

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs) FACT SHEET 2023

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are some of the most frequently reported infections at the local, state, and national levels. 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 from 2020 resulting in the lower rates seen since then.

Chlamydia

The number of reported chlamydia cases in Sacramento County decreased by 3.3% from 7,552 in 2014 to 7,305 in 2023 [Figure 1]. After a steady case rate increase from 2014 to 2018, the rate dropped sharply (-39.2%) from 2018 to 2020. This decrease may be partially attributable to a change in reporting requirements (as of October 1, 2019, providers no longer had to report chlamydia, making it only lab-reportable), and due to reduced healthcare access during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rates were consistently higher in the County than the State from 2014 to 2019 but were similar from 2020 through 2023. Sacramento County ranked the 19th highest in the State in 2023 with regards to chlamydia rate, an improvement compared to 2022 at 12th.

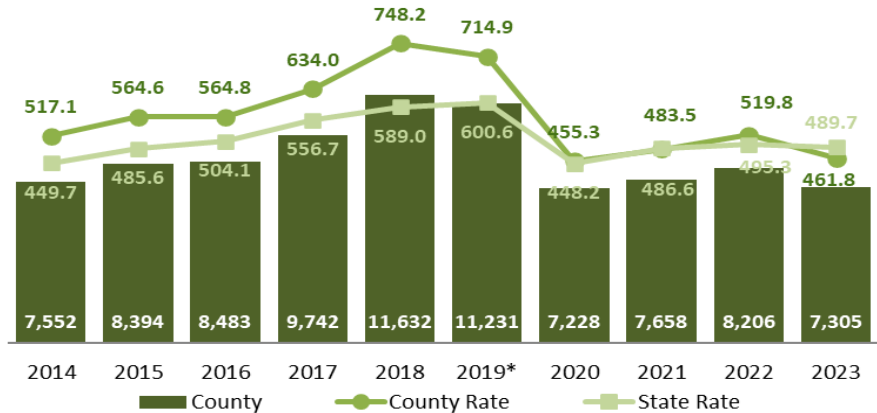
Gonorrhea

County gonorrhea cases increased 43.4% from 2,197 in 2014 to 3,150 in 2023 [Figure 2]. From 2014 to 2023, the County had higher rates than the State. From 2022 to 2023, the County gonorrhea rate decreased 12.3%, from 227.2 to 199.1 per 100,000. In 2023, Sacramento County ranked the 7th highest for gonorrhea rates in the State, the same as in 2022.

Syphilis

Primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis cases increased 118.0% in the County from 2014 to 2023, and the rate had increased 103.3%. The peak of P&S case and rate was in 2021. In 2014, the P&S rate in the County was 3.3% lower than the State average. Similarly in 2023, the P&S rate was 4.8% lower than that of the State. From 2017 to 2022, the County and State's rate gap increased [Figure 3]. In 2023, Sacramento County P&S rate ranked the 13th highest among all California counties, the same as in 2022.

Figure 1. Chlamydia Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2014-2023



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

Figure 2. Gonorrhea Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2014-2023

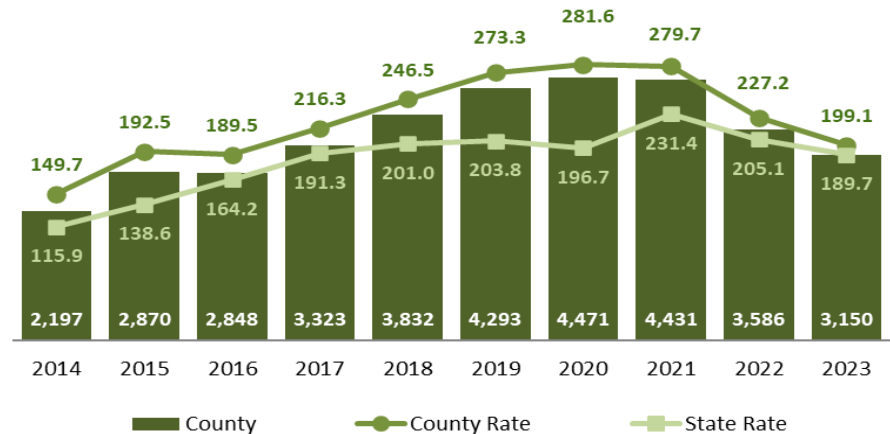
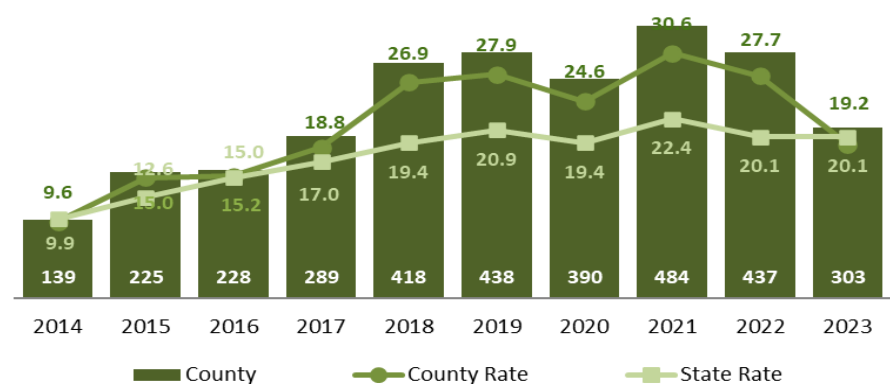


Figure 3. Syphilis Cases and Rates, Sacramento County, 2014-2023



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Age and Gender

The majority (59.7%) of County chlamydia cases in 2023 were among females, with a rate of 540.6 per 100,000 [Figure 4]. Nearly one-third (29.3%) of female chlamydia cases were in the 20 to 24 age group, 15.3% were in the 15 to 19 age group, and 14.7% were in the 25 to 29 age group (numbers not shown). The highest percentages of male cases were in the 20 to 24 (20.0%), 25 to 29 (16.1%), and 35 to 44 (15.1%) age groups.

