA

NC

TN





"SELF-TESTING":

A Strategy to Improve Access to HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and STI Testing

https://nastad.org/resources/self-testing-strategy-improve-access-hiv-viral-hepatitis-and-sti-testing



MPOX Message Testing Takeaways

- Many participants wanted mpox vaccines but faced barriers
- Declining media attention led to declining perception of risk – you need to remind them that cases could rise again
- People need to hear that the vaccine is <u>safe</u> and <u>effective</u>

MPOX Messaging

- Partnership with CDC to test and improve messages during the outbreak using AI
- Focus groups with 281 people
- Asked about: vaccine decisions, stigma, the Mpox name and Mpox as an STI, barriers, trust in public health

Implications from COVID

- Telehealth
- Internet partner services
- Nonclinical Home-Based Testing
- Pharmacy partnerships
- Mail-order condoms







FREE in home STI & HIV PrEP lab collection. YES PLEASE!

Jennifer Schmidt, MS Assistant Director of Field Epidemiology Services Unit

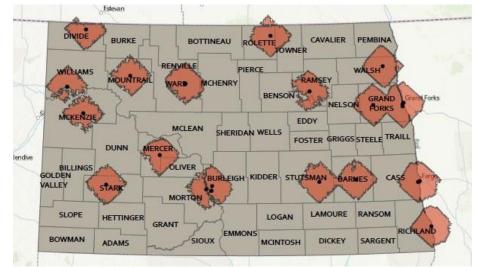
NCSD STD Engage Conference May 17, 2023 in New Orleans, LA



Health & Human Services

STIs increased for the 7th consecutive year. What can be done, fill the gaps?

- Give an affordable option to the 30% of North Dakotans who live more than 20 miles away from a clinic that offers comprehensive sexual health care
- Provide access to HIV PrEP services
- Get the word out about STI testing options
 - Reach those that feel stigmatized
 - Reach those unable to pay
 - Reach those uncomfortable talking about sex with their health care provider



- 1. Single-site HIV/STI kit: genital chlamydia & gonorrhea, HIV, and syphilis
- 2. Comprehensive single-site kit: genital chlamydia & gonorrhea, HIV, syphilis, and Hepatitis C
- 3. Triple-site HIV/STI kit: genital, anal, and oral chlamydia & gonorrhea, HIV, and syphilis
- 4. Comprehensive triple-site HIV/STI kit: genital, anal, and oral chlamydia & gonorrhea, HIV, syphilis, and Hepatitis C
- 5. HIV PrEP Starter: genital, anal, and oral chlamydia & gonorrhea, HIV, syphilis, creatine, Hepatitis B & C

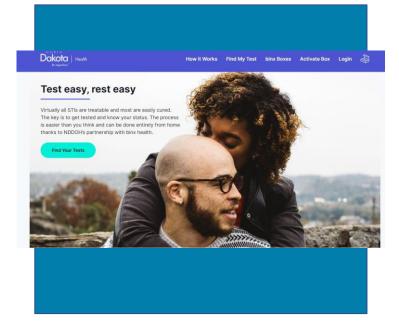




Be Legendary.

Client Experience

- 1. Client visits ND BINX website to order kit
- 2. Client receives kit at home
- Client activates their box and self-collects samples – activation questions mirror CDC CTR survey
- 4. Client places samples in postage paid envelope and drops off at any UPS site
- 5. Client receives results in an average of 7 days from sample collection date
- 6. Free telehealth visit occurs with medical director if client has a positive result or is recommended for HIV PrEP





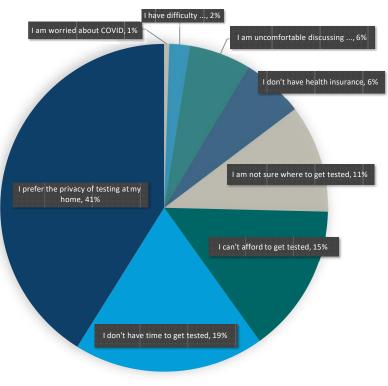
Health & Human Services

Client's response to: "Why did you choose the program?"

- 41% "I prefer the privacy of testing at home"
- 19% "I don't have time to get tested"
- 15% "I can't afford to get tested"
- 11% "I am not sure where to get tested"
- 6% "I do not have health insurance"
- 6% "I am uncomfortable with discussing sex and $se_{xuality}$ with my health care provider"
- 2% "I have difficulty finding transportation to a testing site" $% \mathcal{A}^{(n)}$
- 1% "I am worried about COVID"



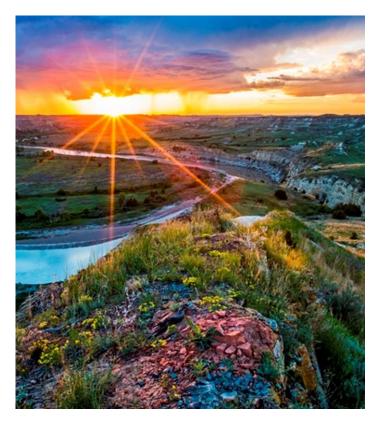
Be Legendary



Does At-Home Self-Collection STI Testing Work?

