# **CONDECTIONS** From the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

May - June 2016



#### From the Director Dr. Jonathan Mermin



The United States is experiencing an opioid epidemic involving increases in unsterile injection practices. *The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Pub. L. 114-113)* recently signed into law by President Obama, creates an opportunity to reduce opioid misuse and prevent new HIV and viral hepatitis infections. On April 25, 2016, CDC released its **Program Guidance for Implementing Certain Components of Syringe Services Programs, 2016.** This document follows the release of the Department of Health and Human Services **Implementation Guidance to Support Certain Components of** 

Syringe Services Programs, 2016, and provides guidance to state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments interested in implementing or expanding syringe services programs. Syringe service programs not only provide sterile injection equipment, but also frequently include other essential health services such as linkage to clinical care, substance use treatment, and social services; HIV, hepatitis, STD, and TB screening and prevention services; provision of naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses; and immunizations. CDC is committed to helping communities use effective tools to stop the spread of HIV, viral hepatitis, STDs, and TB.

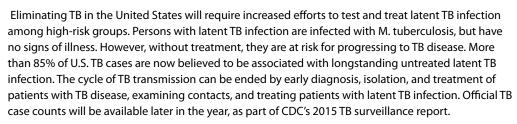
#### Hepatitis C Awareness

More people die from hepatitis C than <u>60 other reported infectious</u> <u>diseases</u> combined. For persons born during 1945-1965, hepatitis C is an urgent health issue, with 73% of hepatitis C-related deaths among this group. With the growing <u>opioid epidemic</u>, young people who inject drugs are creating a new wave of hepatitis C infections in America. Scaling up testing and treatment could diminish hepatitis C-related deaths and reduce new infections. In honor of May as <u>Hepatitis</u>

<u>Awareness Month</u> and <u>Hepatitis Testing Day</u> on May 19, learn more about the different types of <u>viral hepatitis</u>, take the <u>Hepatitis Risk Assessment</u>, and <u>learn what you can do</u> to help increase testing for hepatitis B and hepatitis C in your community.

#### TB Surveillance

Preliminary TB surveillance data for the United States was recently released by CDC. In 2015, a total of 9,563 TB cases were reported. This represents an increase of 157 cases from the 9,406 cases reported in 2014. TB rates in the United States remained approximately 3.0 cases per 100,000 persons during 2013-2015. These data may indicate the limitations of what can be achieved using current methods and resources.



National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention Office of the Director

## New from CDC

Non-occupational Post-Exposure Prophylaxsis (nPEP) Guidelines

Transgender Fact sheet

FOA for state/local TB programs for Latent TB Infection

<u>New DVH Strategic Plan - Division of Viral</u> Hepatitis (DVH) Strategic Plan, 2016–2020

## **Upcoming Events**

May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month May is Hepatitis Awareness Month May 19, 2016 National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Awareness Day May 19, 2016 National Hepatitis Testing Day June 27, 2016 National HIV Testing Day

### On the Web

Know Hep C Campaign Refresh

