

# The current global state of STIs trends

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Britain | Poxy reasoning

# Syphilis rates are rising relentlessly in Britain



## As syphilis cases continue to surge in the US, recent federal efforts aim to tackle the alarming trend

By Deidre McPhillips, CNN  
5 minute read · Updated 5:15 PM EST, Tue January 30, 2024



Taking an antibiotic after sex helps gay men curb STDs – but might fuel drug resistance

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OUT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## Taking an antibiotic after sex helps gay men curb STDs – but might fuel drug resistance

A growing body of research shows taking doxycycline after sex helps prevent STDs, but some experts fear such intervention could fuel drug-resistant pathogens.

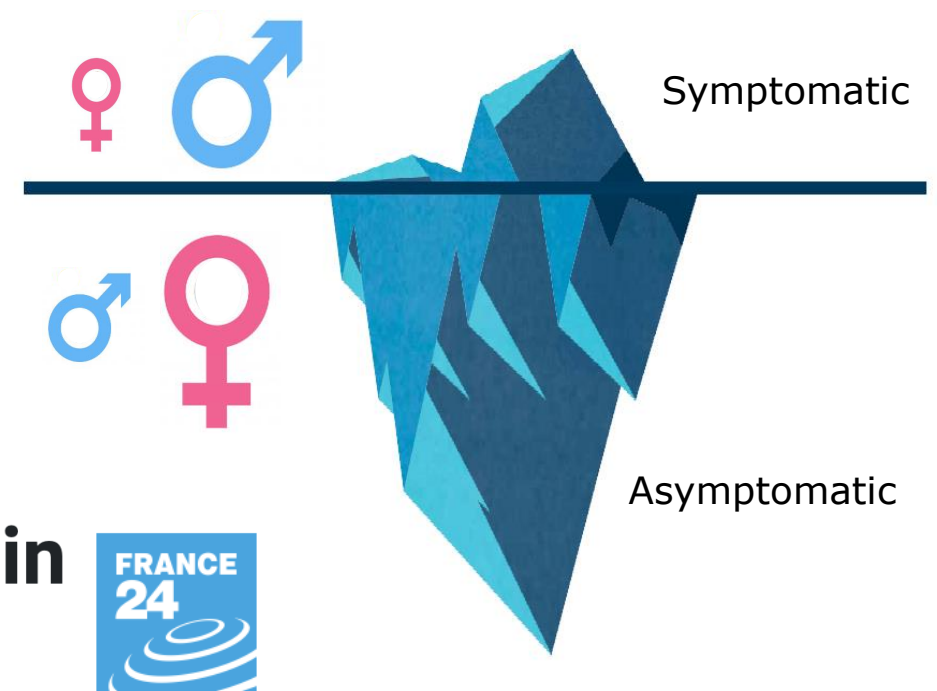
RISKY BEHAVIOUR

# Sounding the alarm: France sees explosion in syphilis cases



# Infants Are Born With Syphilis in Growing Numbers, a Sign of a Wider Epidemic

Congenital syphilis has become more than ten times as common over the past decade, the C.D.C. reported. “The situation is dire,” said one expert.