Are the clients requesting screening at risk for STIs?	Are we reaching LGTBQIA+ & racial minorities?	Has HIV PrEP usage increased?	Is it being used by those in small town USA?
<u>YES!</u> Percent positive 7.01% CT 1.16% GC 3.5% Syphilis 0.58% HIV	YES! 38% of clients are men who have sex with men 27 per 100,000 minority groups vs. 21 per 100,000 white, not Hispanic	YES! 18% of clients newly initiated HIV PrEP as recommended	YES! & No. 14% of clients were from cities <2,500 people





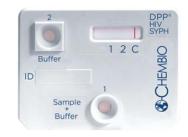
2nd Year Plans:

- Target <2,500 populated cities
- Target those with hep C risk
- ND Medicaid reimbursement
- Mpox testing



New & Upcoming Innovations

- DPP HIV-Syphilis POCT
- DoxyPep
 - Promise in preventing bacterial STIs in cis men & transgender women when taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex; not in cis women
- HSV vaccine developments
 - Pritelivir showing promise, currently in Phase III trials
 - BioNtech began human trials of preventative vaccine
- Gonorrhea vaccine
 - More research is needed but the meningococcal vaccine
 VA-MENGOC-BC has been found to provide up to 30-40% protection
 from gonorrhea infections



 Taking doxycycline within 72 hours of condomless sex reduced STIs by:

 666%

 62%

Healio

per quarter among p participants on HIV PrEP

per quarter among participants with HIV

State Trends Impacting Infectious Diseases

Legislation targeting LGBTQ rights more than doubled since last year

Number of anti-LGBTQ bills introduced in state legislatures each session

2018	42	
2019	51	
2020	77	
2021	154	
2022		180
2023		417

Note: Data as of April 3, 2023. Bills carried over from previous legislative sessions are included in each year.

Source: American Civil Liberties Union Graphic: Annette Choi, CNN

2021 2022 2023 2018 2019 2020 Education 10 з 27 85 123 283 Health care 7 4 21 35 36 --------------More than two-thirds of the health care-related bills introduced this year are aimed at blocking 142 trans youth from getting gender-affirming care. Drag performances This is the first year that states have explicitly targeted drag shows via legislation, classifying them as "adult cabaret" entertainment. 39 Civil rights *********** 28 28 29 19 38 36 •• -----Accurate IDs 2 з з 15 Public accomodations . -.... 2 з 1 5 4 9

Number of anti-LGBTQ bills introduced in each state legislative session, by category

Other barriers 2 4 3 7 6 43

State efforts, how it impacts STDs

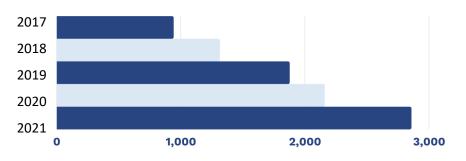
- Policies that restrict health care access or curb safety for LGBTQ+ individuals can have a disproportionate impact on accessing other health care services, including STI/HIV testing.
- When medical spaces don't feel safe in general, youth may not utilize them at all or don't trust their providers.
- This can also include schools and therefore, school-based health centers.

State of Maternal Health and CS

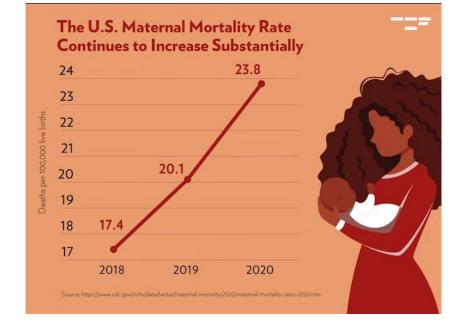
Fund

The U.S. Maternal Health Divide: The Limited Maternal Health Services and Worse Outcomes of States Proposing New Abortion Restrictions

