

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs) FACT SHEET 2020

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 gender, 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 notably important to ensure prompt treatment. Pregnant women and their unborn children are especially vulnerable to complications of STIs. The COVID-19 pandemic may have contributed to decreased STI screening in 2020.

Chlamydia

The number of reported chlamydia cases in Sacramento County decreased by 27.4% from 9,061 in 2011 to 6,578 in 2020 [Figure 1]. The case rate has also decreased by 33.4% during this time. In 2019 and 2020, both the County chlamydia rate and count of cases have declined to levels lower than the State. This decrease may be partially attributable to a change in reporting requirements in October 2019. In 2020, Sacramento County ranked the 13th highest for chlamydia rates in the State, an improvement compared to 2019 at the 6th highest.

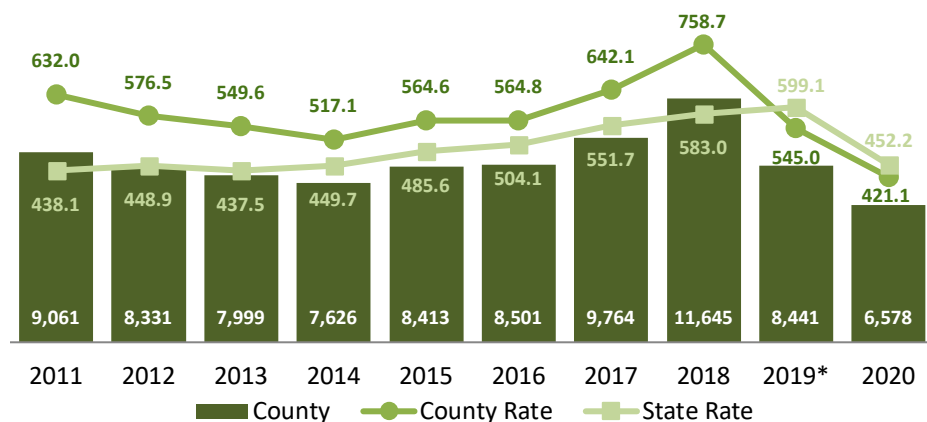
Gonorrhea

County gonorrhea cases increased 146.7% from 1,809 in 2011 to 4,462 in 2020 [Figure 3]. The case rate has also increased by 126.4% during this time. From 2011 to 2020, the County has had higher rates than the State. In 2020, the County gonorrhea rate has increased from 276.7 to 285.6 per 100,000. In 2020, Sacramento County ranked the 3rd highest for gonorrhea rates in the State, worse compared to 2019 at the 6th.

Syphilis

Primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis cases in the County have fallen from their peak in 2019, but remain 225.2% higher than 2011 [Figure 2]. Similarly, the rate increased by 198.5% during this time. County syphilis rates have generally been similar to the State but have been much higher than the State over the last three years – 27% higher than the State in 2020. Sacramento County ranked the 10th highest rate among all California counties in 2020, an improvement compared to 2019 at 8th.

Figure 1. Chlamydia Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2011-2020



*Oct 1, 2019: Chlamydia is no longer provider-reportable, making it only lab-reportable

Figure 2. Gonorrhea Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2011-2020

