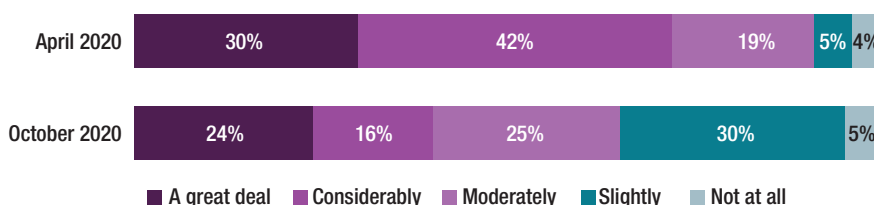


How the COVID-19 Pandemic has Impacted Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Programs

In March 2020, STD program resources shifted to help control the spread of COVID-19. This shift in resources occurred at a critical time: in 2019, reported STDs reached an all-time high for the 6th consecutive year. Although reported cases dropped during the beginning months of the pandemic, they have since surged, a sign that STD rates might have increased even more overall—an added challenge for programs with diminished resources.*

91% of jurisdictions reported that in April 2020, **staff reassignment** to COVID-19 work had **moderate to a great deal** of impact, and **65%** reported **moderate to a great deal** of impact in October 2020



Most staff **reassigned** from STD work to **COVID-19 duties** (March–October 2020) were DIS (40.6%)

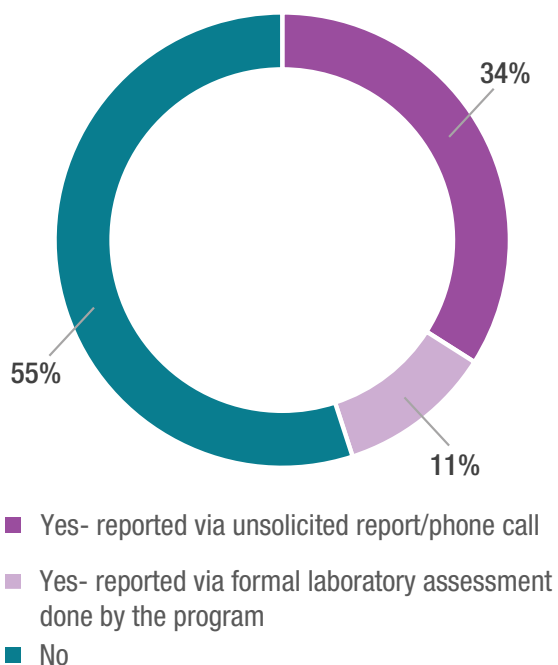


53% of jurisdictions discontinued **DIS field work** (March–October 2020)

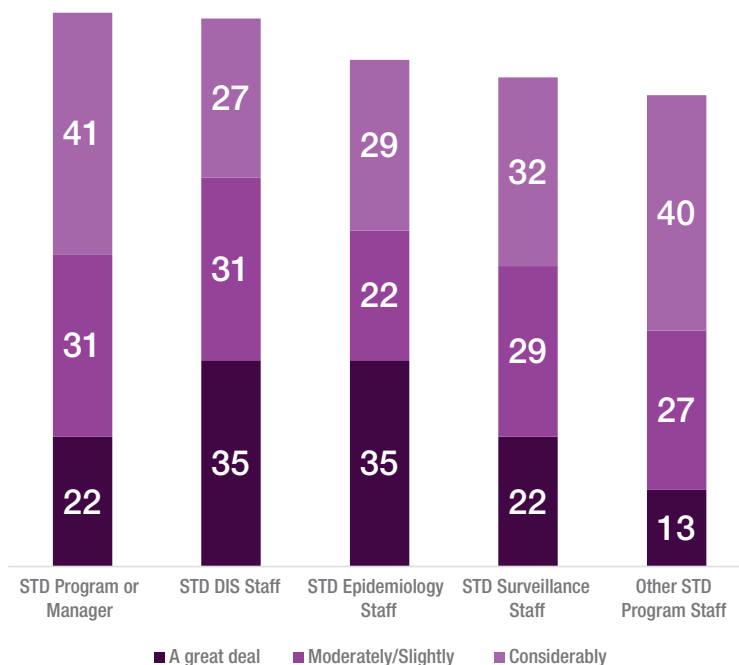


28% report **permanent reassignment** of DIS to COVID-19 duties

Nearly half of jurisdictions' high volume STD labs reported **disruptions**

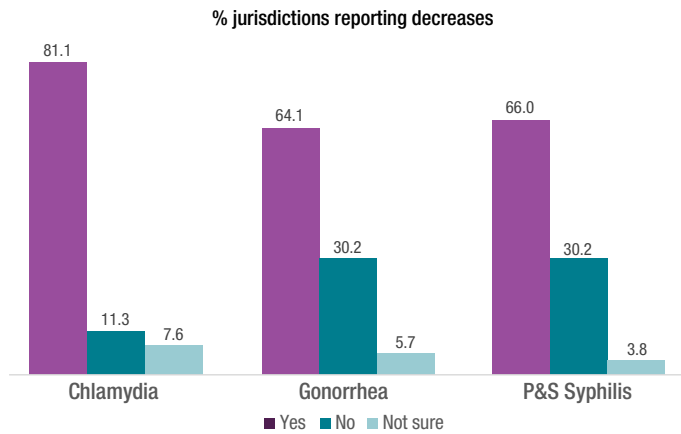


From March 2020 to October 2020, **reassignment of DIS and Epidemiologists** from STD to COVID-19 work had the **most impact** on programs (by %, when compared to other disruptions)



