



## From the Director Dr. Jonathan Mermin



The CDC estimates nearly 2.4 million people in the United States were living with hepatitis C between 2013 and the end of 2016. The [findings](#), published today in the journal *Hepatology*, indicate that the nation faces an urgent need to diagnose and treat more people who have this deadly, yet curable disease. People infected with hepatitis C can be cured with the appropriate therapy, but the majority of those infected have not yet benefitted from treatment. Diagnosing and treating people living with hepatitis C is key to preventing needless deaths and stopping the rising toll of new infections. We know what to do:

- Expand testing to reach all who are at risk,
- Remove treatment barriers among those already living with hepatitis C,
- Intensify prevention services to stop new infections, and
- Improve surveillance to identify and interrupt transmission.

Winning the fight against hepatitis C will take a substantial and focused national effort to implement these steps and reach those already living with and those at risk for hepatitis C infection.

## STD Surveillance Report



New data from CDC's recently released [Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance Report, 2017](#) show cases of congenital syphilis (syphilis passed from a mother to her baby during pregnancy or delivery) have more than doubled since 2013, with a total of 918 cases in 2017. This is the highest number of recorded cases in 20 years.

It is easy to cure syphilis during pregnancy with the right antibiotics. If left untreated, a pregnant woman with syphilis has up to an 80 percent chance of passing it on to her baby. When passed from mother to baby during pregnancy or delivery, syphilis can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, long-term cognitive and physical problems, and death of a newborn. To reduce the number of babies born with syphilis, it is critical for all pregnant women to visit a health care provider as soon as possible during every pregnancy and to be tested for syphilis.

## TB Surveillance Report

CDC also recently released [Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 2017](#) indicating that there were 9,105 total TB cases reported in the United States in 2017. Although this is the lowest number of TB cases in the United States on record, too many people still suffer from this disease. Ending TB will require maintaining and strengthening current TB control priorities while increasing efforts to identify and treat latent TB infection in high-risk populations. This report will be a useful tool in informing and improving TB prevention and control activities. CDC also developed a [slide set](#), [fact sheet](#), [infographic](#), [web graphics](#), and [customizable infographic template](#) to support TB education and outreach to clinicians, health care agencies, and community organizations.

## New from CDC

[Call for Papers: Policy Approaches to Reduce the Morbidity, Mortality, and Incidence of HIV, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis](#)

[Evidence of HIV Treatment and Viral Suppression in Preventing the Sexual Transmission of HIV Fact Sheet](#)

[Hepatitis A Virus Outbreaks Associated with Drug Use and Homelessness — California, Michigan, Kentucky and Utah, 2017](#)

[Hepatitis C Online](#)

[HIV and Hispanic/Latino Gay and Bisexual Men Fact Sheet](#)

[Sexual Risk Behavior Differences Among Sexual Minority High School Students — United States, 2015 and 2017](#)

[New ACIP recommendations on Hepatitis A Vaccine](#)

## Upcoming Events

[November 9-13 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Liver Meeting](#)

[November 10-14 2018 American Public Health Association meeting](#)

[December 1 World AIDS Day](#)

[December 11-14 2018 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment](#)

## On the Web

[Monitoring Disparities in Prevention and Treatment of HIV, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis](#)

