

# STDs

(Josh McDowell research 2006 to present)

## **“INCURABLE GONORRHEA MAY BE THE NEXT SUPERBUG”**

“An alarming new superbug may be on its way — an incurable form of gonorrhea. The disease, once easily killed with a shot of penicillin, is increasingly becoming drug-resistant. Soon, the world may face a version that can’t be killed by any known antibiotic, warned Catherine Ison, the director of the sexually transmitted bacteria reference library with the United Kingdom’s Health Protection Agency.”

“In recent years, as the disease has evolved, medications once proven to kill the bacteria have become less effective except one, a class of antibiotics called cephalosporins. Now some strains of gonorrhea are showing signs of being resistant to even that, Ison told those at a scientific meeting last week in Edinburgh, Scotland.”

“Gonorrhea is the second most commonly reported infectious disease in the United States. In 2008, there were 336,742 official cases, but this number, the most recent available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may vastly underestimate the true number.”

“We will probably have something like 700,000 cases of gonorrhea this year,” suggested Dr. Edward W. Hook, professor of medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and an expert on STD infections.”

“In May of 2009, doctors at Sydney, Australia’s Prince of Wales Hospital reported two cases of failed treatment of gonorrhea of the pharynx (typically resulting from oral sex or oral-anal contact).”

“About 30 percent of females who contract gonorrhea are co-infected with chlamydia. While chlamydia seems to respond well to medication so far, a small number of strains have shown signs of developing drug-resistance, says Workowski. Hook, however, says he doesn’t know of any resistant strains.”

(Alexander, Brian, “Incurable gonorrhea may be next superbug,” April 8, 2010, [www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36229547/ns/health-sexual\\_health/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36229547/ns/health-sexual_health/))

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## **“1 IN 4 U.S. GIRLS RECEIVED HPV VACCINE”**

“Vaccine proponents had been hoping for much higher vaccination rates, saying the shots could dramatically reduce the nearly 4,000 cervical cancer deaths that occur each year in the United States.”

(Associated Press, “1 in 4 U.S. Girls Received HPV Vaccine,” MSNBC.com, October 9, 2009; <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27103121/>).

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## **“FAST FACTS ABOUT STDS”**

“The syphilis rate for teenagers age 15-19 has jumped 67% since 1985.”

(Gary Foster, "Fast Facts," *Religious Market Update*, September 10, 2009, p4; [www.garydfoster.com](http://www.garydfoster.com))

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### **"HPV LINKED TO 25,000 CANCERS IN 5 YEARS"**

"The human wart virus HPV caused 25,000 cases of cancer in the United States between 1998 and 2003, including not only cervical cancer but also anal and mouth cancers, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on Monday."

"HPV includes about 100 different viruses, and they are the leading cause of cervical cancer. The viruses, transmitted sexually and by skin-to-skin contact, can also cause anal and penile cancers, as well as cancers of the mouth and throat."

"An estimated 11,070 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed in 2008 in the United States, and 3,870 women will die of it."

"The CDC survey of 38 states and Washington, D.C., found nearly 7,400 cancers of the mouth and throat that could be linked with HPV — nearly 5,700 among men and about 1,700 among women."

"There were more than 3,000 HPV-associated anal cancers per year — about 1,900 in women and 1,100 in men," the CDC said."

(Reuters, "HPV linked to 25,000 cancers in 5 years," MSNBC.com, November 3, 2008, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27518979/print/1/displaymode/1098/>)

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### **"PREGNANCIES & SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES ON THE RISE AMONG TEENS"**

"The annual rate of AIDS cases among boys ages 15 to 19 has almost doubled over the past decade."

"Almost a quarter of teen girls aged 15-19 were infected with a human papillomavirus (HPV) from 2003 to 2004, as were almost half of young women between the ages of 20 to 25."