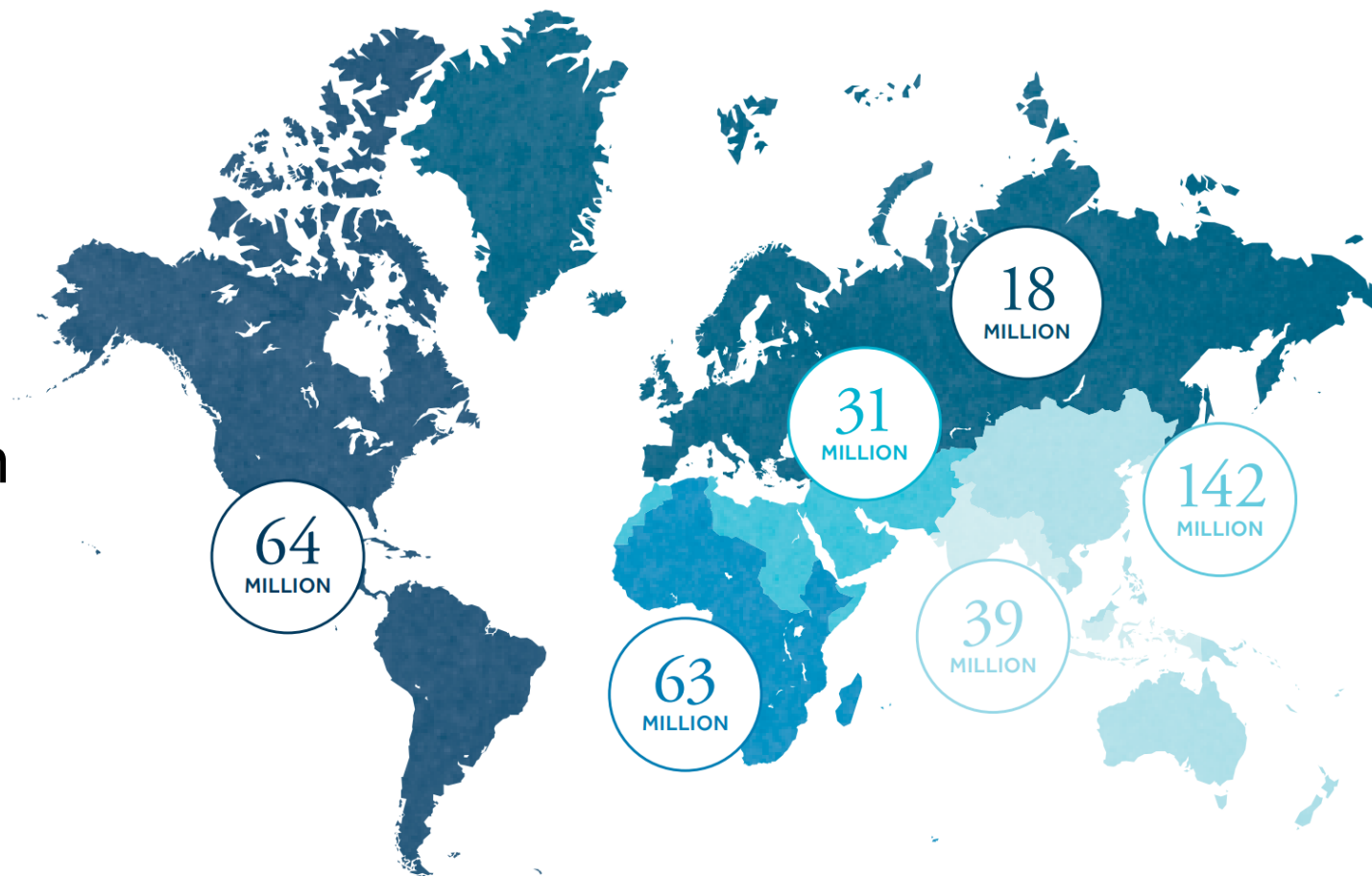


## Increase in STI Rates

- Over recent years, many countries have reported increasing rates of STIs such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and syphilis.

- This trend has been observed across various age groups and demographics.

