

5.2: STD/STI Data

CDC FACT SHEET

Reported STDs in the United States

2015 National Data for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis

Many cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis continue to go undiagnosed and unreported, and data on several additional STDs — such as human papillomavirus, herpes simplex virus, and trichomoniasis — are not routinely reported to CDC. As a result, the annual surveillance report captures only a fraction of the true burden of STDs in America. However, it provides important insights into the scope, distribution, and trends in STD diagnoses in the country.

STDs are a substantial health challenge facing the United States. CDC estimates that nearly **20 million new sexually transmitted infections** occur every year in this country, half among young people aged 15–24, and account for almost \$16 billion in health care costs. Each of these infections is a potential threat to an individual's immediate and long-term health and well-being. In addition to increasing a person's risk for acquiring and transmitting HIV infection, STDs can lead to chronic pain and severe reproductive health complications, such as infertility and ectopic pregnancy.

Snapshot: STDs in the United States, 2015

Despite recent declines, 2015 was the second year in a row in which increases were seen in all three nationally reported STDs. The approximately 1.5 million cases of chlamydia represent the highest number of annual cases of any condition ever reported to CDC. Substantial increases were also seen among reported cases of gonorrhea and syphilis. While young people and women are most severely affected by STDs, increasing rates among men contributed to the overall increase in 2015 across all diseases.

Chlamydia

■ Cases reported in 2015: 1,526,658
■ Rate per 100,000 people: 479; increase of 6% since 2014

Gonorrhea

■ Cases reported in 2015: 395,216
■ Rate per 100,000 people: 124; increase of 13% since 2014

Syphilis (primary and secondary)

■ Cases reported in 2015: 23,872
■ Rate per 100,000 people: 8; 19% increase since 2014

Syphilis (congenital)

■ Cases reported in 2015: 487
■ Rate per 100,000 live births: 12; 6% increase since 2014

Gonorrhea and chlamydia primarily affect young people

Surveillance data show both the numbers and rates of reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea continue to be highest among young people aged 15–24.

Both young men and young women are heavily affected by STDs — but young women face the most serious long-term health consequences. It is estimated that undiagnosed STDs cause infertility in more than 20,000 women each year.

Most Reported Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Infections Occur among 15–24-Year-Olds



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