



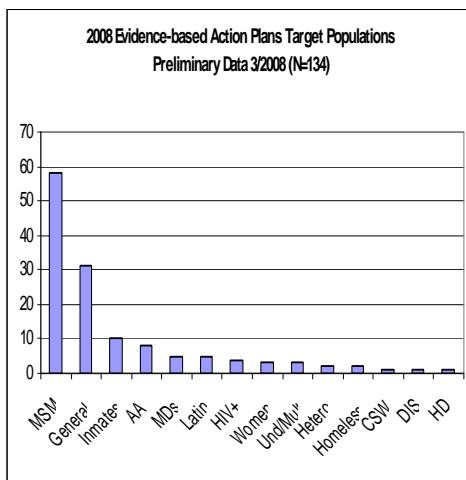
March 31, 2008

Dear Syphilis Elimination Coordinators:



Many of you were able to attend the 2008 National STD Prevention Conference in Chicago and take advantage of the numerous informative and enlightening workshops, symposia, and plenary sessions. We invite you to visit the national conference website at www.cdc.gov/stdconference for summaries of highlighted research and a variety of press releases covering such topics as intervention opportunities to reduce syphilis among men who have sex with men and STD rates among adolescents. And—coming soon to a personal computer near you will be the National STD Prevention Conference proceedings where you will be able to access recordings of individual sessions. Registered conference participants will receive an electronic-mail notice when the proceedings become available. Please share the notice widely.

**The SEE-E Group.** Online communication is an increasingly important means of promoting and facilitating collaborative relationships between CDC and state and local partners. CDC’s Syphilis Elimination Implementation and Monitoring Group (IMG) makes use of this method through the Syphilis Elimination Effort Experts Group (SEE-E Group) webinars which continue to grow in popularity. Colleagues across the country meet online to share lessons learned to inform and improve syphilis elimination efforts. The group meets monthly on second Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 (Est). Persons interested in participating in the online series should contact Dr. Tom Peterman at tpeterman@cdc.gov for more information.



**The Syphilis Elimination Effort Coordinator Webinar Series, the Evidence-based Action Plans, and the new Syphilis Elimination Intervention Website.** Plans are also underway to resume the Syphilis Elimination Coordinators’ webinar series. Look for a notice regarding this particular effort in the coming weeks. One of the central topics that will be featured is the Syphilis Elimination Evidence-based Action Plan (EBAP). In January 2008, the Syphilis Elimination Program Coordinator began coordinating follow-up discussions and technical assistance plans regarding the further development and implementation of the action plans. Of note, is the number of target populations selected. And currently under development is the new **Syphilis Elimination Intervention Website**. Repeated requests from colleagues in the field have made the launching of this new site a high-priority activity; and we are anticipating the availability of this site by the summer of 2008. Proposed items for this website include project area EBAP summaries, HIV/STD Partner Services and Internet Guidelines implementation activities, electronic chalk talks, and training courses.

### Announcing the Availability of New and Existing Resources

#### CDC-Developed Resources

> **Dear Colleague Letters**

The February 15, 2008 Dear Colleague Letter highlights and provides a summary of key STD prevention activities accomplished during 2007 and emerging issues for 2008. The letter is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/general/DearColleagueYearEnd2007>. In addition, a letter was released on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008, announcing CDC’s support for STD Awareness Month. This most recent letter is attached to the email.



- **STD Brochures**  
New STD brochures are available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/HealthComm/the-facts.htm>
- **Surveillance Data**  
The following supplements are available online:  
The 2006 Syphilis Surveillance Supplement <http://www.cdc.gov/std/Syphilis2006/default.htm>  
Chlamydia Prevalence Monitoring Project Annual Report <http://www.cdc.gov/std/Chlamydia2006/default.htm>  
2006 STD Surveillance presentation slides <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/slides.htm>  
NCHHSTP State Profiles <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/stateprofiles/usmap.htm>
- **STD Picture Cards**  
The STD Picture Cards are a combination of illustration and graphic photo representation of anatomy with sequelae related to sexually transmitted infections, particularly syphilis. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/training/picturecards.htm>
- **NCHHSTP Annual Report FY 2007**  
The newly released *NCHHSTP Annual Report FY 2007* provides information on CDC's HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB prevention programs. [http://nchhstp/Director2008/docs/NCHHSTP2007Annual%20Report\\_2-08b.pdf](http://nchhstp/Director2008/docs/NCHHSTP2007Annual%20Report_2-08b.pdf)
- **NCHHSTP e-newsletter**  
CONNECTIONS, a bi-monthly NCHHSTP e-newsletter, is a new communication tool to improve collaboration, and strengthen relationships with external partners. <http://www.cdcnpi.org/scripts/df/2008/2/index.html>

## Other Important Resources

- **National Guidelines for Internet-based STD and HIV Prevention**  
A document to aid health departments and CBOs use the Internet as a tool for the control and prevention of STDs including HIV. <http://www.ncsddc.org/upload/wysiwyg/documents/IG-FINAL.pdf>
- **ASTDA and BASHH Meeting**  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting will be held in Brooklyn, NY on May 7-10, 2008. <http://www.bashh.org/springmeeting.asp>
- **Racial and Ethnic Disparities in U.S. Health Care: A Chartbook**  
This resource presents emerging evidence linking many disparities to the overall performance of local health care systems. [http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=672908](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=672908)
- **2007 National Healthcare Quality & Disparities Reports**  
The *National Healthcare Disparities Report* summarizes health care quality and access among various racial, ethnic, and income groups and other priority populations. <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/qrdr07.htm>
- **Methamphetamine Inhibits Antigen Processing, Presentation, and Phagocytosis**  
The authors demonstrate the first direct evidence that meth is an immunosuppressive agent and compromises the immune response to opportunistic infections and HIV. [PLoS Pathog. 2008 Feb 15;4(2):e28]. The full-text article is available online at: <http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.ppat.0040028>
- **DrawtheLine.org**  
The website was developed to encourage men to set their own boundaries with crystal meth to maintain their own sexual health by providing them with facts and resources. [www.drawtheline.org/buddies](http://www.drawtheline.org/buddies).

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](mailto:jvalentine@cdc.gov).

The CDC Syphilis Elimination Effort Coordinating Team

