

Don't Let STIs Go Undiagnosed

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are more common than you think and are often asymptomatic.^{1,2} More than **3 million new cases of chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhea (NG)** occur in the United States annually.¹

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **only 38% of sexually active young women are screened annually for chlamydia**. Of those who tested positive for chlamydia, a majority of men (86%) and women (78%) were not retested within 30-180 days as recommended by CDC.³

CDC recommends the following screening guidelines:

	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea
Sexually active women younger than 25 ^a (annual screening)	✓	✓
Women age 25 and older at increased risk ^b	✓	✓
Pregnant women during their first trimester as well as women in their third trimester who are younger than 25, found to be infected in the first trimester or older women at increased risk ^{b,c,d}	✓	✓
Women and men who tested positive should be retested at 3 months	✓	✓

a. Annual screening is recommended for all sexually active women aged < 25 years and for older women at increased risk for infection.

b. People with increased risk are women who have new or multiple partners, have a history of STDs, exchange sex for payment and use injection drugs, those with a new sex partner, more than one sex partner, a sex partner with concurrent partners, or a sex partner who has a sexually transmitted infection.

c. The CDC recommends all pregnant women found to have chlamydial infection should have a test-of-cure (preferably by NAAT) three to four weeks after treatment and retested at three months.

d. The CDC recommends all pregnant women found to gonococcal infection should be treated immediately and retested within three months.

Screening is also **cost effective**.⁴ Every \$1 spent on chlamydia testing/treatment saves \$12 in complications if left untreated.⁵ Among these complications are **pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)**—chlamydia and gonorrhea are “universally accepted as etiologic agents of PID.”⁶

Learn more about guidelines-based screening at www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/screeningrecs.htm.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Incidence, Prevalence, and Cost of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/sti-estimates-fact-sheet-feb-2013.pdf>. Published February 13, 2013

2. Farley TA, et al. Asymptomatic sexually transmitted diseases: the case for screening. *Preventive Medicine*. 2003;36(4):502-509.

3. National Estimate Shows Not Enough Young Women Tested for Chlamydia. [press release]. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/2012/stdconference2012pressrelease.html> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; March 13, 2012

4. Owusu-Eduese K, et al. Utilization and cost of diagnostics methods for sexually transmitted infection screening among insured American youth, 2008. *Sex Transm Dis*. 2013;40(3):197-201. doi:10.1097/OLQ.0b013e318285c58f

5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chlamydia Screening and Treatment Programs for Young Women. <http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/chlamy1.htm>

6. Soper DE. Pelvic inflammatory disease. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2010;116(2):419-28. doi:10.1097/AOG.0b013e3181e92c54.

