# The Urgency of Reproductive Health Rights in Today's Environment

Our Bodies. Our Health. Our Communities. September 12, 2019

Amy Moy, Chief External Affairs Officer Essential Access Health





## **About Essential Access Health**

Essential Access Health champions and promotes quality sexual and reproductive health care for all.

## **Strategic Goals:**

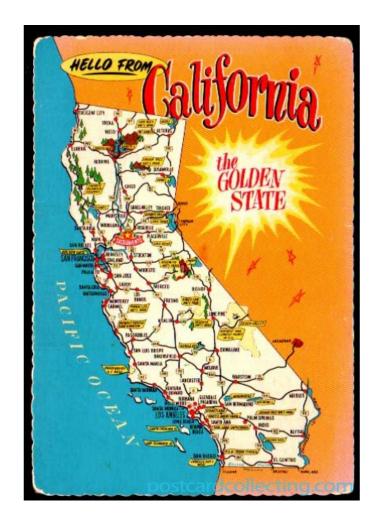
- 1. Ensure **ACCESS** to quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information.
- 2. Champion **QUALITY** sexual and reproductive health care.
- 3. Advance **TRAINING** in quality sexual and reproductive health delivery and implementation.
- 4. Conduct innovative **RESEARCH** in sexual and reproductive health technologies.



## Protecting + Expanding Comprehensive Family Planning Services for All



## **California Landscape**





## **Birth Control Access in CA**

- FREE + CONFIDENTIAL Services
  - Medi-Cal Expansion
  - Family PACT Uninsured/No Citizenship Requirement
- Freedom of Choice in Family Planning Provider/Direct Access
- Access to all FDA-Approved Methods No-Copay/Restrictions
- Confidential Health Information Private Plans
- Pharmacy Dispensing w/o Prescription
- 12-Month Supply
- Teen Access/Comprehensive Sex Ed



## **Federal Landscape**





## Title X Federal Family Planning Program

### **Did You Know?**

Passed Congress in 1970 with BI-PARTISAN support Enacted by President Richard Nixon

- Essential Access Health is the Statewide Grantee for CA
- CA Statewide Network is the Largest + Most Diverse in Nation
- 2018 Network
  - 63 Agencies (FQHCs, City + County Health Depts, University Affiliates, Hospitals)
  - 366 Health Centers
  - 38 Counties
  - 1,000,000 Patients Served



## **Title X Funding in CA**

- Title X Funding Supports:
  - Contraceptive care
  - STD + HIV prevention education, counseling, testing + treatment
  - Adolescent services
  - Infertility services
  - Pregnancy testing + options counseling
- Funds may also be used for outreach + education efforts that link community members to care.
- Title X funding may not be used to provide abortion services.



## The Value of Title X in CA

- 231,000 unintended pregnancies averted
- 112,300 unintended births averted
- 500,000 community members connected to local services
- The most important single factor associated with comprehensive family planning care at health centers is participation in Title X Program.
- Title X-funded health center sites are substantially more likely 48 percent compared to 15 percent of sites not receiving Title X funding – to offer all of the most effective birth control methods onsite.
- Title X-funded health centers expand access through drop-in appts, teen-clinic hours, and mobile units.



## **Trump Administration's Title X Regulations**

- Final Regulations Released March 4, 2019
- Legal challenges Filed
- Preliminary Injunctions Issued in April
  - Delay access to care
  - Disproportionately impact low-Income communities, women of color + rural regions
  - Conflict with current law
- Preliminary Injunctions Lifted as Court Cases Advance
- HHS Put Regulations into Effect in July
- Impact Starting to Take Shape as Lawsuits Continue



## Court of Public Opinion Already Settled: California Voters Agree Access to Birth Control + Pregnancy Options Information is Important

- 9 in 10 California voters believe access to birth control is important
- 3 out of 4 voters in every region of California believe access to birth control is important
- Nearly 80% of California voters are concerned about eliminating requirements that Title X providers offer women all of their pregnancy options
- Strong majority of California voters are concerned that changes to the Title X program will create more barriers to care.



## **Looking Ahead**

- 1. Save + Protect Title X
- 2. Keep Title X in CA Strong
- 3. Invest in Areas of High Need
- 4. Expand Access



## Curbing Rising STD Rates + Investing in Prevention

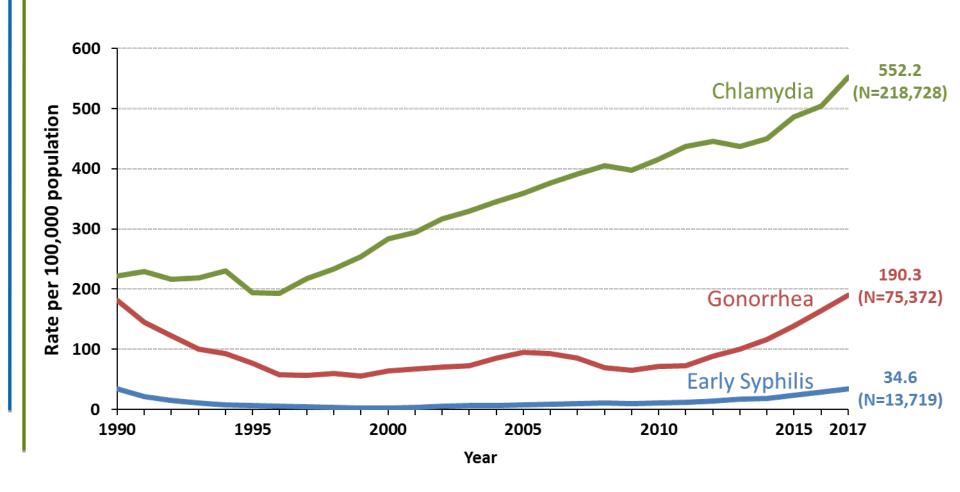


## **STD Rates in CA**

- Rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are at all-time highs
- In 2017, more than 300,000 reported STD cases, a 45% increase since 2013.
- Over half of all STDs in the state are among California youth ages 15-24 years old
- CA has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest syphilis rates in the nation
- Congenital syphilis -> 283 babies born with syphilis in 2017, 30 resulted in stillbirths

