



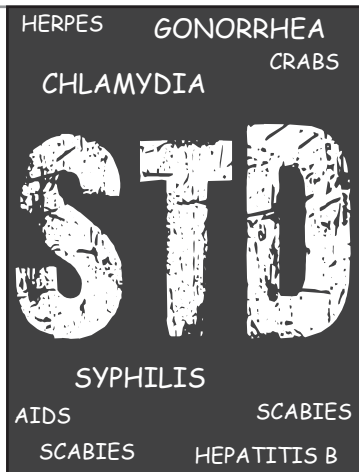
Budget cuts have left the **Spokane Region** struggling to keep up with outbreaks – requiring multiple agencies to shift time away from important prevention activities.

## MUMPS OUTBREAK IN SCHOOLS



What started out as one or two mumps cases during the holidays has quickly ballooned to 123 confirmed and probable people with the mumps in Spokane County. The Spokane Regional Health District has been working closely with more than 20 schools across multiple school districts that have been impacted by the cases. While health officials are working with partners to offer vaccine clinics throughout the community, many students and staff have been excluded from school for up to 25 days. Outbreaks of this magnitude take a significant toll on public health resources, from diseases investigators tracking cases to ongoing communications happening with the community.

## SHARP INCREASES IN STD'S



Over the past five years, gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis cases in Spokane County have been on the rise. Primary and secondary syphilis, the most contagious stages of disease, increased from 11 cases in 2014 to 61 in 2016. These increases have required a shift in prioritizing casework. While all gonorrhea cases are investigated, chlamydia cases are only investigated if the patient is pregnant or has other high-risk concerns. Prior to August 2015, all syphilis cases were investigated by DOH field staff housed in Spokane County's program. With the sharp increase in syphilis cases, the investigator has added syphilis case investigation to the workload, as well as one of their HIV staff members.

## A WATER CRISIS IN PULLMAN



When a water main broke in Pullman, a precautionary boil water order was issued to protect residents from possible water contamination. All water used for drinking, brushing teeth, preparing food, making ice, and washing dishes needed to be boiled or bottled. Many restaurants opted to shut down during the 3-day boil water order because both the expense and challenge of adhering to the boil water order were too much. One restaurant owner estimated the closure cost him about 10 percent of profits. While never a popular choice, when boil water orders are needed, public health works to monitor water quality and maintain communications with elected officials, partners, media and the community.