



**Media Talking Points
11/16/09**

**STD Programs Facing Severe Cutbacks, Affecting Public
Health Infrastructure**

- Health departments have sustained severe cuts in state, local, federal funding over the last decade resulting in the diminished ability of STD programs to maintain an adequate workforce and to keep pace with the increased STD service demand.
- Funding cuts have accelerated in the last two years, resulting in clinic closures, STD program staff layoffs, and reductions in vital STD services that leave communities at-risk.
- Cutbacks in STD program funding occur at the same time as increasing rates of STDs as highlighted by the CDC 2008 STD Surveillance report showing high rates of disease across the nation, disproportionately affecting youth, minorities, and women.
- STD programs have been participating in the public health response to H1N1 pandemic influenza, and cutbacks to STD staffing have diminished health department capacity to respond to public health emergencies.
- Increases in state, local and federal funding to STD programs are urgently needed to rebuild the public health infrastructure, to address workforce capacity, and to improve the health of communities affected disproportionately by STDs, especially youth, minorities, and women.