

Center for Gonorrhea Excellence

March 2022 | E-Newsletter

Welcome!

The Center for Gonorrhea Excellence was established as part of the CDC-funded **Strengthening the U.S. Response to Resistant Gonorrhea**



(SURRG) grant in Indiana and has become a centralized repository of information on best practices related to the management of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections, especially as it relates to the threat of antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea.



The center also focuses on improving the quality of data pertaining to people diagnosed with gonorrhea, which will improve our understanding of the risk factors associated with acquiring gonorrhea and the healthcare-seeking behaviors practiced by patients who have been diagnosed. These activities will be included in another CDC-funded project in Indiana, the **STD Surveillance Network (SSuN)** grant, and will enhance our STD surveillance activities at the state and local levels.

Gonorrhea in the news– The **STD Awareness Issue!**

This section includes national and international headlines relating to gonorrhea.

National STD Awareness Week set for April 10-16, 2022

STD Awareness Week, observed the second full week in April, provides an opportunity to raise awareness about STDs and how they impact our lives; reduce STD-related stigma, fear and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge to prevent, test for and treat STDs. CDC estimates that about 20 percent of the U.S. population – approximately one in five people in the U.S. – had an STI on any given day in 2018, and STDs acquired that year cost the American healthcare system nearly \$16 billion in healthcare costs alone... [\[read more\]](#).

More cases of antibiotic resistant gonorrhea identified in England

Three new cases of antibiotic-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, the bacteria that causes gonorrhea, have been confirmed in England. These cases are in addition to the case announced in December 2021. Ceftriaxone is the main antibiotic used to treat gonorrhea in the UK, and being infected with a ceftriaxone-resistant strain means that this antibiotic will not easily treat the infection... [\[read more\]](#).

Information hub

The following sections provide specific resources available from the center as they pertain to best practices around gonorrhea. If you'd like to see more resources in these hubs, please let us know.

Did you know?

There is a subtype of Chlamydia (CT), one of the most commonly transmitted STDs, known as lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) that causes temporary genital blisters or ulcers and can lead to swollen lymph nodes. It can also mimic inflammatory bowel disease if the CT infection is in the rectum.



Provider resources



As part of STD Awareness Week, the CDC has resources on its website available for staff who are working in or managing a clinic. A **“Let’s Talk about Sexual Health”** [video](#) discusses the importance of a healthy dialogue between youth and their providers about their sexual health. The site also offers [Teen Friendly Office Tips](#) for visual examples that can be adapted into an outpatient medical setting. There are also STD prevention [Success Stories](#) that can be shared with leaders in your community to help spread the word that STD prevention works!

Data & surveillance



The IDOH, in conjunction with the Vanderburgh County Health Department and the Daviess County Health Department, has been responding to an outbreak of adult syphilis cases in southwestern Indiana since November 2021. **More than 100 cases** have been identified as part of the [outbreak](#), including common risk factors of methamphetamine use, incarceration in the past year and transient living/homelessness. These risk factors are identical to **nine other states** that are also seeing outbreaks of syphilis cases.

Recent ARGC literature

- ♦ [Predicting Emergence of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Among Women of Reproductive Age in US Counties](#)
- ♦ [Factors Associated With Partner Notification, Testing, and Positivity in HIV Partner Services Programs in the United States, 2013 to 2017](#)

Upcoming events

- ♦ 4/13– **Understand. Prepare. Share. Connect. Gonorrhea Learning Session!** (invite to follow from HCET)

State resources

- ♦ [STD prevention website](#)
- ♦ [Center for Gonorrhea Excellence website](#)

National resources

- ♦ [CDC Division of STD Prevention](#)
- ♦ [APHA Reproductive & Sexual Health](#)

Get Tested IN



In partnership with the Indianapolis-based community health organization, Healthcare Education and Training (HCET), the IDOH has revamped the [GetTestedIN.org](#) website to

include information for both patients and healthcare providers when it comes to learning about STDs, how to seek services if you think you may have an STD or were exposed by a sexual partner, as well as resources for professionals on how to report and manage STD diagnoses. The website will also feature downloadable materials for raising awareness about the rising rates of STDs in our state (and across the country) during national **STD Awareness Week, April 10-16**. HCET’s main website also has a calendar of upcoming virtual [events](#) that provides quick and easy sign-up!

Editor's Desk



Have news or literature you'd like to see featured?
Have an event coming up you'd like to share?

Contact the newsletter editor to submit for distribution.

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