*This infographic summarizes major findings from a survey conducted to assess impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic between December 2020 and January 2021 on 59 project areas (jurisdictions) that include 50 states, 7 cities, and 2 U.S. territories funded by [CDC's Division of STD Prevention](#) to address STD prevention and control in the U.S.; [Wright S, et al. Sex Trans Dis. 2021](#)

Most jurisdictions confirmed **decreases** in **STD case reports** when comparing April 2019 to April 2020



Over half of jurisdictions reported STD testing and treatment shortages in April 2020



Most (**over 90%**) conducted a moderate amount to a great deal of DIS partner services virtually between March 2020 and October 2020

Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR)

30% decrease overall in total number of positive STD test results received via electronic laboratory reporting

- » 32% decrease in positive chlamydia results
- » 15% decrease in positive gonorrhea results
- » 38% decrease in positive reactive syphilis serologies

*29 out of 59 respondents reporting.

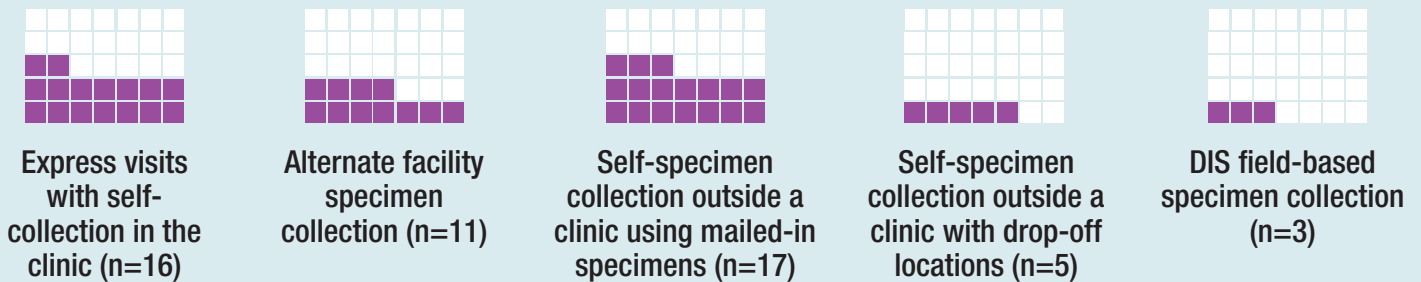
Paper Reporting

40% decrease overall in total number of positive STD test results received via paper reporting

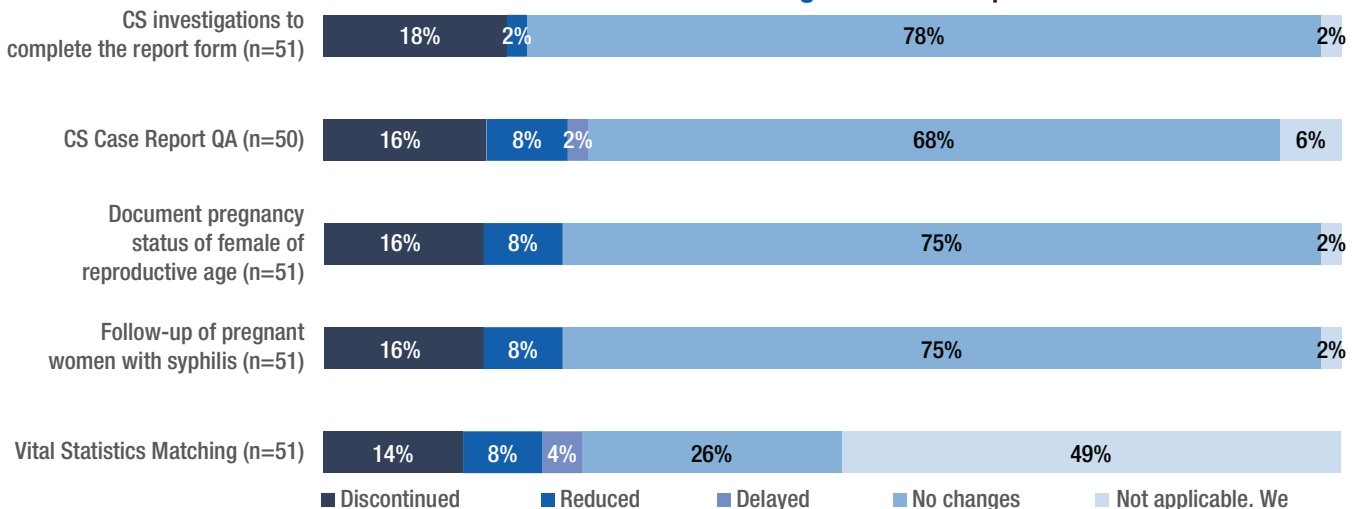
- » 40% decrease in positive chlamydia results
- » 34% decrease in positive gonorrhea results
- » 49% decrease in positive reactive syphilis serologies

*27 out of 59 respondents reporting.

Some jurisdictions (n=35) implemented **alternative** STD testing strategies



Among jurisdictions reporting **decreases** in CS surveillance activities, **case report quality assurance** and **vital statistics matching** were most impacted



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention