

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) among Minnesota Adolescents

Minnesota STI Rates¹

Even though they account for only 7% of the population in Minnesota,² adolescents ages 15-19 accounted for 26% of chlamydia and 18% of gonorrhea cases in 2016.³ Consistent with national trends, chlamydia and gonorrhea rates are disproportionately high among female youth in Minnesota.⁴

After several years of declines or slight increases, the chlamydia rate jumped by 15% in 2016. Gonorrhea rates among 15-19 year olds have varied over time, but last year marked a 40% increase in gonorrhea rates among teens.⁵

There were 15 new cases of HIV among adolescents ages 15-19 in Minnesota in 2016, which is an increase of 25% from 2015 when 12 new cases diagnosed among this age group. There are currently 57 adolescents (age 15-19) living with HIV in Minnesota.⁵

Figure 1. Minnesota Adolescent Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Rates by Sex, 2016

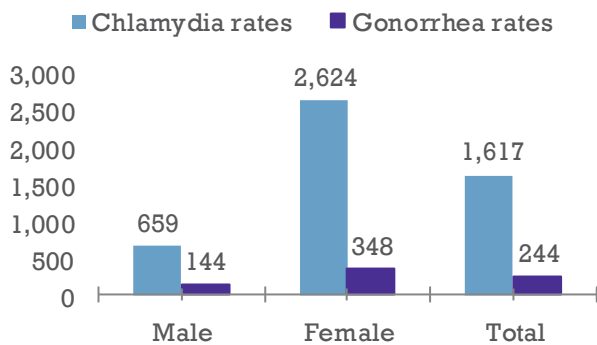
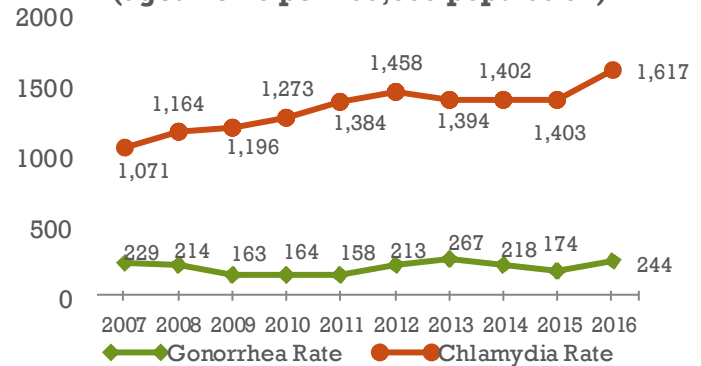


Figure 2. Gonorrhea and Chlamydia Rates (aged 15-19 per 100,000 population) 2007-2016



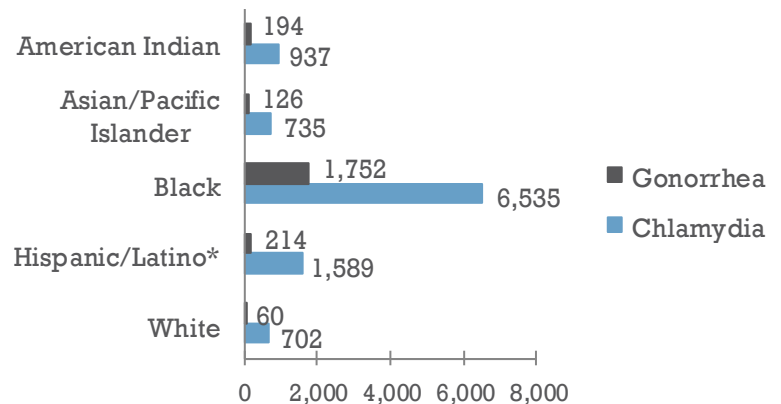
Racial and Ethnic Disparities

STI rates are disproportionately high for adolescent populations of color in Minnesota, compared to white populations. Rates for both chlamydia and gonorrhea were highest among Black youth, followed by Hispanic/Latino youth (Figure 3). The gonorrhea rate is 29 times higher for black youth and the chlamydia rate is 9 times higher for black youth when compared to the rate for white youth.³

Strategies to eliminate these persistent disparities must address social determinants of health (i.e. poverty, racism and unequal access to health care and education), which disproportionately affect the health of adolescents of color.⁶

Note: The term "Black" is used rather than "African American" in order to be consistent with state and national racial categories and because the data presented in this racial category includes both foreign-born and U.S.-born

Figure 3. Minnesota Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Rates By Race and Hispanic Origin 2016 (aged 15-19 per 100,000 population)



1 Minnesota Department of Health, STD and HIV Section, 2016

2 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3 Year Estimates: 2009-2011. factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?_afpt=table.

3 MDH, STD and HIV/AIDS Surveillance Systems, Surveillance Statistics 2016.

4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats13/surv2013-print.pdf>

5 MDH, STD and HIV/AIDS Surveillance Systems, Surveillance Statistics, 2007-2016.

6 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Establishing a Holistic Framework to Reduce Inequities in HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and Tuberculosis in the United States, October 2010.

<http://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/docs/SDH-White-Paper-2010.pdf>