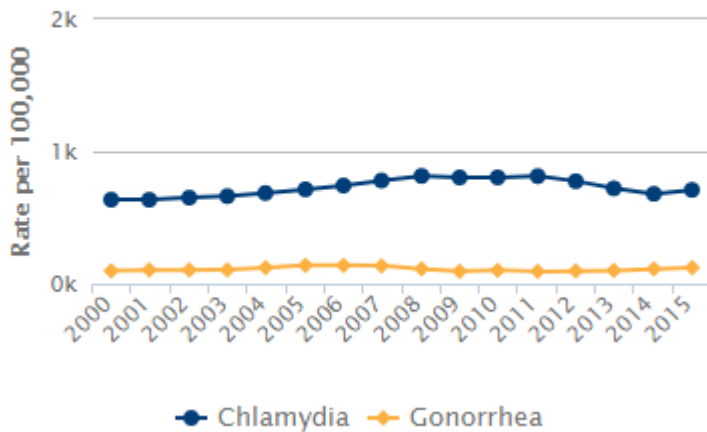


Teen Sexual Health in California

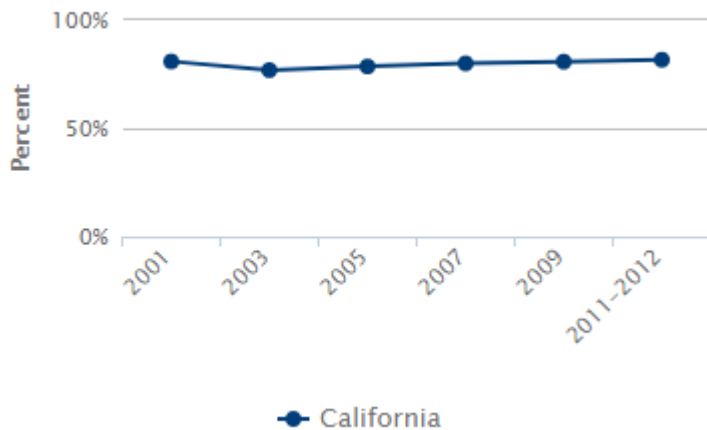
Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Youth Ages 10-19 California



Definition: Number of chlamydia and gonorrhea infections per 100,000 youth ages 10-19 (e.g., in 2015, there were 709.2 cases of chlamydia per 100,000 California youth ages 10-19).

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, [Sexually Transmitted Diseases Data](#); California Dept. of Finance, [Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2010, 2010-2060](#); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Sexually Transmitted Diseases Data & Statistics](#); U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex & Age for the United States, 2000-2010, 2010-2015 (Sept. 2016).

Teens Who Have Not Had Sex



Definition: Percentage of teens ages 14-17 reporting that they have not had sex (e.g., in 2011-2012, 81.7% of California teens reported that they had not had sex).

Data Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, [California Health Interview Survey](#) (Aug. 2013).

What It Is

On kidsdata.org, indicators of teen sexual health include rates and counts of sexually transmitted infections (i.e., chlamydia and gonorrhea) among young people ages 10-19, by age group, gender, and race/ethnicity; and the percentage of teens ages 14-17 who report that they have not had sex.

Why This Topic Is Important

There is much pressure, biological and social, for young people to be sexually active, yet sexual activity can have serious negative consequences, including sexually transmitted infections (STIs). It is estimated that although youth ages 15-24 represent only 25% of the sexually active population in the U.S., they account for half of the 20 million new STI cases each year (1). Chlamydia and gonorrhea are the most frequently reported bacterial STIs in the U.S., with young people (ages 15-24) and some racial/ethnic minority populations experiencing the highest rates of infection (1, 2).

Once an STI is contracted, detection and treatment can be difficult because the majority of chlamydia and gonorrhea cases in women are asymptomatic (1). For this reason, education and routine screening are crucial (1, 3). If untreated, chlamydia and gonorrhea can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease and, in the long term, to infertility and adverse pregnancy outcomes (1, 2).

STIs also have serious economic consequences. In 2013, the CDC estimated that, overall, STIs cost the U.S. health care system about \$16 billion annually (3).

How Children Are Faring

According to a 2011-12 survey, about 82% of California teens ages 14-17 reported that they had not had sex; this figure is similar to estimates from previous years.

Some teens who engage in sexual activity contract infections such as chlamydia and gonorrhea. In California, chlamydia rates increased steadily between 2000 and 2008, but have decreased overall since 2011, from 813 cases per 100,000 youth ages 10-19 to 709 per 100,000 in 2015. The state's rate of gonorrhea infection among youth, which is lower than the chlamydia rate, has fluctuated between 93 and 139 per 100,000 since 2000; in 2015, there were 121 cases of gonorrhea per 100,000 youth. Statewide and in most counties, data

Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Youth, by Race/Ethnicity: 2015

California	Rate per 100,000	
Race/Ethnicity	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea
African American/Black	3,094.7	862.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	231.0	27.4
Hispanic/Latino	648.6	84.8
White	515.5	76.3

Definition: Number of chlamydia and gonorrhea infections per 100,000 youth ages 10-19, by race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2015, there were 648.6 cases of chlamydia per 100,000 Hispanic/Latino youth in California).

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, [Sexually Transmitted Diseases Data](#); California Dept. of Finance, [Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2010, 2010-2060](#) (Sept. 2016).

Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Youth, by Gender: 2015

California	Rate per 100,000	
Gender	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea
Female	1,139.1	148.0
Male	296.2	95.2

Definition: Number of chlamydia and gonorrhea infections per 100,000 youth ages 10-19, by gender (e.g., in 2015, there were 1,139.1 cases of chlamydia per 100,000 female youth in California).

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, [Sexually Transmitted Diseases Data](#); California Dept. of Finance, [Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2010, 2010-2060](#); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Sexually Transmitted Diseases Data & Statistics](#); U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, [Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex & Age for the United States, 2000-2010, 2010-2015](#) (Sept. 2016).

from 2015 and previous years show that female youth are diagnosed with chlamydia and gonorrhea at higher rates than males. Similarly, African American/black and Hispanic/Latino youth have higher rates of infection than their white and Asian/Pacific Islander peers. Although teens ages 15-19 account for the vast majority of chlamydia and gonorrhea cases among youth in California, there were also 862 cases involving children ages 10-14 in 2015.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/86/teen-sexual-health/summary>



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