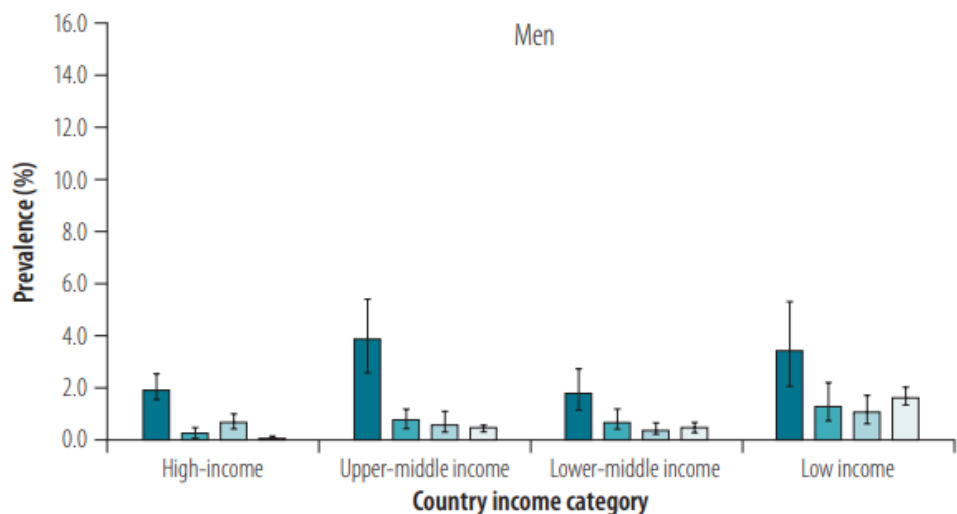
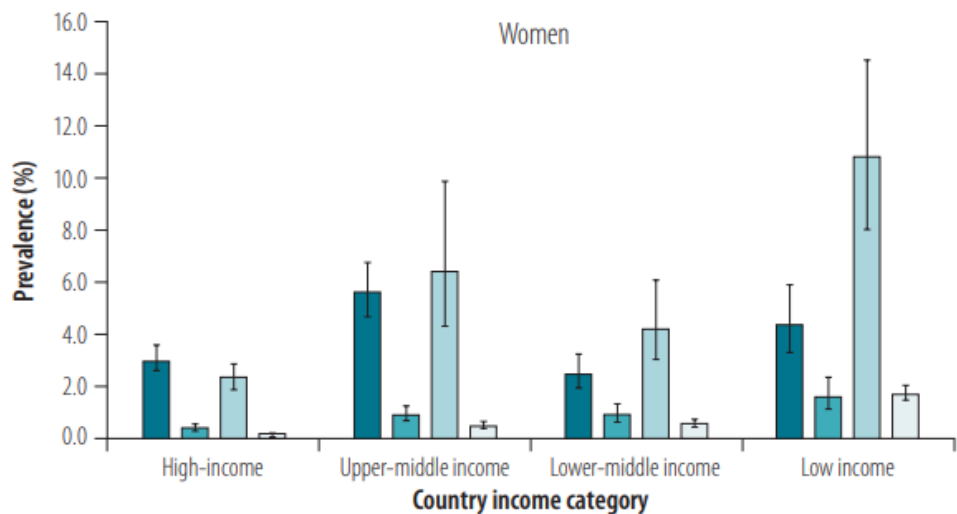
WHO, 2020



### WHO regional estimates for new cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections

*Syphilis, Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoea and Trichomonas vaginalis*

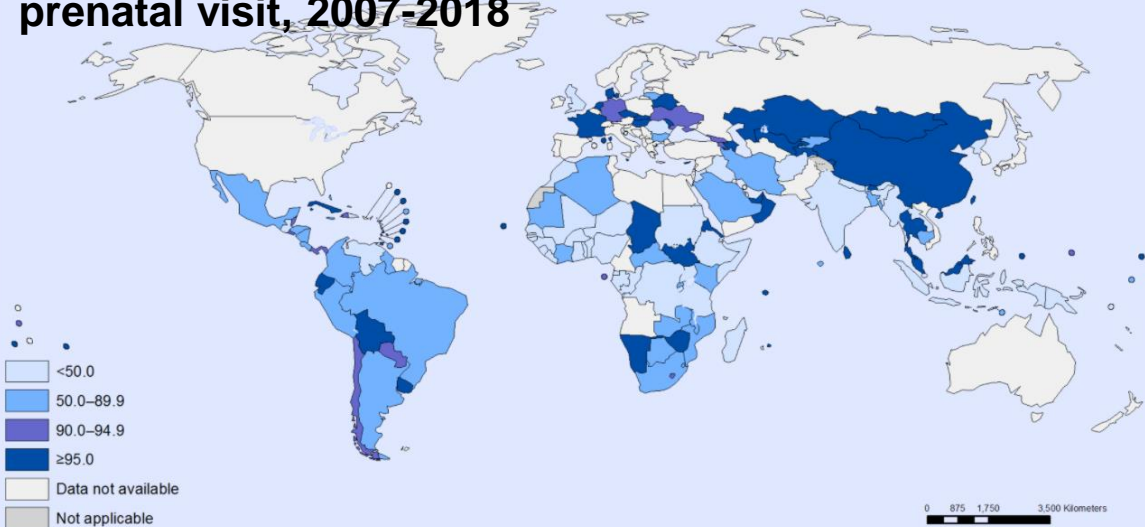
# Estimates of prevalent and incident cases for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and trichomoniasis



