

# SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

(SYPHILIS AND GONORRHEA)



## + Impact goal

**Elimination** as a public health problem

## + Elimination target

**90%** reduction in new syphilis and gonorrhea infections compared to 2020

## + Programmatic targets

**90%** of key and priority population are screened annually for syphilis and gonorrhea

**95%** of individuals diagnosed with syphilis and gonorrhea are treated

## Action steps to achieve elimination

### ① Expand testing using innovative strategies:

- Scale up routine and periodic syphilis and gonorrhea screening using diversified approaches (e.g., self-testing, dual HIV and syphilis tests)
- Implement sexual partner notification and treatment strategies to interrupt transmission

### ② Integrate sexually transmitted infection services into primary care:

- Offer sexually transmitted infection services in primary health care, HIV services, family planning, and reproductive health services
- Ensure availability of essential medicines such as benzathine penicillin G and ceftriaxone at all levels of care

## Best buys

### ③ Treat early and effectively:

- Provide immediate treatment after syphilis and gonorrhea diagnosis to prevent transmission and complications
- Explore new treatment approaches, e.g., doxycycline postexposure prophylaxis, where appropriate

### ④ Promote safe sex practices and health education:

- Provide inclusive, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education targeting key populations
- Ensure free or low-cost condom access and promote correct and consistent use

### ⑤ Employ targeted, data-driven interventions:

- Use routine screening and surveillance to guide targeted interventions for key populations (e.g., pregnant women, men who have sex with men, sex workers)

## More information

• Pan American Health Organization. Guidance for the elimination of syphilis and congenital syphilis in the Americas. Technical note. Washington, D.C.: PAHO; 2024. Available from: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/61824>.

• World Health Organization. Global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections for the period 2022–2030, Geneva: WHO; 2022. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240053779>.



Explore PAHO's Regional Revolving Funds portfolio to improve access to life-saving technologies