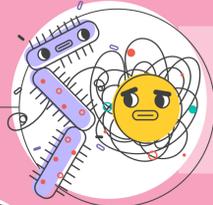


Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Antimicrobial Resistance

DRUG RESISTANCE MAKES STIs MORE DANGEROUS

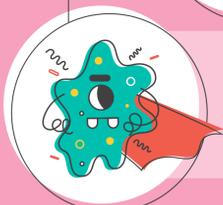
What is antimicrobial resistance (AMR)?



Microbes are tiny germs, like bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, that can cause infections.



When medicines that treat these infections are overused or misused, the medicines can stop working — and that is called antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



When several drugs stop working on the same microbes, those microbes turn into superbugs.



AMR makes it harder to treat infections. When life-saving treatments stop working, infections get a lot more dangerous.

Sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates

1 in 5

According to the **CDC**, 1 in 5 people in the United States have an STI.

68

In 2018, there were 68 million STI cases in the United States.

6 YEAR RISE

Rates of STIs are **on the rise**, breaking records for six years in a row between 2014 and 2019.



Worldwide STI infections

CHLAMYDIA
131 million

GONORRHEA
78 million

SYPHILIS
5.6 million

STI rates vary by race and ethnicity

Compared to non-Hispanic whites, infection rates were:

1 to 12x HIGHER
among Hispanic/Latinx people

3 to 5x HIGHER
among American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander people

5 to 8x HIGHER
among African American or Black people
Higher rates of STIs put these groups at higher risk of getting an infection that cannot be treated by current antibiotics.



STI rates vary by socioeconomic status

People with **lower incomes have higher rates of STIs**. This might be because those groups have less access to healthcare and health insurance.



Treating STIs

Some STIs are caused by bacteria,

and others are caused by viruses.

Bacterial STIs can be treated with antibiotics, and viral STIs can be treated with antiviral medication.

STIs that can be treated with antibiotics include:

**Syphilis
Chlamydia
Trichomoniasis
Gonorrhea**

STIs that can be treated with antivirals include:

**HIV
Herpes**

Gonorrhea has developed resistance to all but one class of antibiotics. Resistant chlamydia and syphilis also exist but are less common.

How AMR makes it harder to treat STIs

AMR makes STIs harder to treat. Common medications that used to work no longer do. As resistant strains of these infections spread, diseases like gonorrhea are becoming threats worldwide, according to the CDC and the **World Health Organization**.

How to slow the spread of resistant STIs



- Get tested to make sure you know if you have an STI — and get treated if you do.
- Only use antibiotics for STIs caused by bacteria, not viruses.
- If you're prescribed an antibiotic for a viral STI, ask your HCP to explain why.
- Finish all doses of your medication — even if you feel better or don't notice symptoms.
- Practice safe sex or abstain while you're infected.
- Get retested if symptoms come back because reinfection is common.