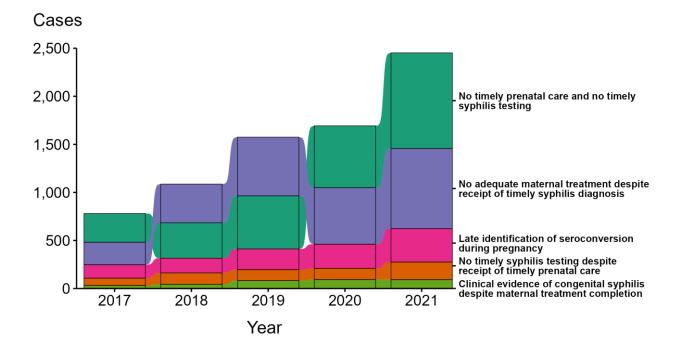
CS in the US by Year



Source: https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/2021/default.htm



Congenital Syphilis — Missed Prevention Opportunities among Mothers Delivering Infants with Congenital Syphilis, United States, 2017–2021





NOTE: Of the 9,141 congenital syphilis cases reported during 2017 to 2021, 1,553 (17.0%) were not able to have the primary missed prevention opportunity identified due to insufficient information provided to CDC related to maternal prenatal care, testing, or treatment.

Chart 1

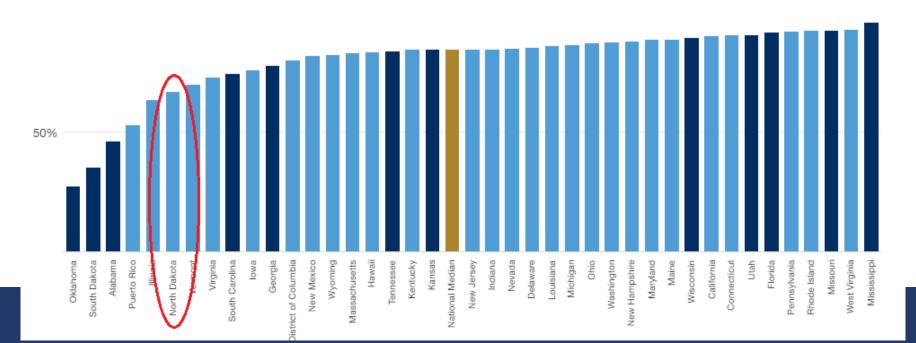
Expansion and Non-Expansion State Performance on Prenatal and Postpartum Care, FFY 2020

Timeliness of Prenatal Care refers to the percentage of women enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP who had a prenatal care visit in their first trimester or on, before, or within 42 days of their date of enrollment.

Postpartum Care refers to the percentage of women enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP who had a postpartum care visit within 7-84 days after delivery.

Click the tabs below to view selected measures:

Timeliness of Prenatal Care (40 states reporting) Postpartum Care (39 states reporting)



Braidwood v. Becerra Ruling

- Coverage for more than 151 million people at risk
- Creates uncertainty for insurance carriers & employers
- Generates severe variation in coverage across the nation

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

BRAIDWOOD MANAGEMENT	§	
INC., et al.,	§	
	§	
Plaintiffs,	§	
	§	
v.	§	Civil Action No. 4:20-cv-00283-O
	§	
XAVIER BECERRA, et al.,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	

FINAL JUDGMENT

This Judgment is issued pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 58(a).

POLICY STATEMENT

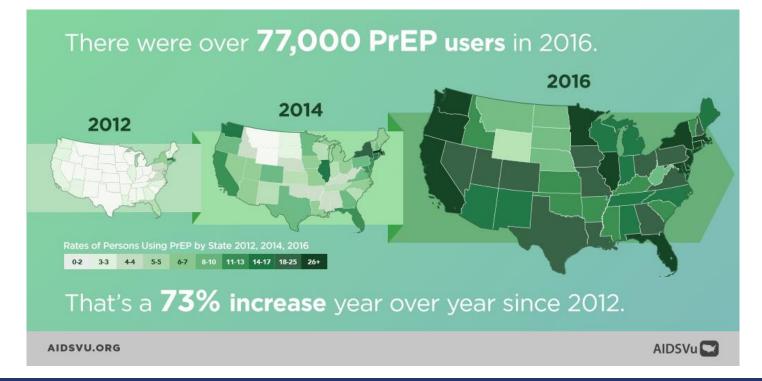
STD LEADERS CONDEMN DANGEROUS PROGRESSION OF COURT RULINGS ON STI AND OTHER PREVENTIVE SERVICES

National ruling on Braidwood Management vs. Becerra threatens the nation's health



RELEASE DATE March 30, 2023

Impact on PrEP



State Decisions on Federal Funds

Tennessee's Rejection of \$8.8 Million in Federal Funding Alarms H.I.V. Prevention Groups