In contrast to chlamydia, the majority (62.1%) of County gonorrhea cases in 2023 were among males [Figure 5]. The highest proportion of male gonorrhea cases (21.1%) were in the 35 to 44 age group, followed closely by the 30 to 34 age group (17.1%). The highest percentage of female gonorrhea cases were in the 20 to 24 (21.7%) and 25 to 29 (14.8%) age groups.

Males also made up the majority (65.7%) of County syphilis cases in 2023 [Figure 6]. The age groups with the highest case rates included the 30 to 34 age group for males (59.6 per 100,000) and the 35 to 44 age group for females (24.9 per 100,000). There were 23 congenital syphilis cases in 2023 with a rate of 132.5 per 100,000 live births in the County. In 2023, the County ranked 22nd for congenital syphilis rates in the State, the same level as 2022.

Race/Ethnicity

There were marked disparities in rates of STIs in the County in 2023 [Table 1]. Compared to the White population, the Black population had a chlamydia rate more than three times higher, a gonorrhea rate nearly four times higher, and a syphilis rate over two times higher. The Hispanic population had slightly higher chlamydia and syphilis rates than the White population. Asian/Pacific Islanders had the lowest STI rates compared to all other groups.

Data source: CalREDIE, CDPH STD Branch

Figure 4. Chlamydia Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2023

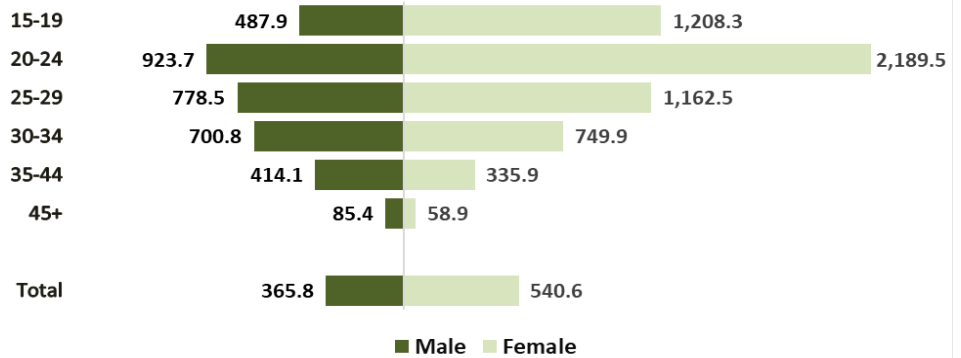


Figure 5. Gonorrhea Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2023

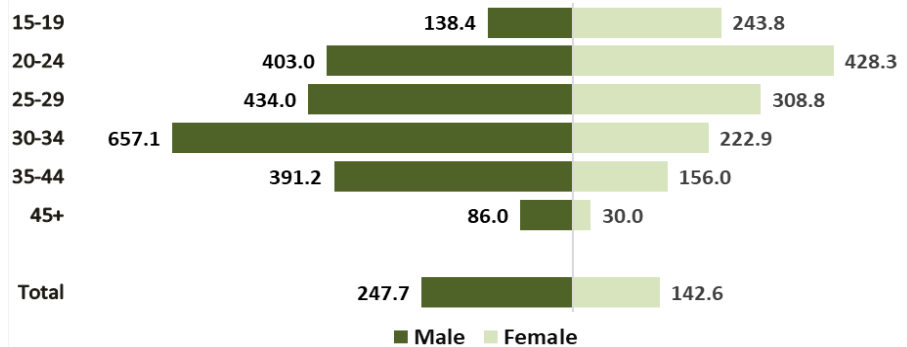


Figure 6. P&S Syphilis Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2023

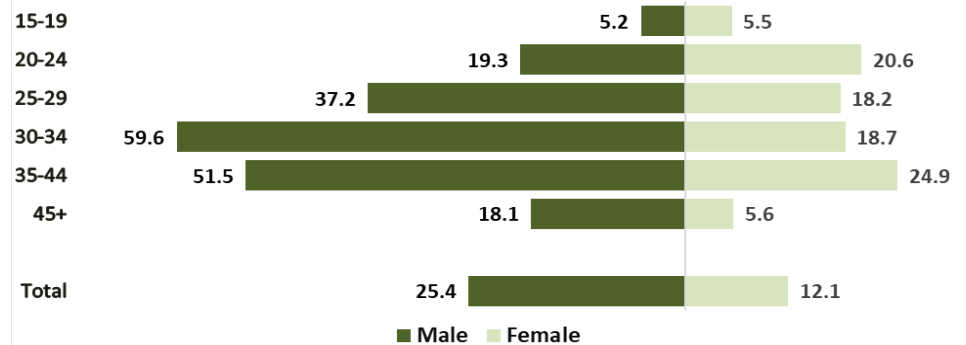


Table 1. STI Rates and Rate Ratios by Selected Race/Ethnicity, 2023

Race/Ethnicity	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		P&S Syphilis	
	Rate	Ratio*	Rate	Ratio*	Rate	Ratio*
API**	56.4	0.4	30.1	0.3	4.9	0.4
Black	471.8	3.1	348.8	3.7	27.0	2.1
Hispanic	175.4	1.2	90.8	1.0	15.7	1.2
White	150.5	1.0	94.0	1.0	12.9	1.0
Multi-race	12.0	0.1	13.3	0.1	4.0	0.3
Total	458.3	3.0	197.0	2.1	19.1	1.5

*White as comparison group **API = Asian Pacific Islander