(Drucilla Dyess, "Pregnancies & Sexually Transmitted Diseases on the Rise Among Teens," Healthnews.com, July 21, 2009, <http://www.healthnews.com/family-health/sexual-health/pregnancies-sexually-transmitted-diseases-rise-among-teens-3478.html>)

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### **"SEX INFECTION GONORRHEA RISKS BECOMING 'SUPERBUG'"**

"Gonorrhea is a common bacterial sexually-transmitted infection and if left untreated can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy and infertility in women. Globally, the WHO estimates that there are at least 340 million new cases of curable sexually transmitted infections — including syphilis, gonorrhea, Chlamydia and individual infection type."

"Ceftriaxone and cefixime are still very effective but there are signs that resistance, particularly to cefixime is emerging and soon these drugs may not be a good choice."

(Barkin, Noah, Editor, "Sex infection gonorrhea risks becoming 'superbug,'" March 29, 2010, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62S5KF20100329>)

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### **"THE DOWNSIDE OF 'FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS'"**

"HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About one in four U.S. females age 14-59 has HPV, according to a 2007 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The HPV rate was highest – 44 percent – for women ages 20 to 24. HPV is not as common in men, according to a 2006 article in the Journal of Infectious Diseases, but is still "highly prevalent." The study, which look at 40 studies on HPV and men, found that 56 percent of the reports found that at least one in five men had HPV."

(Cohen, Elizabeth "The Downside of 'Friends with Benefits'", CNN Health, April 15, 2010, <http://www.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/04/15/friends.benefits.stds/index.html>)

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### **"VIRUS BLAMED FOR HALF OF PENILE CANCERS"**

"A sexually transmitted virus that causes cervical cancer is also to blame for half of all cases of cancer of the penis, Spanish researchers said on Tuesday."

"The finding suggests already available human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines for cervical cancer are also likely to be effective in the fight against penile cancer, doctors from the Catalan Institute of Oncology in Barcelona said."

"Merck & Co's Gardasil and GlaxoSmithKline's Cervarix are both used widely to immunize girls against HPV infection, which can lead to cancer of the cervix."

"Penile cancer is much rarer, accounting for less than 1 percent of adult male cancers in Europe and North America, although the incidence can be as high as 10 percent in parts of Africa and Asia. Worldwide, there are more than 26,000 new cases every year."

"Dr. Silvia de Sanjose and colleagues reviewed cases of penile cancer reported in clinical studies between 1986 and 2008 and found 46.9 percent of tumors were associated with HPV."

"Nearly all of these were linked to HPV strains 16 and 18, the two types that most commonly cause cervical cancer and which are targeted by Gardasil and Cervarix, they wrote in the Journal of Clinical Pathology."

"Merck reported results of a clinical trial last November showing that Gardasil was effective in preventing lesions caused by the virus in men."

(Reporting by Ben Hirschler, editing by Victoria Main, Yahoo News August 24, 2009)

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## **“1 IN 4 U.S. WOMEN HAVE HPV BUT ONLY TINY PERCENTAGE INFECTED WITH STRAINS TARGETED BY NEW VACCINE”**

“One in four U.S. women ages 14 to 59 is infected with the sexually transmitted virus that in some forms can cause cervical cancer, according to the first broad national estimate.”

“Researchers have estimated that 20 million Americans have some form of HPV. The study concluded that 26.8 percent of U.S. women are infected, a figure that is comparable to earlier estimates using smaller groups.”

“Young women face highest risk

Just 3.4 percent of the women studied had infections with one of the four HPV strains that the new vaccine protects against. But that doesn't mean the vaccine should be written off, said Dr. Yvonne Collins, an assistant professor of gynecologic cancer at the University of Illinois at Chicago.”

“For one thing, Collins said, that relatively small percentage corresponds with a lot of women – about 3 million, according to the reports. And it does not include those with past infections that have cleared up.”

“Women aged 20 to 24 had the highest overall HPV prevalence in the study, 44.8 percent. Prevalence increased each year from ages 14 to 24, then dropped off gradually, confirming that young, sexually active women face the greatest risk of infection.”

