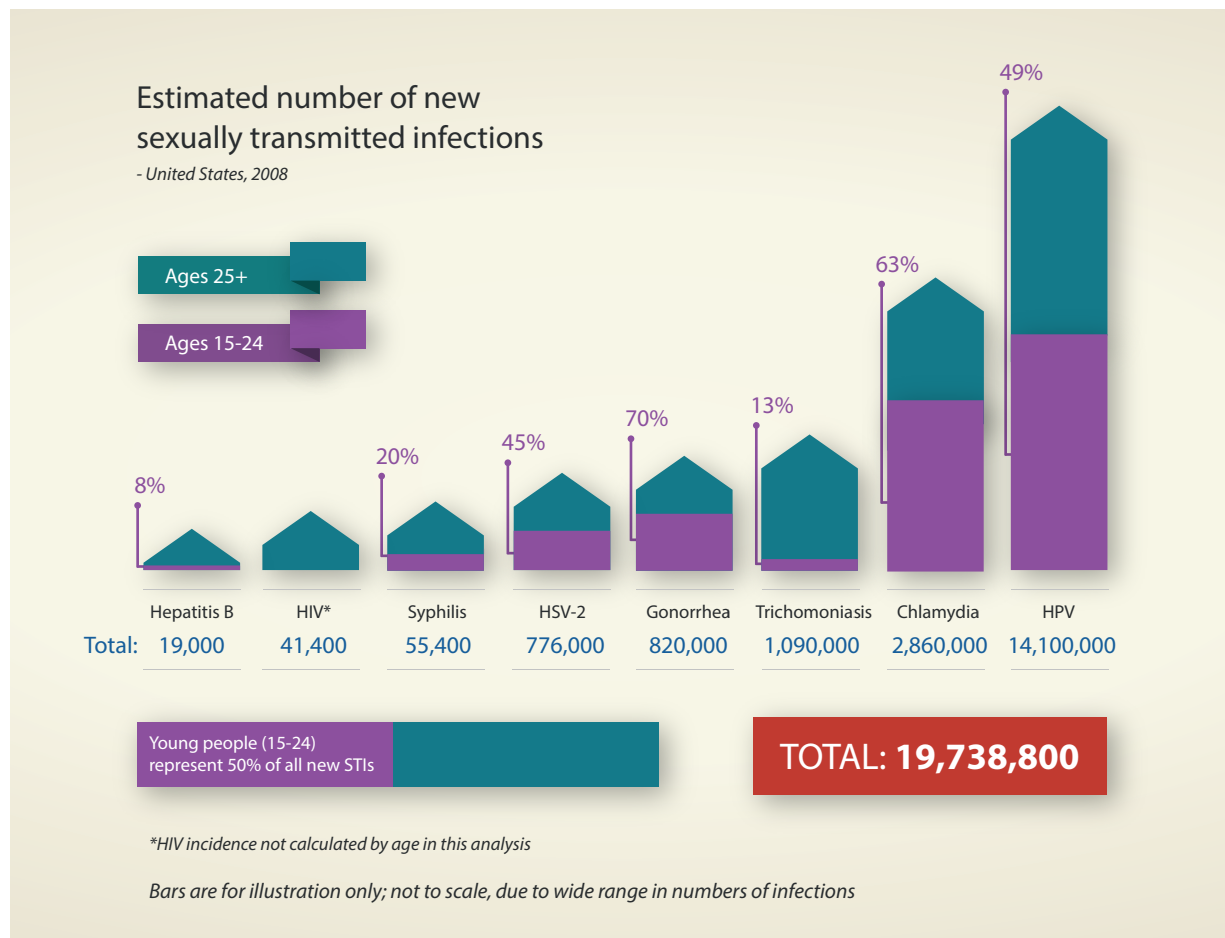


Nearly 20 Million New Infections Occur Each Year – Half among the Nation’s Youth

CDC estimates that there are more than 19.7 million new STIs in the United States each year. While most of these STIs will not cause harm, some have the potential to cause serious health problems, especially if not diagnosed and treated early. Young people (ages 15-24) are particularly affected, accounting for half (50 percent) of all new STIs, although they represent just 25 percent of the sexually experienced population.



