**For Immediate Release**

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**STDs on the Rise in Your State and Reach record heights in the US**

*Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis all increase and worrisome trends in Congenital syphilis arise*

Your city, State. – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [released data today](https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats17/default.htm) showing that STDs in the United States increased for the fourth year in a row. In 2017, more than 2.3 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were reported to CDC. Of particular concern is the rise of congenital syphilis. This condition, affecting mothers and newborns, has roared back with over 900 cases and climbing.

These worrisome trends hold true in Your State /Jurisdiction which saw a XX percent increase in chlamydia, XX percent increase in gonorrhea, and a XX increase in syphilis in 2017. Your State /Jurisdiction also reported #XX cases of congenital syphilis, up from #XX in 2016.

*“Include quote from you STD Program Director/Health Commissioner/Other Spokesperson,” says SPOKESPERSON, Title.*

Congenital syphilis, which happens when a woman passes the infection to her baby during pregnancy or childbirth, has dire consequences. Forty percent of babies born to women with untreated syphilis may be stillborn or die from the infection as a newborn, and those that survive can suffer severe, life-long health consequences, including deformed bones, blindness, or deafness.

*“That we have any cases of syphilis among newborns, let alone an increasing number, is a shame on our nation,” says David C. Harvey, executive director of NCSD. “It is also a symptom of the larger STD crisis in the U.S. and a sign of a public health system in urgent need of support.”*

The rise of congenital syphilis parallels increases in syphilis and other STDs among adults and underscores the need for a stepped-up response to the nation’s overall STD crisis. STDs have reached [record highs](http://www.ncsddc.org/stds-hit-record-highs-again-threatening-millions-of-american-lives/) in the U.S., increasing more than 30 percent in the last five years.