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**PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

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## Steep increase in STD cases across the United States

TWIN FALLS – The South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is urging residents to practice safer sex methods as a recent CDC analysis shows steep increases in STD cases across the United States.

“Nearly 2.3 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were diagnosed in the United States in 2017,” the CDC said in a press release this week. “This surpassed the previous record set in 2016 by more than 200,000 cases and marked the fourth consecutive year of sharp increases in these sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).”

In Health District 5 (Twin Falls, Camas, Jerome, Minidoka, Lincoln, Cassia, Gooding and Blaine Counties) most STDs have already outpaced rates from this time last year:

Sexually Transmitted Disease	January 1- August 28, 2017	January 1- August 28, 2018
HIV	8 cases	11 cases
Gonorrhea	27 cases	82 cases
Chlamydia	485 cases	466 cases
Syphilis	2 cases	4 cases

Gonorrhea stands out as the fastest rising, with a 203 percent increase compared to rates this time last year. Meanwhile, the CDC recorded an average increase of 67 percent in gonorrhea diagnoses nationwide.

“Some STD’s are curable, unfortunately there are cases that aren’t treated properly, are undiagnosed, or go untreated, which could account for some of the increase we have seen this year,” said Christi Dawson-Skuza, R.N. and Epidemiologist with the SCPHD. “If left untreated, bacterial STD’s, chlamydia and gonorrhea, can cause long-term health problems like infertility, in both men and women, and pelvic inflammatory disease in women.”

The SCPHD urges residents to use safer sex practices, including using condoms and going to a health care provider for STD testing after sex with new partners.

For more information please see the CDC press release:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/2018/press-release-2018-std-prevention-conference.html>

Or on our website at: [https://www.phd5.idaho.gov/Docs/HIV\\_brochure\\_english.pdf](https://www.phd5.idaho.gov/Docs/HIV_brochure_english.pdf)