

STI

2021–2023 Progress Report At a Glance



This report provides an update on national and federal progress in meeting the goals of the Sexually Transmitted Infections National Strategic Plan 2021–2025. Indicator data is based on the most recently available surveillance data from either 2021 or 2022.



Core Indicators that have met 2023 annual target:



Reduce gonorrhea rate by **2% by 2025**



Reduce gonorrhea rate **among African Americans/Blacks**



Core Indicators that have not met 2023 annual target:



Reduce primary and secondary syphilis (P&S) syphilis rate by **3% by 2025**



Reduce congenital syphilis rate by **15% by 2025**

Federal Progress Highlights

CDC

In 2021, the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) published the [2021 STI Treatment Guidelines](#), which updated the 2015 guidance and **provided a comprehensive guide to prevention, testing, and treatment of STIs**. HRSA partnered with CDC/DSTDP to deliver the “2021 CDC STI Guidelines Bootcamp: Where To Look and What To Do?” webinar. The objectives of this webinar were to inform health centers of the most recent STI trends with an emphasis on syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia; how to implement the 2021 STI guidelines for treatment and care; and the importance of screening and treatment for extragenital gonorrhea and chlamydia.



FDA

FDA exercised enforcement discretion for **temporary importation and temporary use of Extencilline to mitigate the effects of the shortage of Bicillin® L-A, a medication used to treat syphilis**. Extencilline has been determined to be equivalent to Bicillin® L-A and is currently authorized and marketed in other countries.

HRSA

The HRSA Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and Health Center Program supported a **Special Projects of National Significance effort to implement four evidence-based interventions in nine clinics in three U.S. jurisdictions to increase the screening, testing, and treatment of bacterial STIs**. A webinar presented the national findings and the experiences of two health centers in their implementation of the interventions, health care team acceptance, and client satisfaction with the interventions in routinizing STI screening and testing. The health centers also shared a toolkit to assist other programs in addressing STIs.

NIH

An NIAID-funded [study](#) found that doxycycline prevented STIs when tested among men who have sex with men and transgender women. **Doxy PEP resulted in a two-third's reduction in the incidence of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia**. The study provided critical data for CDC's [doxy PEP guidance](#).



VA

VA developed a **sexual history resource toolkit**, a “how to” complete a sexual history video, and an STI dashboard to increase services to veterans at increased risk for STIs.



All items are located on VA’s internal STI SharePoint site and were shared with all VA staff.

SAMHSA

The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment awarded \$1.9 million for the MHAF: Portable Clinical Care Pilot Project to fund three awardees. **This pilot program provides comprehensive health care for medically underserved people experiencing unsheltered homelessness through the delivery of portable clinical care delivered out of the clinic and into the places where people in need of services are.** The grant program is the first SAMHSA-funded grant program that allows grant funds to be used for the purchase of STI treatment and includes the purchase and administration of HPV vaccine as an allowable expense.

IHS

The IHS Chief Medical Officer [issued guidance](#) for **annual syphilis screening for people aged 13–64 to eliminate syphilis transmission by early case recognition.** A national standardized indicator for syphilis screening has been created and will be monitored.



CMS

CMS began using the **eQm**, a HRSA-developed **electronic clinical quality measure for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis testing among people with HIV, in Medicare** by adding it to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) measure inventory for calendar year (CY) 2024 performance period/2026 MIPS payment year and future years. The eQm was submitted to CMS and is under review for endorsement by the Consensus-based Entity.

OIDP

OIDP established the [National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic Federal Task Force to address the surge of syphilis and its impact on babies, pregnant people, and other disproportionately affected populations.](#) The Task Force’s mission is to leverage broad federal resources through a syndemic approach to reduce rates, promote health equity, and share resources with impacted communities.

OPA

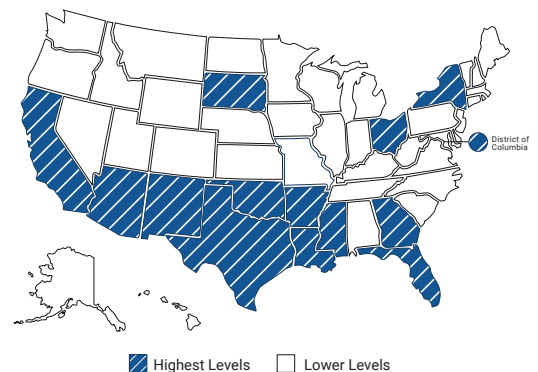
In 2023, OPA awarded **\$91.5 million in new competitive funding to 53 organizations to replicate evidence-based programs and to 18 organizations to develop and test new and innovative approaches.** All new projects are focused on preventing teen pregnancy and STIs, improving adolescent sexual health outcomes, and promoting positive youth development. **These programs are expected to serve more than 200,000 adolescents each year.**



THE NATIONAL SYPHILIS AND CONGENITAL SYPHILIS SYNDEMIC FEDERAL TASK FORCE

The National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic Federal Task Force, led by the Department of Health and Human Services, is focusing its efforts on reducing primary and secondary syphilis and congenital syphilis rates, aligning efforts with the STI Plan. The Task Force has identified 14 priority jurisdictions that account for nearly 75% of congenital syphilis cases and greater than 55% of primary and secondary syphilis cases nationwide (2022 CDC data).

HIGHEST BURDEN OF SYPHILIS PRIORITY JURISDICTIONS



View the full report [here](#).

