

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are some of the most frequently-reported infections at the local, state and national level. While STIs can affect anyone, there are persistent disparities based on sex, age, and race/ethnicity. This report covers three bacterial STIs: chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. Bacterial STIs are curable, but untreated infections can sometimes 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 decreased 27.5% from 11,645 in 2018 to 8,441 in 2019 [Figure 1]. Counts have not been that low since 2010, and the rate also decreased 8.2% since 2010 due to an increased total population. The County had a lower chlamydia rate in 2019 compared to the State for the first time in the last ten years. In 2010, the County had a rate 42.6% higher than that of the State, but was 9.0% lower in 2019. Sacramento County ranked the sixth highest chlamydia rate among all California counties in 2019, improving from fifth in 2018.

Gonorrhea

County gonorrhea cases increased 126.9% from 1,889 in 2010 to 4,286 in 2019, and the rate increased 108.2% [Figure 2]. The County had rates much higher than the State across all the listed years. In 2010, the County had almost double (1.8 times) the gonorrhea rate than the State, but the difference in rates has narrowed in 2019 (1.4 times). Sacramento County ranked the sixth highest gonorrhea rate among all California counties, worsening from the County rank of seventh in 2018.

Syphilis

Primary and secondary syphilis cases in the County increased 740.4% from 52 in 2010 to 437 in 2019, and the rate increased 662.2% [Figure 3]. Sacramento County's trends in syphilis rates have typically been similar to the State, but have been much higher than the State the last two years – 35.0% higher than the State in 2019. Sacramento County ranked the eighth highest rate among all California counties in 2019, worsening from the County rank of eleventh in 2018.

Figure 1. Chlamydia Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2010-2019

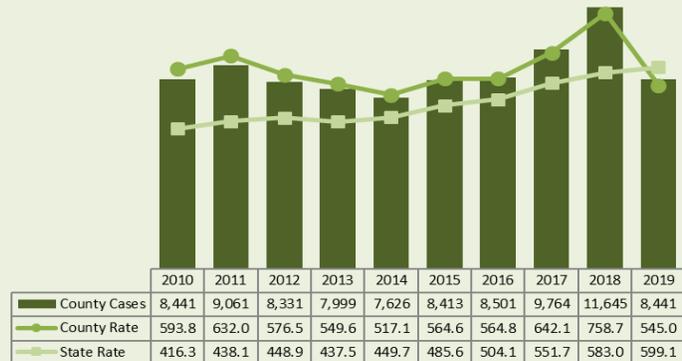


Figure 2. Gonorrhea Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2010-2019

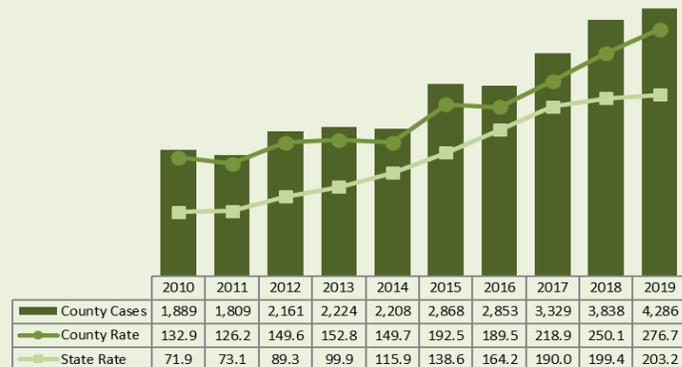
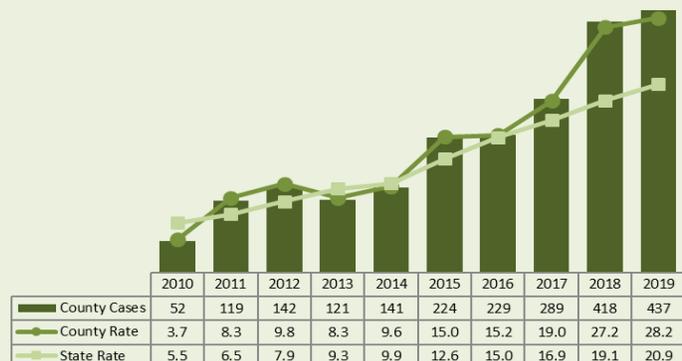


Figure 3. P&S Syphilis Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2010-2019



* All rates provided are per 100,000 persons

Age and Sex

The majority (62.7%) of County chlamydia cases in 2019 were among females with a rate of 672.2 per 100,000 [Figure 4]. Nearly one-third (29.9%) of female chlamydia cases were distributed in the 20-24 age group and nearly one-fifth (16.4%) were in the 15-19 age group. The highest percentages of male cases were distributed in the age groups of 20-24 (22.6%) and 25-29 (19.1%).

