



Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are some of the most frequently-reported infections at the local, state and national level. While STIs can impact anyone, there are persistent disparities based on age, race/ethnicity and sexual orientation. This report covers three bacterial STIs: chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. Bacterial STIs are curable, but untreated infections can sometime cause irreversible damage including infertility. Symptoms of STIs vary, and are often mild or absent, making routine screening especially important to ensure prompt treatment. Pregnant women and their unborn children are especially vulnerable to complications of STIs.

Chlamydia

The number of chlamydia cases increased 11.2% from 7,678 in 2006 to 8,535 in 2016, and the rate increased 2.4% [Figure 1]. Compared to the State of California, the County had much higher chlamydia rates across all listed years. In 2011, Sacramento had a 44.9% higher rate than that of the State, but was only 12.3% higher in 2016. In 2016, the rate ranked the eighth highest among all California counties, which decreased from the fifth highest in 2015.

Gonorrhea

Gonorrhea cases increased 30.5% from 2,198 in 2007 to 2,868 to 2016, and the rate increased 20.3% [Figure 2]. Sacramento County had rates much higher than the State across all the listed years. In 2009, Sacramento had almost double the gonorrhea rate than that of the State, but the difference in rates has narrowed in 2016. In 2016, the rate ranked sixth highest among all California counties, which decreased from fourth highest in 2015.

Syphilis

Primary and secondary syphilis cases increased 265.1% from 63 in 2007 to 230 in 2016, and the rate increased 240.0% [Figure 3]. Sacramento County's trends in syphilis rates have been similar to the State for the past ten years, with a County rate slightly higher than the State in 2016.

Figure 1. Chlamydia Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2007-2016

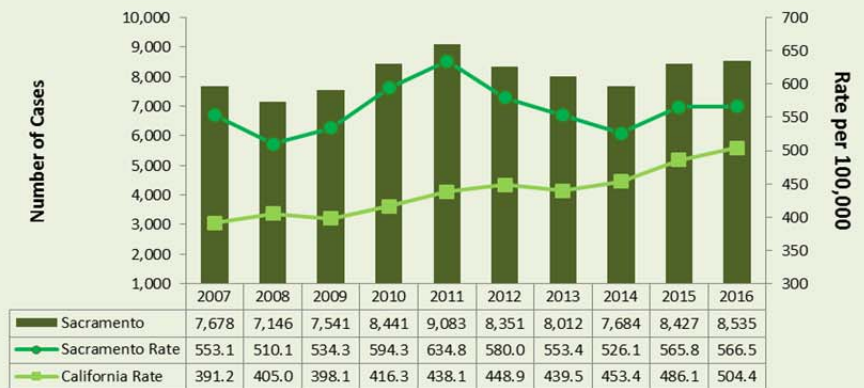


Figure 2. Gonorrhea Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2007-2016



Figure 3. P&S Syphilis Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2007-2016



Age and Gender

In 2016, the majority (67.0%) of chlamydia cases was female with a rate of 746.0 per 100,000 [Figure 4]. About two-fifths (39.3%) of female chlamydia cases were distributed in the age group 20-24 and over one quarter (27.9%) were in the age group 15-19. 31.7% of male cases were distributed in the age group 20-24 and 22.1% of cases were in the age group 25-29.

In contrast to chlamydia, the minority (43.4%) of gonorrhea cases in 2016 was female with a rate of 162.3 [Figure 5]. About three out of every ten (29.7%) female gonorrhea cases were distributed in the age group 20-24 and 20.0% were in the age group 15-19. Male cases were on average older than female cases; nearly one-quarter (23.8%) of male cases were distributed in the age group 20-24, and 22.1% of male cases were in the age group 25-29.

Males comprised the vast majority (87.8%) of County syphilis cases in 2016 [Figure 6]. The age group 25-29 had the highest rate (103.3) for males whereas the age group 30-34 had the highest rate (17.0) for females. In 2016, there were seven congenital syphilis cases with a rate of 35.7 live births in the County.

