

# Talking Points for ASHA's Study on State Investment in STD Prevention

*These talking points are offered as a companion to the state profiles and the full report.*

## **The burden of STDs and the challenge of prevention**

- There are 36 new STD infections in the U.S. every minute. Half of these are among people 15-24 years of age.<sup>1</sup>
- The cost to treat STDs in the U.S. has been estimated at \$14.7 billion annually.<sup>2</sup>

## **Despite the costs of untreated STDs, states and the federal government invest a small amount in STD prevention**

- While STD treatment costs in the U.S. are \$49 per capita, the federal government invests only \$0.60 per capita in STD prevention.<sup>3</sup>
- States invest an average of \$0.23 per capita.<sup>4</sup>

## **States can do more to reduce the costs (human and financial) of STDs**

- Invest in proven STD prevention programs and strategies
- Assure the existence of laws and mandates that enhance STD prevention efforts

1. There are 19 million new infections annually in the U.S. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2007). Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the United States, 2006.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2007). Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the United States, 2006. On line: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/trends2006.htm>. Annual cost figure for treatment is in 2006 dollars.
3. Treatment costs in the U.S. were estimated at 14.7 billion. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2007). Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the United States, 2006. The per capita prevention cost was calculated by using the federal STD prevention funding for 2007 as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
4. American Social Health Association, 2008. Show Me the Money: State Investment in STD Prevention, FY 2007.