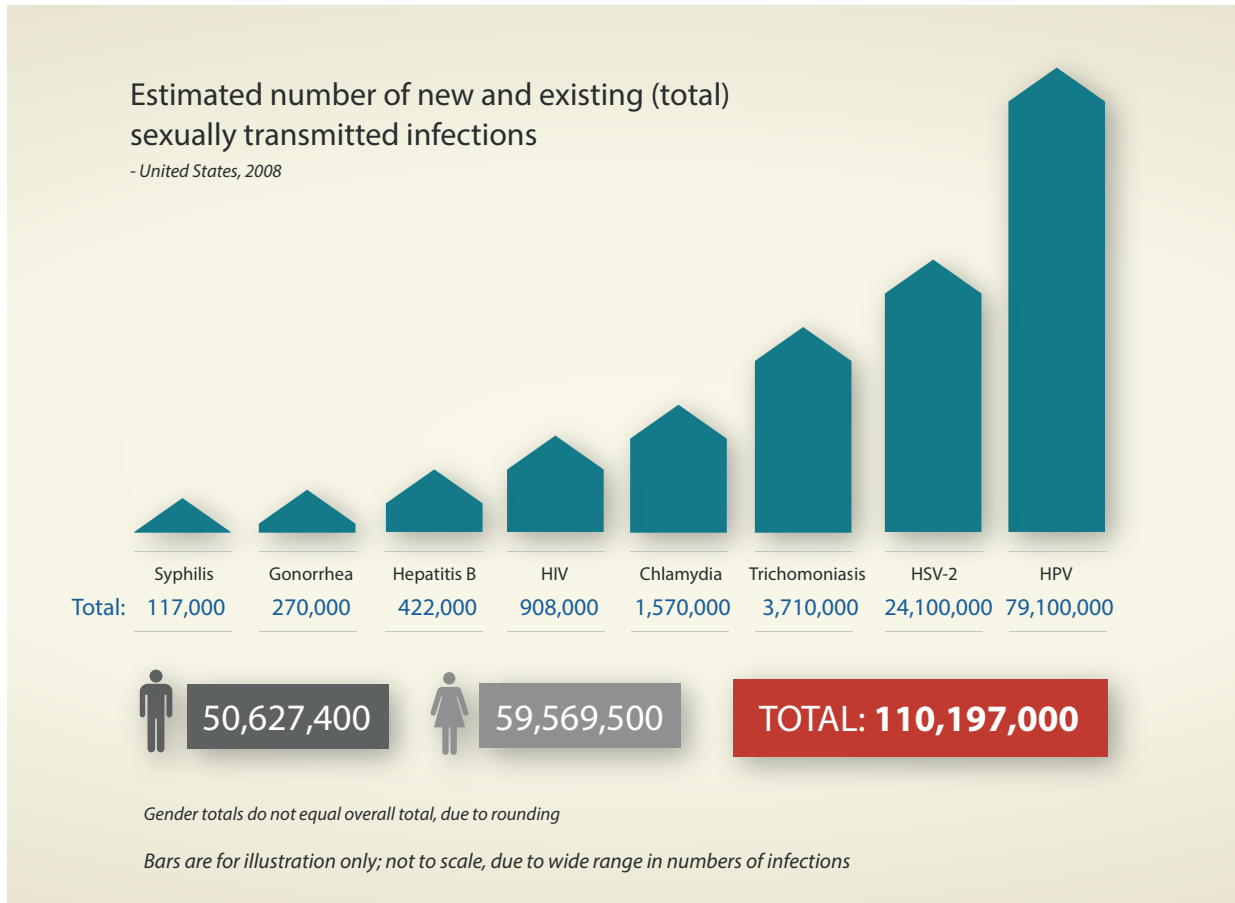
While the consequences of untreated STIs are often worse for young women, the new analysis reveals that the annual number of new infections is roughly equal among young women and young men (49 percent of incident STIs occurs among young men, vs. 51 percent among young women).

Four of the STIs included in the analysis are easily treated and cured if diagnosed early: chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and trichomoniasis. However, too many of these infections go undetected because they often have no symptoms. But even STIs that don't have symptoms can have serious health consequences. Undiagnosed and untreated chlamydia or gonorrhea, for example, can put a woman at increased risk of chronic pelvic pain and life-threatening ectopic pregnancy, and can also increase a woman's chance of infertility.

CDC estimates that HPV accounts for the majority of newly acquired STIs. While the vast majority (90 percent) of HPV infections will go away on their own within two years and cause no harm, some of these infections will take hold and potentially lead to serious disease, including cervical cancer (see HPV box, pg. 3).

New Estimates Reveal More than 110 Million STIs in the United States

CDC's analysis suggests that there are more than 110 million STIs overall among men and women nationwide. This estimate includes both new and existing infections. Some prevalent infections – such as HSV-2 and HIV – are treatable but lifelong infections.



HPV accounts for the majority of prevalent STIs in the United States. While there is no treatment for the virus itself, there are treatments for the serious diseases that HPV can cause, and vaccines are available to prevent some types of HPV infection (see HPV box below).

Human papillomavirus (HPV) – The most common STI: The body's immune system clears most HPV naturally within two years (about 90 percent), though some infections persist. While there is no treatment for the virus itself, there are treatments for the serious diseases that HPV can cause, including genital warts, cervical, and other cancers.

Most sexually active men and women will get HPV at some point in their lives. This means that everyone is at risk for the potential outcomes of HPV and many may benefit from the prevention that the HPV vaccine provides. HPV vaccines are routinely recommended for 11 or 12 year old boys and girls, and protect against some of the most common types of HPV that can lead to disease and cancer, including most cervical cancers. CDC recommends that all teen girls and women through age 26 get vaccinated, as well as all teen boys and men through age 21 (and through age 26 for gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men). HPV vaccines are most effective if they are provided before an individual ever has sex.