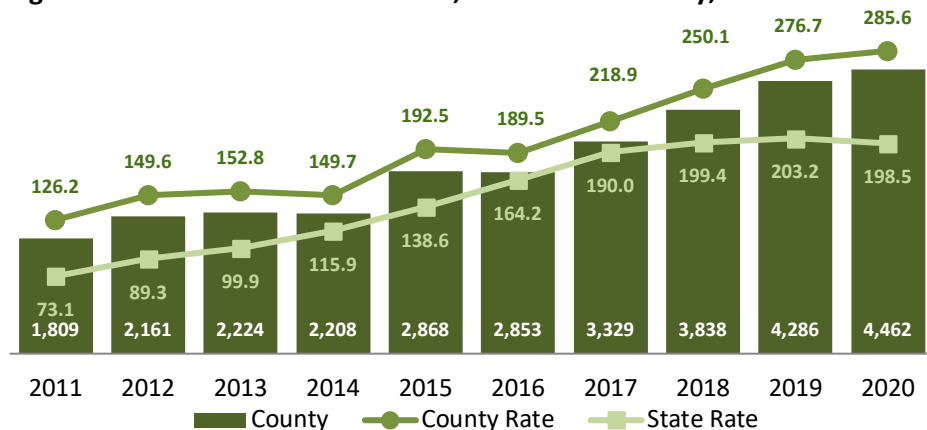
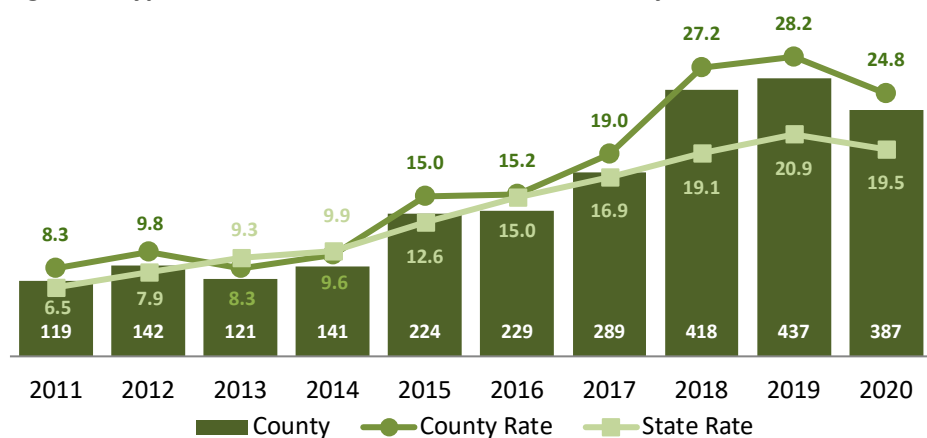


Figure 3. Syphilis Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2011-2020



Age and Gender

The majority (60.9%) of County chlamydia cases in 2020 were among females, with a rate of 505.1 per 100,000 [Figure 4]. The highest percentages of male cases were in the 20 to 24 (21.5%) and 25 to 29 (18.7%) age groups. Nearly one-third (30.3%) of female chlamydia cases were in the 20 to 24 age group and nearly one-fifth (16.3%) were in the 15 to 19 age group.

In contrast to chlamydia, the majority (57.9%) of County gonorrhea cases in 2020 were among males [Figure 5]. The case rate for all males was 334.5 per 100,000. Nearly one-fifth (18.8%) of male gonorrhea cases were in the 20 to 24 age group, followed closely by the 25 to 29 age group (18.4%). The highest percentage of female gonorrhea cases were in the 20 to 24 (22.6%) and 25 to 29 (16.6%) age groups.

Males also made up the majority (64.9%) of County syphilis cases in 2020 [Figure 6]. The age groups with the highest case rates included the 25 to 29 age group for males (207.7 per 100,000) and the 30 to 34 age group for females (117.2). There were 18 congenital syphilis cases in 2020 with a rate of 100.0 per 100,000 live births in the County. In 2020, the County ranked 21st for congenital syphilis rates in the State.

Race/Ethnicity

There were marked disparities in rates of STIs in the County in 2020 [Table 1]. Compared to the White population, the Black population had a chlamydia rate nearly five times higher, a gonorrhea rate nearly eight times higher, and a syphilis rate nearly three times higher. The Hispanic population had slightly higher gonorrhea and syphilis rates than the White population, but a lower gonorrhea rate. The Asian/Pacific Islander population had the lowest STI rates compared to all other groups. American Indian/Alaskan Native population rates should be interpreted with caution due to small population numbers.