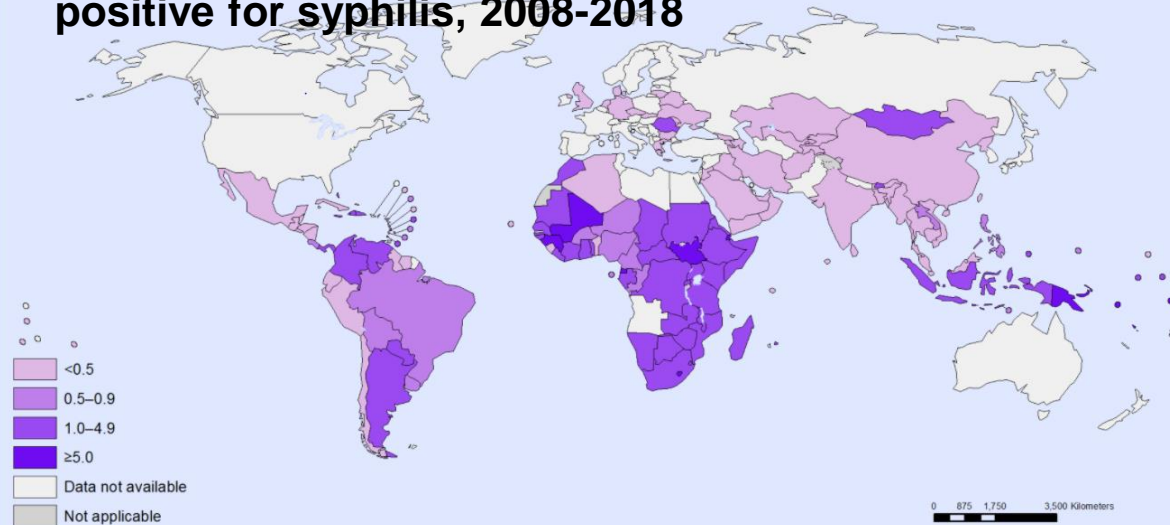
■ Chlamydia ■ Gonorrhoea ■ Trichomoniasis ■ Syphilis | 95% UI

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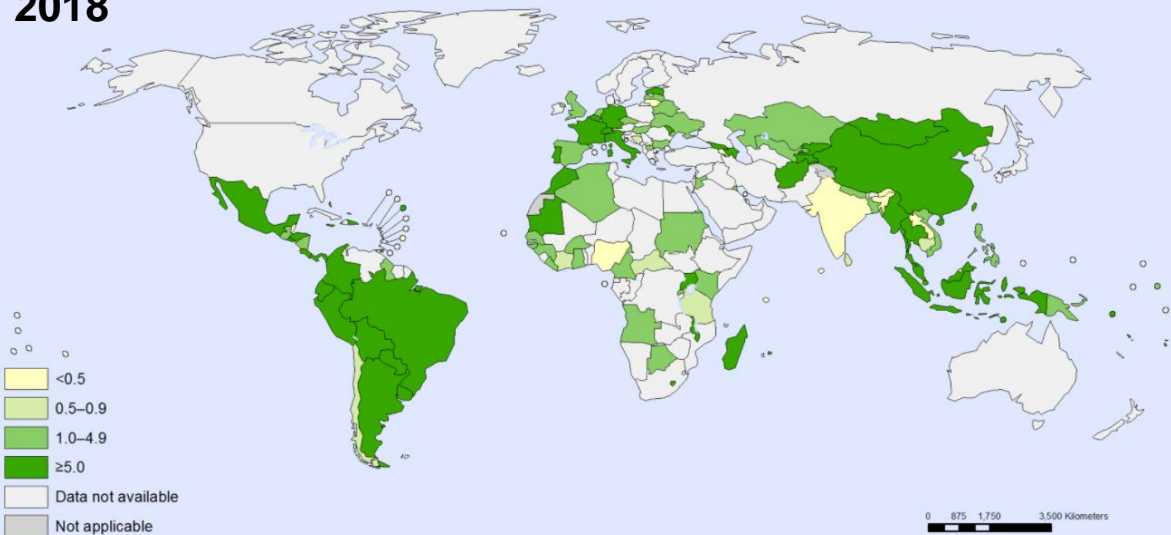
% pregnant women tested for syphilis at their first prenatal visit, 2007-2018



