

# DRUG-RESISTANT *NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE*

THREAT LEVEL **URGENT**



**550,000**  
Estimated drug-resistant infections each year



**1.14M**  
Total new infections each year



**\$133.4M**  
Annual discounted lifetime direct medical costs

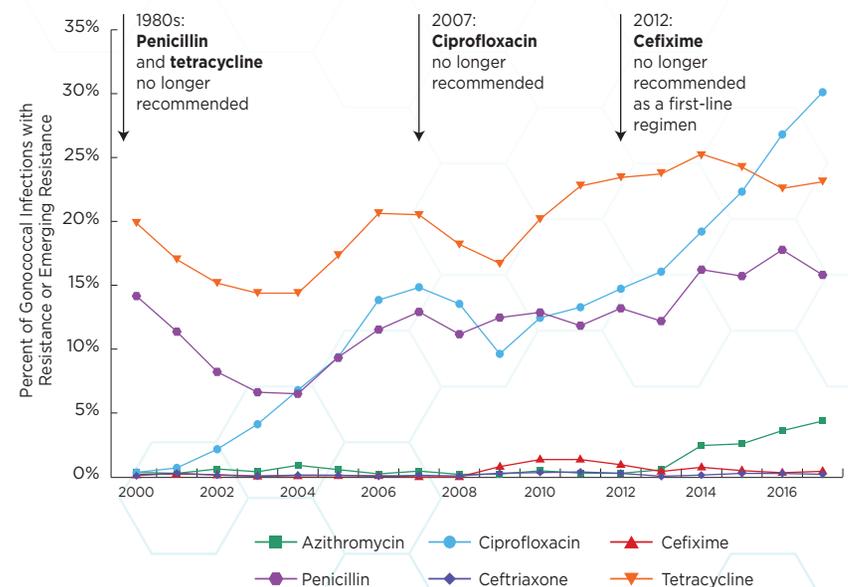
*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* causes gonorrhea, a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that can result in life-threatening ectopic pregnancy and infertility, and can increase the risk of getting and giving HIV.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Gonorrhea has quickly developed resistance to all but one class of antibiotics, and half of all infections are resistant to at least one antibiotic. Tests to detect resistance are not available at time of treatment.
- Gonorrhea spreads easily. Some men and most women do not have symptoms and may not know they are infected, increasing spread.
- Untreated gonorrhea can cause serious and permanent health problems in women and men, including ectopic pregnancy and infertility, and can spread to the blood resulting in cardiovascular and neurological problems.

## EMERGING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Gonorrhea rapidly develops resistance to antibiotics—ceftriaxone is the last recommended treatment.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

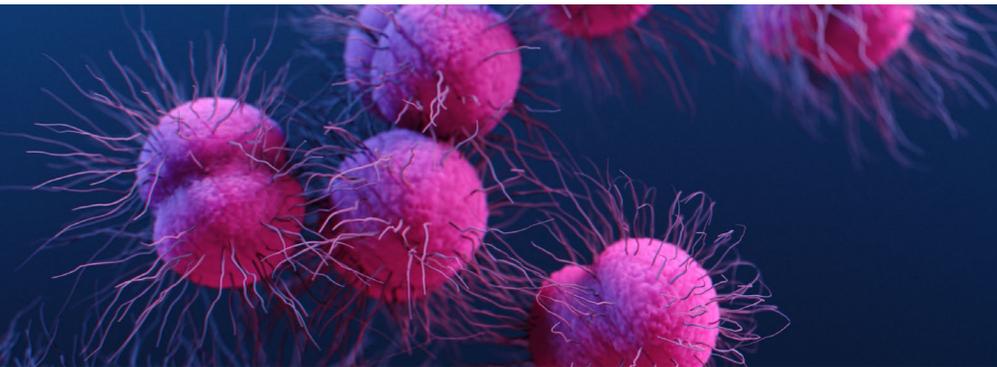
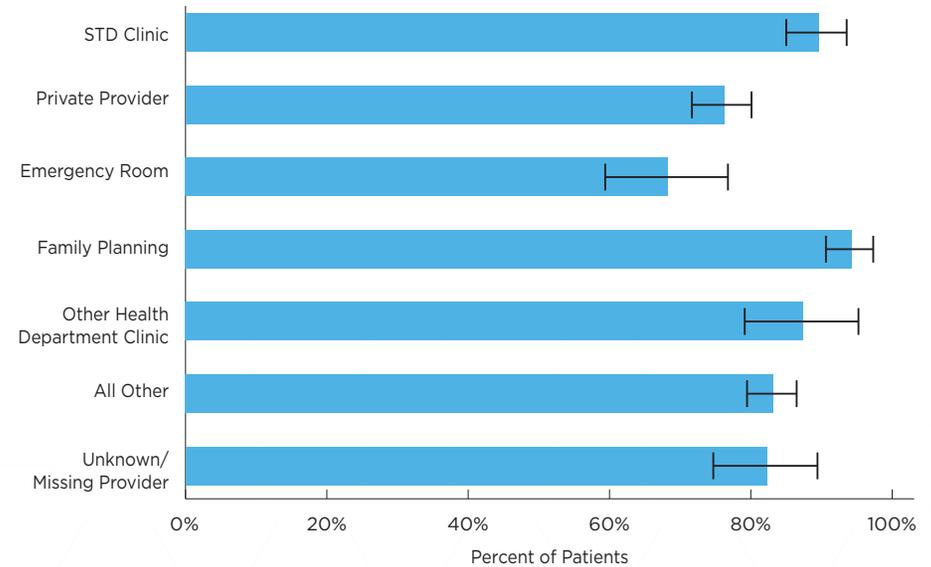
## CDC RESPONSE: DRUG-RESISTANT GONORRHEA

Many people who have gonorrhea may not have symptoms, so timely diagnosis through routine screening, with prompt and effective treatment, is needed. CDC develops evidence-based STD Treatment Guidelines, which are the cornerstone of STD prevention and control. It is essential for healthcare providers to follow the guidance to treat their patients with the correct antibiotic, which also slows the threat of emerging antibiotic resistance and helps to reduce gonorrhea in the United States.

A recent CDC analysis found that healthcare providers treated most patients with gonorrhea (82%) in 2017 using CDC's recommended regimen, just two years after CDC published the updated guidelines in 2015. Through the efforts of CDC, partners, and healthcare providers, the uptake of gonorrhea guideline changes by providers was impressively swift. These data highlight the value of robust partnerships to ensure that patients receive the highest quality STD care.

## STD TREATMENT ACROSS SETTINGS

Across all U.S. clinical settings, data suggest clinicians treated most patients with CDC's recommended gonorrhea treatment in 2017.



## ONLINE RESOURCES

### About Gonorrhea

[www.cdc.gov/STD/Gonorrhea/Default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/STD/Gonorrhea/Default.htm)

### Battling Antibiotic-resistant Gonorrhea: A Timeline of Coordinated Teamwork

[www.cdc.gov/STD/Products/Success/Hawaii-Success-Stories.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/STD/Products/Success/Hawaii-Success-Stories.pdf)