“1 in 4 U.S. women have HPV But only tiny percentage infected with strains targeted by new vaccine,” The Associated Press, February 2007, [www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17364887/print/1/displaymode/1098](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17364887/print/1/displaymode/1098))

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## **“FIGHTING HPV”**

“According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 20 million people have the human papilloma virus. Half of all sexually active American men and women will get HPV at some time in their lives. Many will not even know they have it.”

“There is no HPV test for men, in whom HPV infection produces no symptoms.”

(Aja J. Junior, “Fighting HPV,” STL Today, July 25, 2006, [www.stltoday.com](http://www.stltoday.com))

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## **“HERPES INFECTIONS FREQUENT IN ADOLESCENT GIRLS”**

“A national survey of the US population conducted between 1988 and 1994 found that more than one in five people over 12 had blood tests that showed evidence for infection with herpes simplex virus 2 (HSV 2), the virus typically responsible for genital herpes, Fife and his team note in their report in the July issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases. This represents a 30 percent increase from 1976-198. There is also evidence that genital infections with HSV 1, which normally causes cold sores around the mouth, are on the rise, they add.”

“To examine the incidence and prevalence of both strains of the virus among adolescent women, Fife and his team analyzed data from a study in which a group of young women were followed closely to determine if they contracted any sexually transmitted infections. Their analysis included result of blood and genital specimen tests obtained every three months from 100 women aged 14 to 18.”

“At the study’s outset, they found, 59.6 percent of the women tested positive for HSV 1, while 13.5 percent carried HSV 2. During the follow-up period, from 1999 to 2004, four of the study participants contracted new HSV 1 infections, while seven acquired HSV 2.”

(Anne Harding “Herpes infections frequent in adolescent girls” Yahoo news, July 31, 2006, [www.news.yahoo.com](http://www.news.yahoo.com))

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### **“HERPES RATES ARE HIGH AMONG AFFLUENT POPULATIONS”**

#### **“STD’s Hit Suburbia”**

“**Results:** More than 5,000 patients were screened. Three-quarters were white. Nearly half had a household income of more than \$60,000 annually and a majority had education beyond the high school level. More than a quarter tested positive for the virus, although it was as low as 13% among those in their teens and 20s and as high as 31% among those in their 40s. Infection rates were higher among women in all age groups. Only 4% reported a history of the infection.”

(“Herpes Rates are High Among Affluent Populations,” [www.ama-assn.org/sci-pubs/amnews/pick\\_03/hlsc0901.htm](http://www.ama-assn.org/sci-pubs/amnews/pick_03/hlsc0901.htm))

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### **“ON AIDS, ANNAN TELLS WORLD LEADERS: DO MORE”**

“‘The epidemic continues to outpace us,’ he told a jammed session of the General Assembly. ‘There are more new infections than ever before, more deaths than ever before, more women and girls infected than ever before.’”

“Annan, who is from Ghana and has made fighting AIDS a priority of his tenure, acknowledged some areas of progress since he convened the last UN Special Session on AIDS, in 2001: Some African nations have declining rates of the disease and seven times more people have access to treatment.”

(Elisabeth Rosenthal, “On AIDS, Annan tells world leaders: Do more,” *International Herald Tribune*, 6 February 2006)

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### **“STALKING A SILENT KILLER”**

“The CDC estimates that 80 percent women under 50 have had human papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that causes cervical cancer.”

“More than half of sexually active men and women get HPV at some point in their lives; and, the CDC says, by age 50, 80 percent of women have had HPV.”

(Lynde Langdon, “Stalking A Silent Killer,” World, (October 2006): 36)

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### **“THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE’S STATEMENT ON MANDATORY HPV VACCINATION”**

“• The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) supports ‘quadrivalent vaccine (ie, Gardasil)’ as a routine vaccination for adolescent females [11]”

“• Although some have suggested that immunizing young females with the HPV vaccine will encourage promiscuity, this is unlikely

- Minors do not read the vaccine statement or sign the consent form
- In a study of hepatitis B vaccine recipients and nonrecipients, almost no minors were able to provide accurate information about the purpose of vaccines in general, or of hepatitis B vaccine, in particular. [12]
- Given that most minors know or recall almost nothing about their immunization history, it is unlikely that HPV vaccination would affect their behavior.”