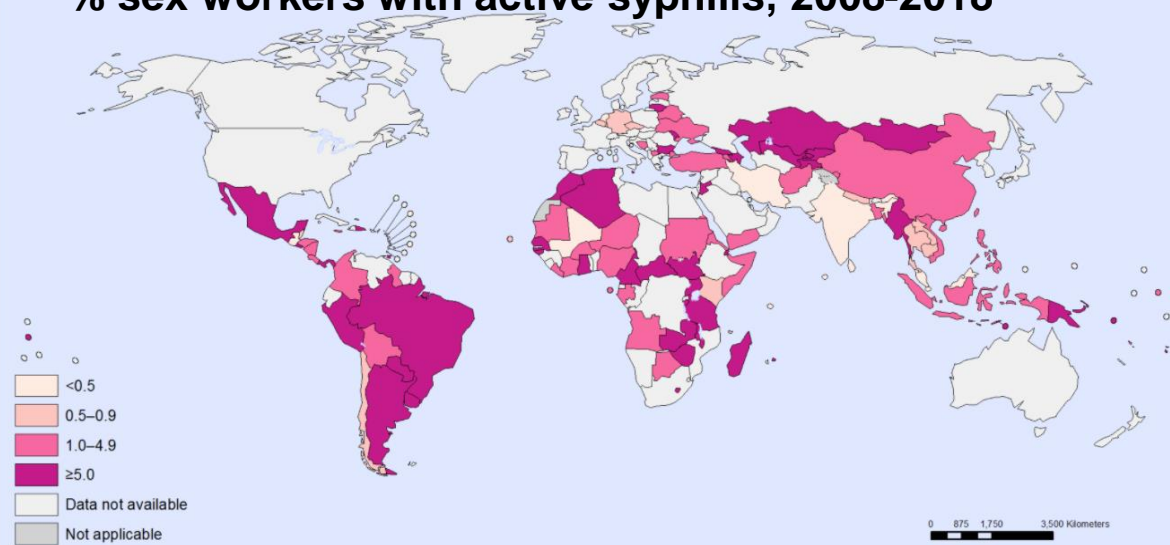
% pregnant women receiving prenatal care who tested positive for syphilis, 2008-2018



% men who have sex with men with active syphilis, 2008-2018



% sex workers with active syphilis, 2008-2018



## Youth at Risk

- Young people, particularly those aged 15-24, continue to be at higher risk for acquiring STIs.
- Factors such as lack of comprehensive sex education, inconsistent condom use, and multiple sexual partners contribute to this increased vulnerability.

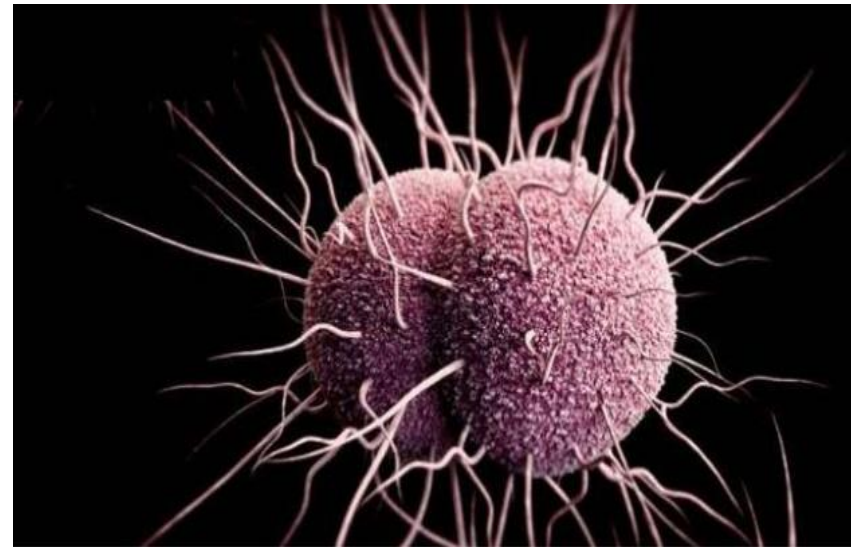


## Drug-Resistant STIs

- There's growing concern about the emergence of drug-resistant strains of STIs, particularly gonorrhea.

