



NCSD: Your Resource for STD Policy

WHO WE ARE:

Situated in the nation's capital, the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD), works toward the development of systemic change and promotion of sexual health and national awareness in the policies that govern sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). We are a membership organization representing health department STD directors, their support staff and community-based partners across 50 states, seven large cities and eight US territories. We use the collective knowledge and experience of our members to successfully advocate for STD policies, programs and funding that helps promote and protect the sexual health of every American.

As the only national organization with a constituency that provides frontline STD programs and services, NCSD uses its experiences to promote informed sexual health policy making. NCSD proactively seeks to increase resources for core STD programs and services. NCSD also responds swiftly to efforts that curtail access to services and sexual health information.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

NCSD is a partnership of public health professionals dedicated to promoting sexual health through the prevention of STDs. NCSD provides dynamic leadership that strengthens STD programs by advocating for effective policies, strategies, and sufficient resources and by increasing awareness of their medical and social impact.

OUR OBJECTIVES:

- To create a full partnership among sexually transmitted disease project areas directly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state and local public health agencies, the Federal Government and private agencies to effectively prevent and control STDs in the US and its territories;
- To provide a conduit of communication and technology transfer among and between STD Directors nationally;
- To provide a forum for technical assistance and dissemination of information about effective STD prevention and control programs among members of the Coalition;
- To educate federal, state and local policy makers about issues relevant to STD control and prevention
- To network or affiliate with appropriate organizations working toward comparable goals; and
- To promote adequate and efficient allocation of resources to STD sexual health promotion.

WHAT WE DO FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS:

NCSDD serves as an informational resource not only for our members in health departments, but we also hope that elected officials will utilize our knowledge when crafting policies and programs related to sexual health and STDs. Here's how we can help:

- Research and Analysis – If you are working on a bill related to STDs or sexual health, or if you want to learn more about one that is before your committee, please contact us. While we do not engage in lobbying or writing legislation, NCSDD is equipped to provide model language and in-depth analysis on a variety of sexual health issues.
- Legislative briefings – Hosting a legislative briefing can be a great way to bring attention to an issue or a policy on which you are working. NCSDD maintains a rich network of knowledgeable health practitioners across the United States, and we can work with you to host educational briefings featuring local experts.
- Training and education – NCSDD holds an annual meeting with STD and health experts from around the country. This meeting provides a wonderful opportunity for policy makers to learn about STD policies, programs and emerging issues.
- Liaising with your health department or the CDC – Ensuring a seamless connection between your state's health programs and CDC resources is important to us. Similarly, if we can help facilitate important dialogue between your office and the CDC, we are happy to do so. We can also introduce your office to STD program personnel at your department of health. These personnel are an invaluable resource as you work to shape STD and sexual health policy.

MAKING AN IMPACT:

- Supporting states in creating effective policy – NCSDD is currently working with state-based partners to increase policy education efforts around STDs and other sexual health issues. For example, we are working with community partners to highlight the importance of providing needed resources to prevention programs, policies that give STD personnel new electronic tools to track and prevent the spread of disease, and novel medical practices that reduce STD burden while saving public money.
- Working to inform Congress – NCSDD is a fixture on the Hill. We spend time educating Members of Congress and their staff about the importance of STD prevention and the vital role public health plays in maintaining a healthy society. For example, NCSDD hosts an annual Congressional briefing on Capitol Hill addressing the impact of effective sexual health programs and policies.

Get in Touch with Us:

Please contact our State Policy Associate, Burke Hays, with any questions at 202-842-4660 or via email at StatePolicy@ncsddc.org. You can also visit our website at www.ncsddc.org and take a look at our helpful state policy section.