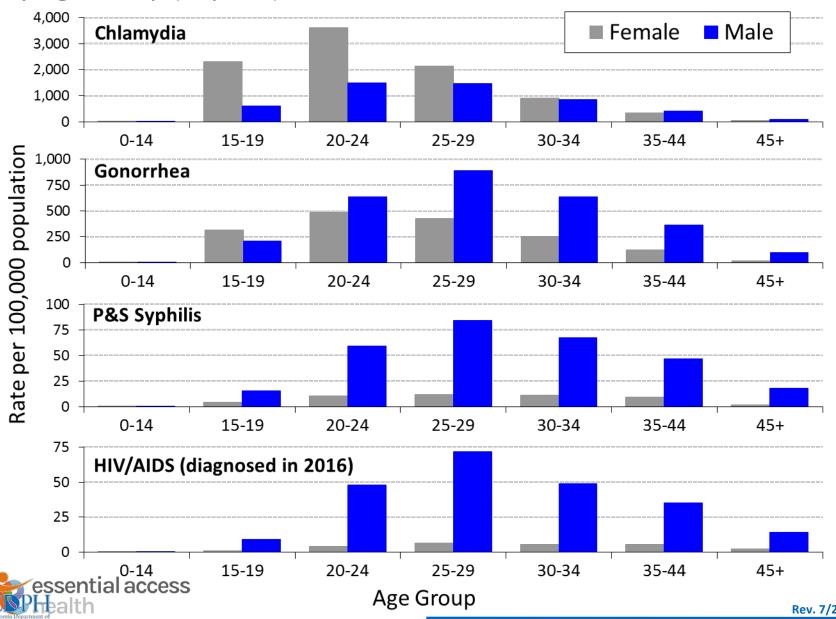


## Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Early Syphilis\* California Incidence Rates, 1990–2017





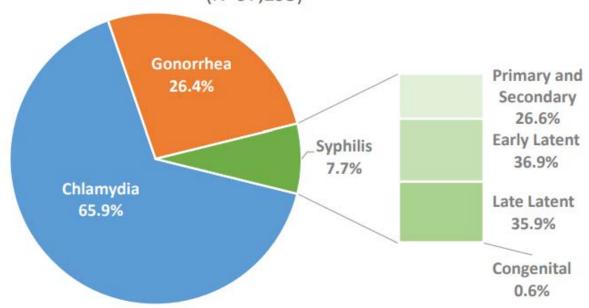
Incidence Rates of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, P&S Syphilis, and HIV/AIDS by Age Group (in years) and Gender, California, 2017



## STD Rates in Los Angeles County

- Nearly 100,000 cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis in 2017
- Chlamydia cases alone increased 29% between 2013 2017

Figure 1.1. Reported STD Cases, Los Angeles County, 2017<sup>1</sup> (N=97,295)





## Public Health Risks + Costs of Inaction

- Inequities -> Young people under the age of 30, communities of color, and men who have sex with men (MSM) populations are disproportionately impacted by STDs
- Approximately \$1 billion is spent annually statewide on health costs associated with STDs.
- Untreated STDs can lead to serious long-term health consequences:
  - Infertility, blindness, risk of contracting HIV
  - HPV-related cancers dramatically increasing
  - Negative maternal child health outcomes



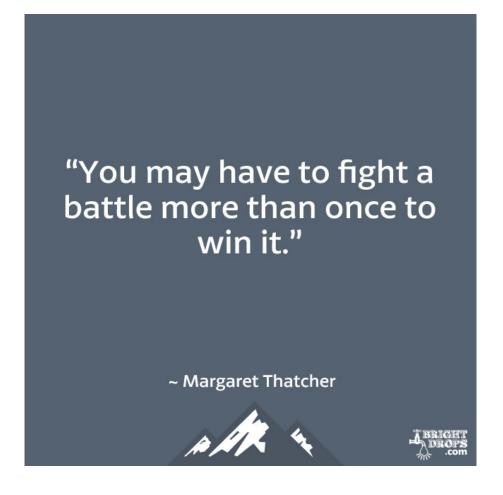
## STD Prevention Action Plan

- Expand access to evidence-based best practices (Title X/PDPT)
- Ensure coverage + reimbursement for STD testing + treatment
- End the Epidemics Coalition (ETE)
  - Increased state investment to tackle STDs, HIV and HCV
  - Creation of statewide taskforce

### Successes to date

- FY 2019-2019 included \$7 million for STD prevention + \$5 million for HIV + \$5 million for HCV
- In Nov 2018, LA County Board of Supervisors allocated
   \$5 million for STD prevention
- More than 150 community organizations have joined ETE











## Thank You



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