- Antibiotic resistance is making some common treatments less effective, posing challenges for healthcare providers.

Unemo et al. Methods Mol Biol. 2019




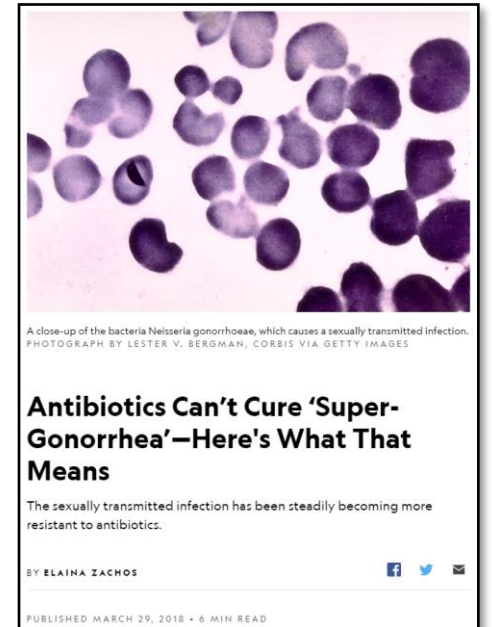
News & Views | Published: 10 June 2019

INFECTION

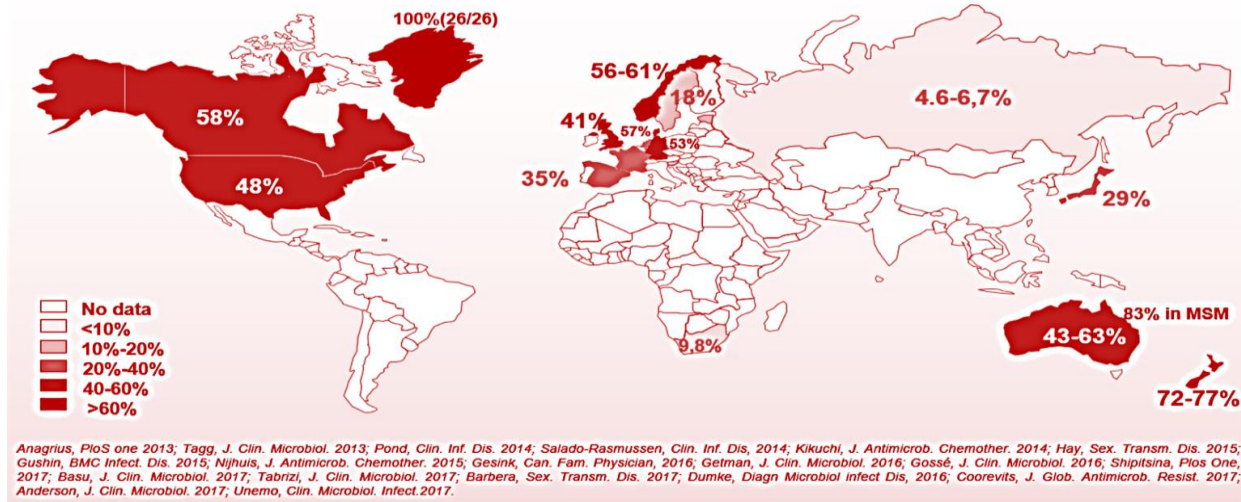
### *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* resistance driven by antibiotic use

Huan V. Dong & Jeffrey D. Klausner 

*Nature Reviews Urology* (2019) | [Download Citation](#) 