“• The Medical Institute for Sexual Health does not support mandatory immunization.

- For many vaccines, immunity tapers off over time; this is why ‘booster’ shots are needed
- For any vaccine to effectively reduce risk, the immunity it provides must be strong when the person is exposed to the virus or bacteria.”
- The timing of the vaccination should be decided by each girl’s parents in consultation with her doctor.”

(“The Medical Institute’s Statement on Mandatory HPV Vaccination,” The Medical Institute, February 2007, [www.medinstitute.org/content.php?name=HPVVaccineStatement](http://www.medinstitute.org/content.php?name=HPVVaccineStatement))

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### **“WANT TO PREVENT HIV? FOCUS ON YOUTH”**

“the fact that 15–24-year-olds account for nearly half of the five million new cases of HIV infection worldwide each year is sure to be frequently cited. Less widely known is that 15–24-year-olds account for half of the 40,000 new infections in the United States. Young Americans also account for nearly half of new diagnoses of STIs other than HIV. Like adolescents everywhere, American teens need honest, complete information about sexual health to better protect themselves.”

(Rebecca Wind, “Want to Prevent HIV? Focus on Youth,” Guttmacher Institute, August 2006, <http://www.guttmacher.org/media/nr/2006/08/10/index.html>)

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### **“WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS IN THE UNITED STATES”**

“• Although men continue to represent the majority of new HIV and AIDS cases in the U.S., women account for a growing share. In 1985, women represented 8% of AIDS diagnoses; by 2005 they accounted for 27% (Figure 1).”

“Key Trends and Current Cases

Race/Ethnicity: Women of color, particularly Black women, are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS (Figure 2).”

“• Black women account for 67% of AIDS cases among women, aged 13 and older, diagnosed in 2005, but only 12% of the U.S. population of women. Latinas account for 16% of estimated AIDS cases, compared to 13% of the female population aged 13 and over.”

“•The AIDS case rate per 100,000 illustrates the severe impact on women of color. In 2005, the case rate for Black women was 49.9 per 100,000, or 24 times the rate for white women (2.1). The case rate for Latinas, 12.2, was 6 times the rate for white women. The case rate was 4.4 for American Indian/Alaska Native women and 1.8 for Asian/Pacific Islander women.”

“• Among women, the number of HIV-related deaths and HIV death rates are highest for Black women. In 2002, HIV was the leading cause of death among Black women aged 25-34, compared to the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause for women overall in this age group in the U.S. In 2003, the HIV death rate per 100,000 women aged 25-44 was 23.6 for Black women; compared to 1.3 for white women.”

“Age: Most women with AIDS were diagnosed between the ages of 25 and 44 (71%), indicating that many were likely infected at a relatively young age. The impact on teen girls is particularly notable. In 2004, teen girls represented 43% of AIDS cases reported among those aged 13-19 and young women, aged 20-24, represented 33% of cases in their age group; comparatively, women aged 25 and older represented 26% of cases in their age group. This more pronounced impact of HIV/AIDS among teen girls and young women may be a harbinger for the epidemic’s trajectory.”

“Transmission:

• Most AIDS diagnoses among women are due to heterosexual transmission (71% in 2005) followed by injection drug use (27%). These patterns are fairly consistent across most racial and ethnic groups, although the proportion due to heterosexual transmission is highest among Asian/Pacific Islander women. Among younger women, aged 20-24, heterosexual transmission accounted for 79% of AIDS cases in 2004 and among teen girls, it accounted for 66%.”

“• Mother-to-child transmission of HIV in the U.S. has decreased dramatically since its peak in 1992 due to the use of antiretroviral therapy (ART), which significantly reduces the risk of transmission from a woman to her baby (to less than 2%). Still, perinatal infections continue to occur each year, the majority of which are among African Americans.”

“• A recent CDC study found that most pregnant women with HIV (81%) and most babies born to HIV-infected women (93%) have received ART.”

(“Women and HIV/AIDS in the United States,” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, December 2006)