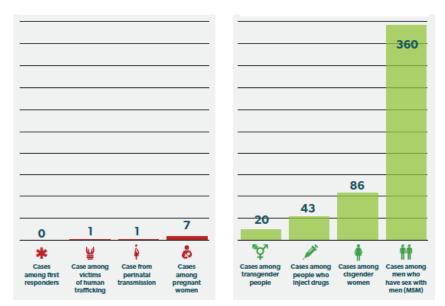
FEATURED

CDC steps in to make sure HIV programs in Tennessee keep federal funding

Mandy Hrach 18 hrs ago

Tennessee & HIV Prevention

- Shifting "priority populations"
- Limiting HIV prevention activities to only 2% of those of those "at risk"
- Could add \$255 million in HIV treatment costs per year for the state
- Narrow focus: avoid 9 HIV cases per year
- Populations most at risk: prevent an estimated 509 cases of HIV per year



* Calculated as the lifetime treatment costs of failure to prevent 500 net HIV cases [509 cases - 9 cases] each year under the Tennessee state officials' plan [\$510,000 x 500 = \$255 million in additional treatment costs].

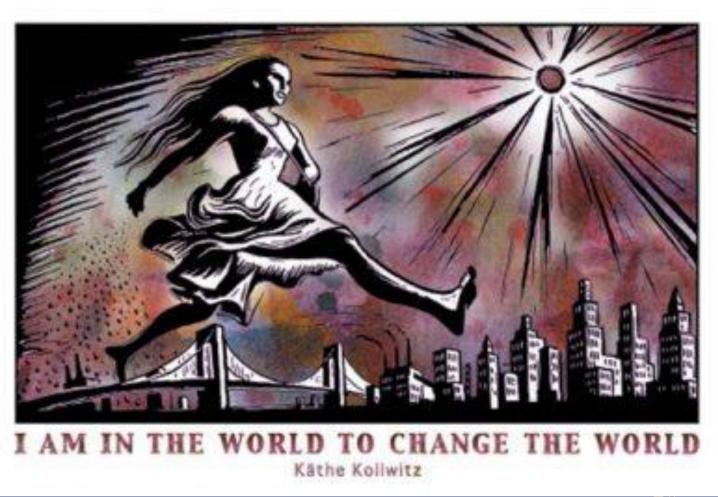
The Andelson Office of Public Policy • T:+1202.331.8600 www.amfar.org #CureAIDS





We are still here.

- Think of what you have dealt with in the last three years.
- YOU ARE STILL HERE.
- You are meeting the challenge.



Build on what you've done

- Community partnerships during COVID
- At-home testing
- Meeting people where they are
- COVID shown a light on contact tracing

Preexisting crisis, but we have the tools

Programs

- STI Clinic+
- Let's Get Checked
- DIS Training Center
- Policy & government affairs
- Peer-based training/TA
- Health equity fellowship
- LEAHP



Check Yourself

Partnering with LetsGetChecked for expanded access to easy, in-home STI testing.



Innovative easy-at home test solution that detects Chlamydia, gonorrhea, trichomonas, syphilis & HIV. Simple and confidential collection that patients can do wherever they feel comfortable.

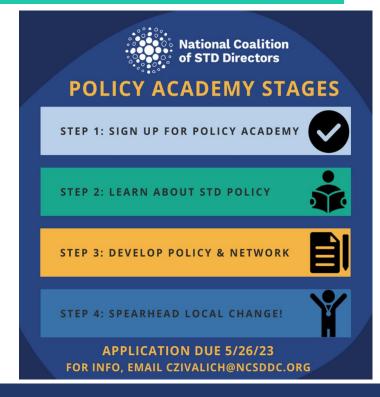


Support you can trust, every step of the way. Addresses missed opportunities for healthcare delivery when clinical capacities are limited or unavailable. Point of care service solution for outreach testing events, disease intervention field visits, community health initiatives and more.



Policy Academy

- Learn how to engage in policy & policymaker education
- Overview of policy basics, skill building, empowering program staff, demystifying policy work
- Recognize and integrate health equity into policy goals
- Learn how to leverage partnerships & coalitions
- Understand how to evaluate policy quality & effectiveness



How to connect with NCSD

- Ncsddc.org
- On Social Media:
 - Twitter: @ncsddc
 - Instagram: @ncsddc
 - TikTok: @ncsddc
 - Look us up on LinkedIn and Facebook

Membership



- Free sign-up available on ncsddc.org
- Access secure discussion platform, MyNCSD
- Get newsletters and other info

STD Engage 2023: Coming Back Stronger



- May 15-19
- First time back inperson
- 1200 people

 Focus on DoxyPEP, health equity, Mpox, policy

Thank you!

North Dakota Organizers

- Sarah Weninger
- Alison Zarr
- Lindsey VanderBusch
- Brenton Nesemeier

NCSD Staff

- David Harvey
- Rachel Deitch
- Diana Rono
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