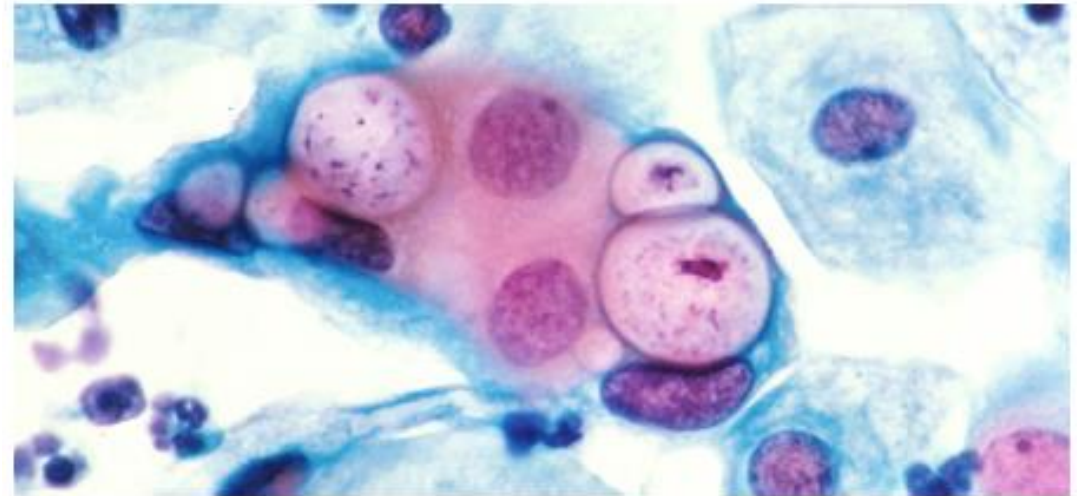


Prevalence of macrolide resistance in *M. genitalium*



Also, resistance for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Mycoplasma genitalium*

Sabine Pereyre - Global challenge of antibiotic-resistant *Mycoplasma genitalium* - Symposium ECCIMID, 2018.



*Chlamydia trachomatis* –Urgent need for an effective T cell vaccine to combat the silent epidemic of a stealth bacterial pathogen

*Future Microbiol.* 2012 December ; 7(12): 1401–1422. doi:10.2217/fmb.12.117.

Emergence of multidrug-resistant, extensively drug-resistant and untreatable gonorrhoea

Magnus Unemo<sup>1</sup> and Robert A Nicholas<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Departments of Pharmacology & Microbiology & Immunology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, USA



# Access to Testing and Treatment

- Disparities in access to STI testing and treatment persist, with marginalized communities often facing greater barriers.

- Limited access to healthcare, stigma, and discrimination can hinder individuals from seeking testing and treatment services.

Ong et al. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022;  
Chitneni P, et al. Sex Transm Dis. 2023;  
Saleem K, et al. J Int AIDS Soc. 2023.

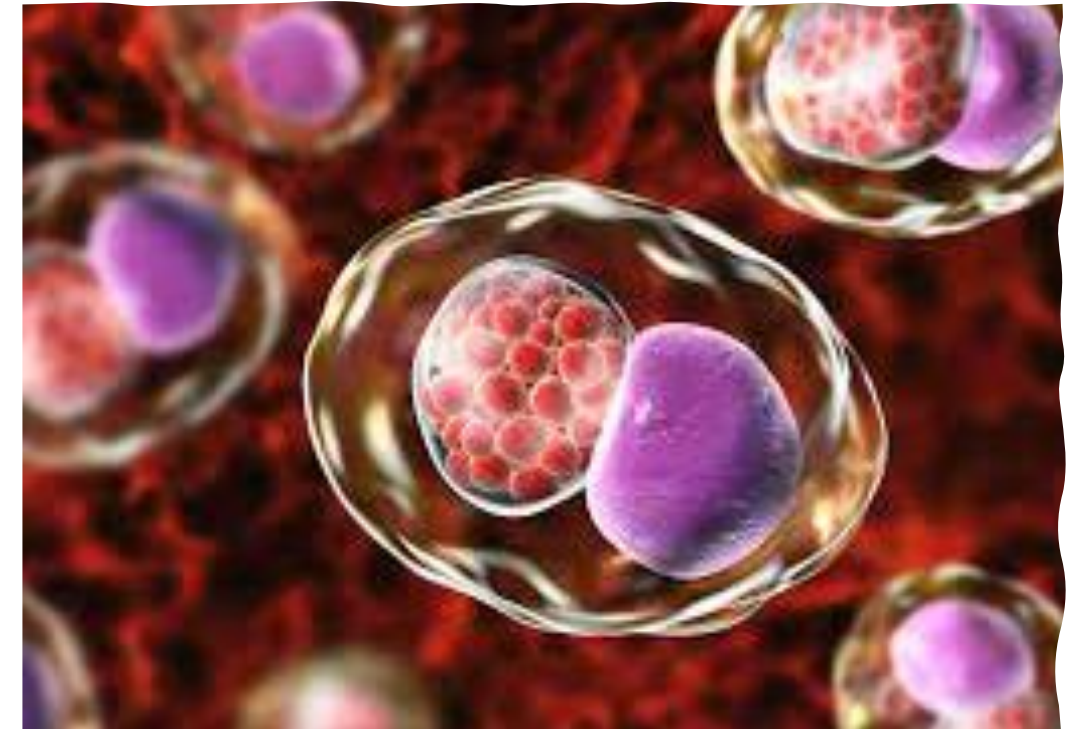
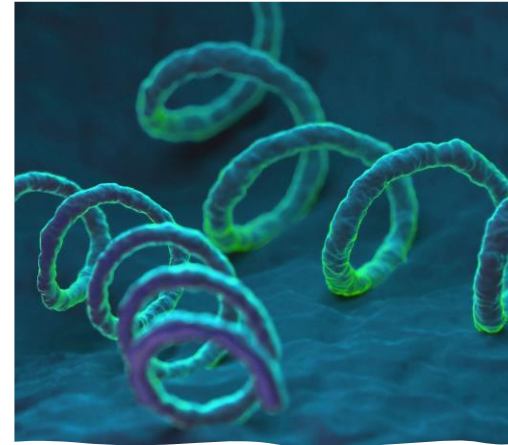


