

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 in Sacramento County increased 54.4% from 7,541 in 2009 to 11,645 in 2018, and the rate increased 44.6% [Figure 1]. The County had much higher chlamydia rates across all listed years compared to the State of California. In 2011, the County had a 44.2% higher rate than that of the State, but was only 30.1% higher in 2018. Sacramento County ranked the fifth highest chlamydia rate among all California counties in 2018, which was higher than the County rank of eighth in 2017.

Gonorrhea

County gonorrhea cases increased 115.1% from 1,784 in 2009 to 3,838 in 2018, and the rate increased 101.5% [Figure 2]. The County had rates much higher than the State across all the listed years. In 2009, the County had almost double (1.9 times) the gonorrhea rate than that of the State, but the difference in rates has narrowed in 2018 (1.25 times). Sacramento County ranked the seventh highest gonorrhea rate among all California counties, which increased from the County rank of tenth in 2017.

Syphilis

Primary and secondary syphilis cases in the County increased 533.3% from 66 in 2009 to 418 in 2018, and the rate increased 492.2% [Figure 3]. Sacramento County's trends in syphilis rates have been similar to the State for the past ten years. Sacramento County ranked the eleventh highest rate among all California counties in 2018, which increased from the County rank of twelfth in 2017.

Figure 1. Chlamydia Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2009-2018



Figure 2. Gonorrhea Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2009-2018



Figure 3. P&S Syphilis Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2009-2018



Age and Gender

The majority (65.2%) of County chlamydia cases in 2018 was female with a rate of 966.6 per 100,000 [Figure 4]. More than one-third (36.6%) of female chlamydia cases were distributed in the age group 20-24 and over one quarter (27.8%) were in the age group 15-19. The highest percentages of male cases were distributed in the age groups 20-24 (29.0%) and 25-29 (20.5%).

In contrast to chlamydia, the majority (56.3%) of County gonorrhea cases in 2018 was male with a rate of 284.4 [Figure 5]. The highest percentage of female gonorrhea cases were distributed in the age groups 20-24 (28.5%) and 25-29 (21.0%). Male cases had a similar age pattern as females, with nearly one-quarter (21.9%) of male gonorrhea cases distributed in age group 20-24, and 20.1% in age group 25-29.

Males comprised the vast majority (73.0%) of County syphilis cases in 2018 [Figure 6]. The age group 25-29 had the highest rate for males (130.6) and for females (58.4). There were ten congenital syphilis cases in 2018 with a rate of 51.3 per 100,000 live births in the County. Sacramento County ranked eighteenth highest for congenital syphilis out all California counties in 2018.

Race/Ethnicity

There were marked disparities in rates of STIs in the County in 2018 [Table 1]. Compared to Whites, Blacks had a chlamydia rate nearly five times higher, a gonorrhea rate nearly six times higher, and a syphilis rate more than three times higher. Hispanics had slightly higher chlamydia and syphilis rates than Whites, but with the similar 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.

Data source: CDPH, STD Branch

Figure 4. Chlamydia Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2018

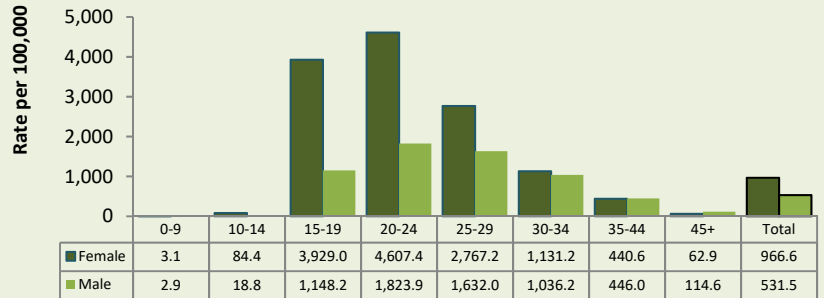


Figure 5. Gonorrhea Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2018

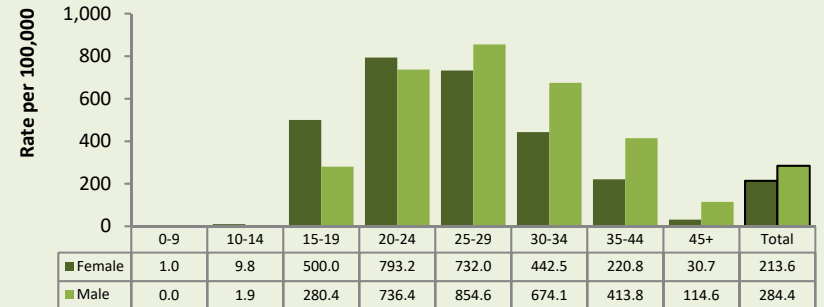


Figure 6. P&S Syphilis Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2018

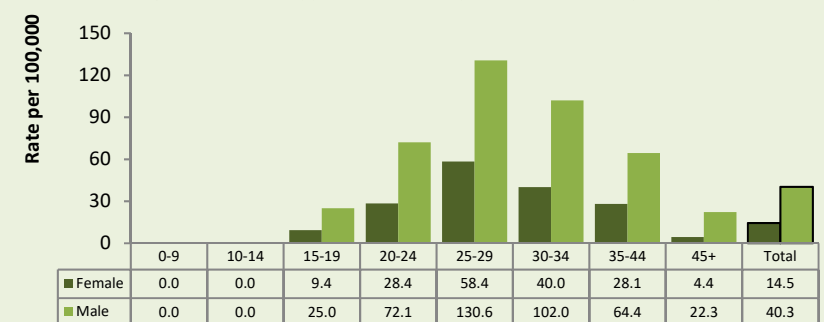


Table 1. STI Rates and Rate Ratios by Race/Ethnicity, 2018

Race/Ethnicity	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		P&S Syphilis	
	Rate	Ratio*	Rate	Ratio*	Rate	Ratio*
AI/AN**	555.7	1.8	158.8	1.4	22.7	1.3
Asian/PI***	245.5	0.8	50.0	0.4	7.0	0.4
Black	1,518.0	4.8	656.2	5.9	58.8	3.3
Hispanic	437.0	1.4	95.5	0.9	22.9	1.3
White	316.8	1.0	111.5	1.0	18.1	1.0
Multirace	105.0	0.3	31.6	0.3	4.3	0.2
Total	757.4	2.4	249.6	2.2	27.2	1.5

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