Race/Ethnicity

There were marked disparities in rates of STIs in the County in 2016 [Table 1]. Blacks had chlamydia and gonorrhea rates over five times higher than rates for Whites, and a syphilis rate twice as high. Hispanics had slightly higher chlamydia and syphilis rates than Whites, but a slightly lower gonorrhea rate. Asian/Pacific Islanders had the lowest STI rates compared to all other groups. American Indian/Alaskan Native rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.

Figure 4. Chlamydia Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2016

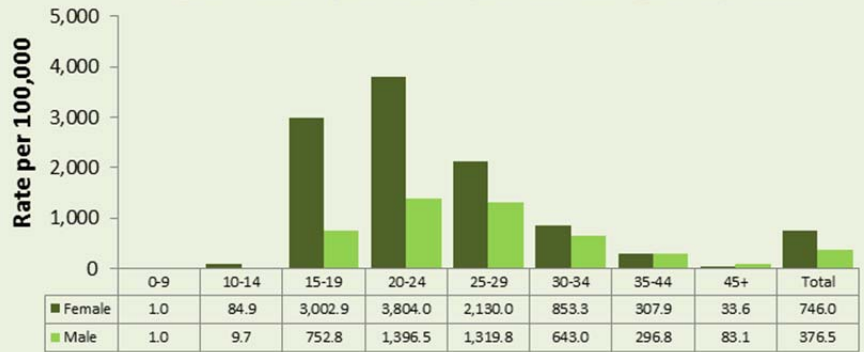


Figure 5. Gonorrhea Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2016

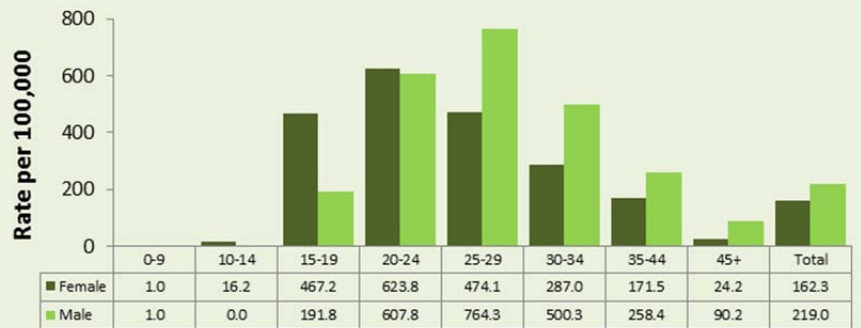


Figure 6. P&S Syphilis Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2016

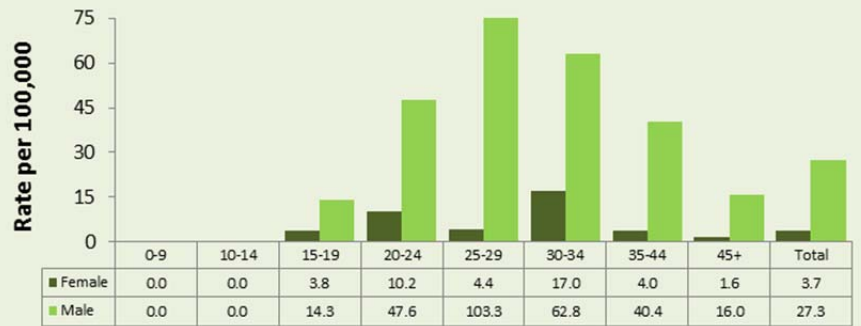


Table 1. STI Rates and Rate Ratios by Race/Ethnicity, 2016

Race/Ethnicity	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		P&S Syphilis	
	Rate	Ratio*	Rate	Ratio*	Rate	Ratio*
AI/AN**	361.7	1.3	229.1	2.3	24.1	2.2
Asian/PI***	193.9	0.7	26.7	0.3	6.6	0.6
Black	1,431.9	5.3	508.5	5.1	24.1	2.2
Hispanic	379.5	1.4	83.7	0.8	18.1	1.7
White	268.2	1.0	98.9	1.0	10.9	1.0
Total	566.5	2.1	190.4	1.9	15.3	1.4

*White as comparison group **AI/AN = American Indian/Alaskan Native ***PI = Pacific Islander