## Impact of COVID-19

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had complex effects on STIs trends.

- While some regions experienced temporary declines in STIs diagnoses due to lockdown measures and reduced social interactions, others saw increases as healthcare resources were diverted away from STIs services.

Lescure TN, et al. AIDS Patient Care STDS, 2023;  
Chang JJ. Sex Transm Dis., 2022;  
Sentís, A. BMC Public Health, 2021;  
Guiriguet C, et al. BMC Prim Care. 2024.



## HIV/AIDS

- Although not solely classified as an STI, HIV/AIDS remains a significant global health concern.

- Efforts to combat HIV/AIDS continue, with progress seen in some regions due to increased access to antiretroviral therapy and prevention programs.

- However, challenges such as stigma, discrimination, and access to healthcare persist.

Cohen MS. J Int AIDS Soc. 2019;  
Georgiadis N, et al. AIDS. 2024.

## CDC: “Effectively No Risk” of Sexual HIV Transmission if Undetectable

The strongest federal endorsement to date of the messaging behind the “Undetectable Equals Untransmittable” campaign.

### U=U taking off in 2017

The fact that people infected with HIV who are virally suppressed cannot sexually transmit the virus to others is now accepted in the HIV/AIDS community as a result of accumulating evidence since the early 2000s. In early 2016, the Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U) slogan was launched by the Prevention Access Campaign to promote the finding. The campaign has been rapidly

1166 HIV-serodiscordant couples (also both homosexual and heterosexual) from 14 countries across Europe with more than 58 000 instances of unprotected sex reported. Although 11 HIV-negative partners became HIV positive, none of these transmissions were linked. Finally, results of the most recent study, the Opposites Attract study, were presented this July at the 9th International AIDS Society



### Language used to convey HIV infection risk is important

The recent Comment by Jens Lundgren and Andrew Phillips<sup>1</sup> raises important issues about how we convey risk of HIV transmission to those who need

“the science really does validate that U=U (Undetectable equals Untransmittable)”<sup>3</sup> The Editorial in this journal in November<sup>4</sup> gets it right: “The fact that people infected with HIV who are virally suppressed cannot sexually transmit the virus to others is now accepted in the HIV/AIDS community as a result of accumulating

HIV-negative partner”, and we agree that this better conveys the risk to a broad audience than the wording we used in the article.

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**What about other Sexually Transmitted Infections?**

## Prevention Efforts

- Prevention remains a cornerstone of addressing STIs, with efforts focused on promoting safe sexual practices, increasing access to testing and treatment, and destigmatizing conversations around sexual health.
- Comprehensive sex education, access to condoms, and regular screenings are crucial components of prevention strategies.





International AIDS Society [iasociety.org](http://iasociety.org)

# Thank you!

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