



September 25, 2008

Dear Syphilis Elimination Coordinators:

We have reached the end of the summer and begun the 4th and final quarter of 2008. We hope this newsletter finds you well and pleased with a productive year. This edition of the quarterly Dear SEE Coordinators Letter brings with it important information, updates, and resources to aid your syphilis elimination and STD prevention activities.



The Syphilis Elimination Unit Has Grown

DSTDP's Syphilis Elimination Unit is now the *Syphilis Elimination and STD Disparities Unit*. In addition to the Syphilis Elimination Coordination Team, the unit now includes the Tuskegee Benefits Program and the new STD Disparities Coordination Team.

The New Syphilis Epidemiologist has Joined the Division

DSTDP recently welcomed John Su, MD, PhD, MPH as the new Syphilis Epidemiologist for the Surveillance and Special Studies Team of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch. John's role in the Syphilis Elimination Effort is critical as his task is to remain abreast of populations affected by syphilis in the U.S. and identify trends, disparities, emerging populations, and data quality assurance issues. With the help of the Syphilis Data Sharing Group, such information is shared with the division, most frequently with program consultants and the Program and Training Branch. John is also a Commissioned Corps officer and prior to joining the CDC, he worked two years with the Texas Department of State Health Services. Please join us in welcoming John Su to the Division!

New Public Information Resources Posted at [STD Prevention Online \(STDPO\)](#)

In addition to the continuing epidemic of P&S syphilis among men who have sex with men, provisional data for 2007 and 2008 suggest substantial increases in P&S syphilis among women, particularly in the South, and among African American women. We invite you to visit the [resource](#) section on STDPO for a link to radio public service announcements designed to target African American heterosexual populations. Developed as part of the [SEE Community Mobilization Toolkits](#) text of this PSA and other materials are available for free download and can be useful for local intervention efforts.

Additionally, STDPO provides members with free access to *Sexually Transmitted Infections* including free downloads of full articles. All SE Coordinators are especially encouraged to join this networking site to receive important updates, information about evidence-based approaches, and lessons learned from their colleagues from across the country.




New Internet Partner Services Data Elements

The SE Unit has been working closely with the Statistics and Data Management Branch, Behavioral Interventions and Research Branch, and select project areas that perform Internet partner services to develop Internet-related data elements to be incorporated in the next STD*MIS version 5.0 this Fall. Draft elements being considered include new fields to store Internet screen name or member ID, Internet site, and outcomes of the Internet intervention. In addition, a new report feature is being developed that will allow programs to determine how many original patients met partners on the Internet and the number of Internet partners elicited and informed of exposure. A special thanks to the Washington, DC and Massachusetts Internet staffs whose field experiences helped shape this new national data collection system. This new system will allow consistent collection of Internet-related activities across project areas. Plans are also underway to update the [National Guidelines for Internet-based STD and HIV Prevention](#) with these elements.




CDC-Developed Resources and Updates



- [MMWR – Syphilis Testing Algorithms](#)
CDC reviewed the testing algorithms and test interpretations provided by four laboratories in New York City to assess how clinical laboratories are addressing concerns that arise from the use of treponemal test for initial screening.
- [NCHHSTP Announced New HIV Estimates for the United States](#)
Findings were published in a special HIV/AIDS issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and show the estimated number of new HIV infections that occurred in 2006.
- [2009 Guidance for Syphilis Elimination Effort Evidence-based Action Planning](#)
Updated guidance for the development of an SE EBAP for interventions that will facilitate gathering information and tracking resources, and provide a framework for ongoing evaluation.
- [HPV and Pap Test Patient Resource](#)
This booklet is for women who got screened for cervical cancer with a Pap test and an HPV test. It will help answer common questions about cervical cancer, HPV, and their test results. 
- [Dear SEE Coordinator's Letters](#)
This edition and all previous letters since 2005 are now available online.



Additional Resources

- [Syphilis Prevention and Management Web Conferences](#)
In September 2008, Dr. Jeff Klausner, San Francisco STD Program Director, began conducting a series of monthly web conferences focusing on syphilis prevention and management in conjunction with CSI Medical Education. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Klausner at (415) 355-2000.
- [Safe in the City](#)
 *Safe in the City* is a 23-minute HIV/STD prevention video designed for STD clinics that can be easily integrated into the clinic waiting room, requires very little staff time to set up with no disruption to clinic flow, and requires no counseling or small-group facilitation.

Upcoming Conferences

- [National Coalition of STD Directors \(NCSD\) 2008 Annual Meeting](#)
This year's meeting, "STD Services at the Crossroads: *Many Lands, Many Peoples, Many Roads*", will be held October 20-24, 2008 in Phoenix, Arizona. 
- [2009 ISSTD Meeting](#)
The 18th meeting of the ISSTD, together with the BASHH meeting, will take place at The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London, United Kingdom from June 28 – July 1, 2009. 

As always, should you have any further questions or suggestions we are eager to hear from you. Please contact Jo Valentine directly at (404) 639-8366 or via electronic mail at jvalentine@cdc.gov.

The CDC Syphilis Elimination Effort Coordinating Team