Data source: CDPH, STD Branch

Figure 4. Chlamydia Rates by Gender and Age Group , 2020*

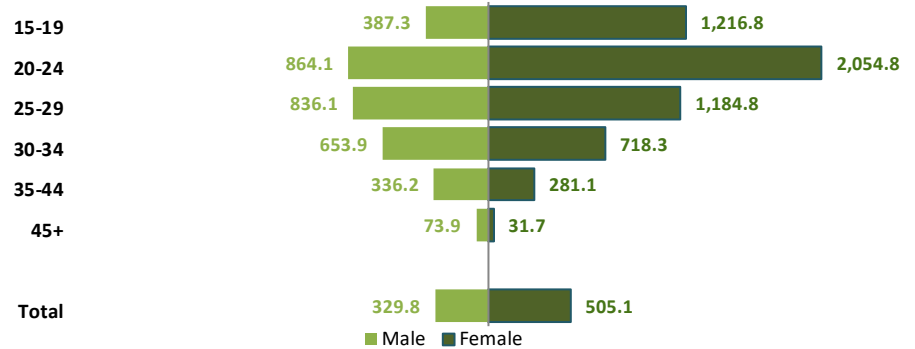


Figure 5. Gonorrhea Rates by Gender and Age Group , 2020*

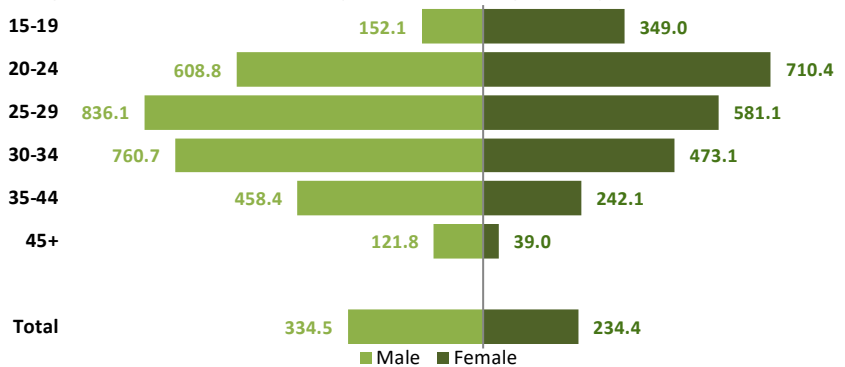
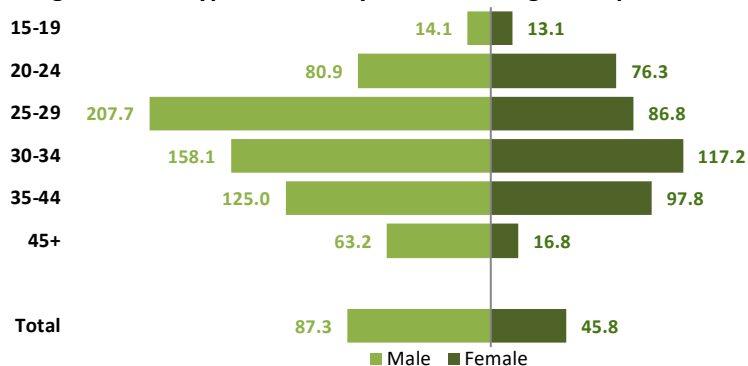


Figure 6. P&S Syphilis Rates by Gender and Age Group , 2020*



* The 0-9 and 10-14 age groups have been removed from the charts due to small numbers

Table 1. STI Rates and Rate Ratios by Race/Ethnicity, 2020

| Race/Ethnicity | Chlamydia | | Gonorrhea | | P&S Syphilis | |
|----------------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|--------------|--------|
| | Rate | Ratio* | Rate | Ratio* | Rate | Ratio* |
| AI/AN** | 178.9 | 1.2 | 201.3 | 1.8 | 33.5 | 0.9 |
| Asian/PI*** | 95.3 | 0.6 | 49.1 | 0.4 | 18.7 | 0.5 |
| Black | 740.2 | 4.9 | 822.9 | 7.5 | 121.1 | 3.3 |
| Hispanic | 125.5 | 0.8 | 137.7 | 1.2 | 56.6 | 1.5 |
| White | 149.6 | 1.0 | 110.4 | 1.0 | 36.8 | 1.0 |
| Multirace | 31.9 | 0.2 | 15.3 | 0.1 | 27.8 | 0.8 |
| Total | 421.1 | 2.8 | 285.6 | 2.6 | 66.9 | 1.8 |

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