In contrast to chlamydia, the majority (57.2%) of County gonorrhea cases in 2019 were among males with a rate of 320.0 per 100,000 [Figure 5]. The highest percentage of female gonorrhea cases were distributed in the age groups of 20-24 (20.0%) and 25-29 (18.4%). Nearly one-fifth (18.5%) of male gonorrhea cases were distributed in the 20-24 age group, followed closely by the 25-29 age group (18.4%).

Males comprised the majority (65.5%) of County syphilis cases in 2019, with a rate of 91.0 per 100,000 [Figure 6]. The 30-34 age group had the highest rate for males (193.8) and for females (111.4). There were 19 congenital syphilis cases in 2019 with a rate of 105.3 per 100,000 live births in the County. Sacramento County ranked nineteenth highest for congenital syphilis out of all California counties in 2019, falling lower in rank compared to eighteenth in 2018.

Race/Ethnicity

There were marked disparities in rates of STIs in the County in 2019 [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 nearly three times higher. Hispanics had slightly higher chlamydia and syphilis rates than Whites, but a similar gonorrhea rate. Asians had the lowest chlamydia and syphilis rates compared to all other groups. American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander rates should be interpreted with caution due to small population numbers.

Data sources: CalREDIE (2019) CDPH, STD Branch (2010-2018 data)

Figure 4. Chlamydia Rates by Sex and Age Group , 2019

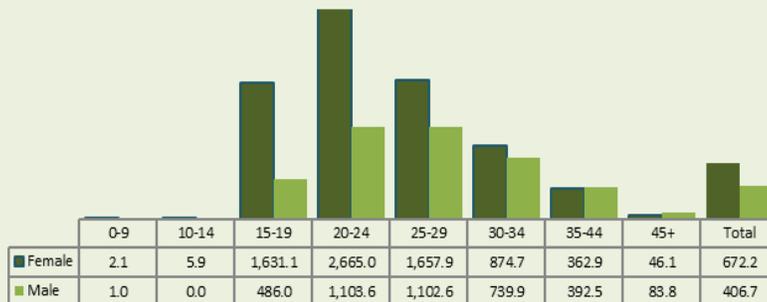


Figure 5. Gonorrhea Rates by Sex and Age Group , 2019

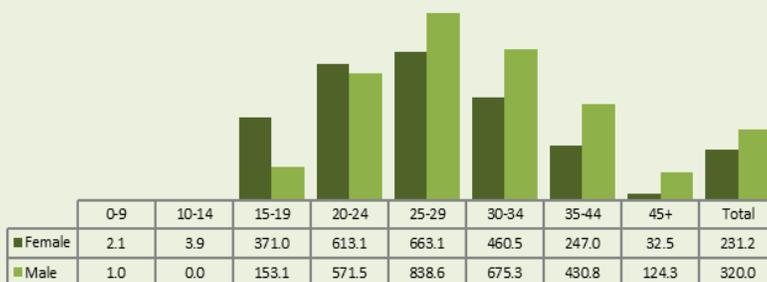


Figure 6. P&S Syphilis Rates by Sex and Age Group, 2019

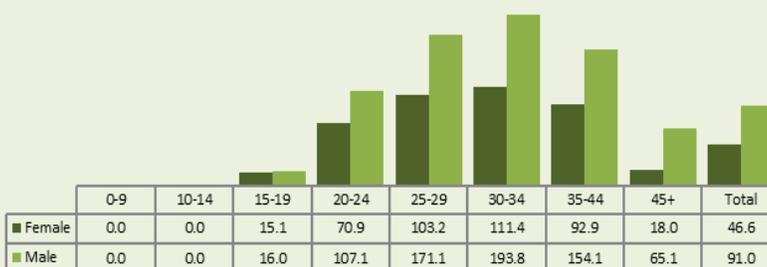


Table 1. STI Rates and Rate Ratios by Race/Ethnicity, 2019

Race/Ethnicity	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		P&S Syphilis	
	Rate	Ratio*	Rate	Ratio*	Rate	Ratio*
AI/AN**	342.9	1.5	194.3	1.5	34.3	0.7
Asian	55.1	0.2	156.4	1.2	19.3	0.4
Black	1,028.2	4.5	773.6	5.8	141.2	2.9
Hispanic	293.4	1.3	139.7	1.0	62.4	1.3
NH/PI***	109.8	0.5	226.0	1.7	64.6	1.3
White	227.6	1.0	133.8	1.0	49.6	1.0
Multirace	86.3	0.4	38.2	0.3	24.0	0.5
Total	545.0	2.4	276.7	2.1	69.6	1.4

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