

ROUTINE SCREENING AND LINKAGE TO CARE FOR HIV, HCV, STIs AND OPIOID MISUSE SAVES LIVES AND MONEY



Too many cases of HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) go undiagnosed, delaying care and risking accidental transmission. Routine screening saves money because early care and prevention costs less and reduces future cases.

Why Hospitals

Emergency Departments (EDs) are a strategic access point for routine HIV, HCV and STI screening as many people who are at greatest risk turn to EDs for care. Routine screening in EDs is cost-effective.¹



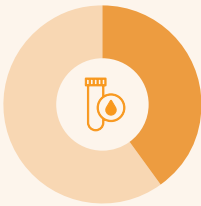
Emergency Departments serve approximately 140 million people each year and are a critical source of care for many vulnerable populations, including racial and ethnic minorities.²

HIV Costs Avoided

7 in 10 people with HIV saw a provider prior to diagnosis and failed to be diagnosed.³



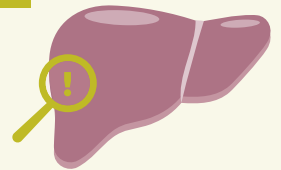
Nearly 40% of new HIV infections are transmitted by people who are unaware of their HIV status.⁴



Early detection and prevention of HIV can **save more than \$330,000** per person.⁵

Hepatitis C (HCV) Costs Avoided

Untreated HCV is the leading cause of liver cancer and liver failure, but because there is not enough screening, **40-50% of people living with HCV do not know they have it.**⁶



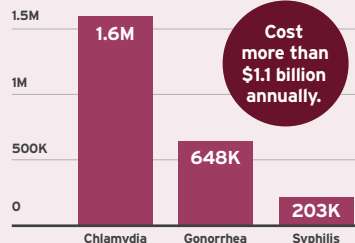
Treatment for HCV is highly effective, and most people can be **cured in as little as 8 weeks.**⁷



Investing in HCV treatment comes at a cost of about \$19,000; but not treating HCV can result in lifetime costs more than \$200,000, **saving more than \$181,000.**⁸

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Costs Avoided

In 2022, over **1.6 million cases of chlamydia, 648,000 cases of gonorrhea, and 203,000 cases of syphilis** were reported in the U.S. and are estimated to cost more than **\$1.1 billion annually** in direct medical costs, despite being preventable infections.⁹



The number of syphilis cases has increased 80%, and **congenital syphilis has increased 138%** in the past 5 years.¹⁰ The best way to prevent congenital syphilis is with increased testing and treatment for pregnant women.

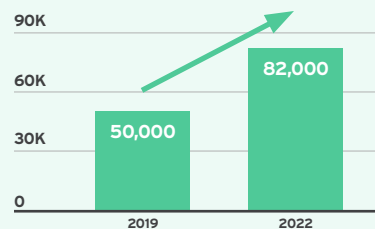


Infant hospitalizations for congenital syphilis-related reasons cost 4.5 times more than infant hospitalizations for other reasons¹¹ – But treating syphilis during pregnancy costs as little as \$15, **effectively preventing congenital syphilis altogether.**¹²



Opioid Related Costs Avoided

One study found that half of overdose deaths occurred **within three months** of an emergency department visit.¹³



Overdose deaths have skyrocketed in the last decade; **Opioid-involved overdose deaths rose from 50,000 in 2019 to 82,000 in 2022.**¹⁴

Injection drug use increases a person's risk of HIV, HCV, and other infectious diseases; 1 in 10 HIV diagnoses are among people who inject drugs, and injection drug use is the number one risk factor for HCV transmission.¹⁵



¹ Torres, G., et al. HIV Screening Programs in US Emergency Departments: a cross-site comparison of structure, process, and outcomes. *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. July 2011.

² Cairns, C., et al. Emergency Department Visit Rates by Selected Characteristics: United States, 2021. *National Center for Health Statistics Data Brief*, CDC, August 2023.

³ CDC Vital Signs: Human Immunodeficiency Virus Testing and Diagnosis Delays-United States. *MMWR*. December 1, 2017.

⁴ CDC, HIV Public Health Partners, HIV Testing

⁵ Schackman, et al. The Lifetime Medical Cost Savings from Preventing HIV in the United States, *Med Care*, April 2015.

⁶ American Liver Foundation, Hepatitis.

⁷ CDC, Treatment of Hepatitis C, December 2023.

⁸ The AIDS Institute, Fact Sheet: Treating Hepatitis C Saves Lives and Money, August 2021.

⁹ CDC, STIs, Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevalence, Incidence, and Cost Estimates in the US, April 3, 2024.

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control, Sexually Transmitted Infections, The State of STIs in the United States in 2022.

¹¹ Kishore Umaphathi, K., Cost of congenital syphilis hospitalizations skyrockets with increase in cases, *Healio*, September 17, 2019.

¹² Dunleavy, B., *Everyday Health* Syphilis Treatment, October 13, 2022.

¹³ Volkow, N., Emergency Departments Can Help Prevent Opioid Overdoses, *National Institute on Drug Abuse, Director's Blog*, August 27, 2019.

¹⁴ National Institute on Drug Abuse, Drug Overdose Deaths: Facts and Figures, CDC WONDER Database.

¹⁵ CDC, Persons Who Inject Drugs Data Summary: Vulnerable Areas for Infectious Diseases in Persons Who Inject Drugs, February 16, 2024.