

County of San Diego Monthly STD Report

Volume 13, Issue 4: Data through November 2020; Report released May 3, 2021.



Table 1. STDs Reported Among County of San Diego Residents, by Month and Previous 12 Months Combined.

	2019		2020	
	Nov	Previous 12-Month Period*	Nov	Previous 12-Month Period*
Chlamydia	1858	22938	1440	18811
Female age 18-25	649	8315	528	7184
Female age ≤ 17	74	836	42	674
Male rectal chlamydia	99	1316	117	1143
Gonorrhea	579	6282	605	6221
Female age 18-25	85	970	87	999
Female age ≤ 17	8	98	10	117
Male rectal gonorrhea	75	807	89	751
Early Syphilis (adult total)	97	1137	103	1099
Primary	14	162	14	168
Secondary	31	372	30	374
Early latent	52	603	59	557
Congenital syphilis	4	22	0	16

* Cumulative case count of the previous 12 months.

Table 2. Selected STD Cases and Annualized Rates per 100,000 Population for San Diego County by Age and Race/Ethnicity, Year-to-Date.

	All Races*		Asian/PI		Black		Hispanic		White	
	cases	rate	cases	rate	cases	rate	cases	rate	cases	rate
All ages										
Chlamydia	16968	552.3	288	71.1	591	382.7	1400	139.7	1576	113.8
Gonorrhea	5642	183.6	117	28.9	582	376.9	1117	111.4	1036	74.8
Early Syphilis	999	32.5	71	17.5	94	60.9	391	39.0	373	26.9
Under 20 yrs										
Chlamydia	2799	352.1	26	29.5	121	313.5	226	67.8	242	83.7
Gonorrhea	503	63.3	12	13.6	59	152.9	118	35.4	60	20.8
Early Syphilis	20	2.5	2	2.3	1	2.6	14	4.2	3	1.0

Note: Rates are calculated using 2019 Population Estimates; County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services Division, Community Health Statistics Unit. 6/2020.

* Includes cases designated as "other," "unknown," or missing race/ethnicity.

Note: All data are provisional. Case counts are based on the earliest of date of diagnosis, date of specimen collection, and treatment date. Totals for past months might change because of delays in reporting from labs and providers.

Figure 1. Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Reported Among County of San Diego Residents, by 3-Month Period.

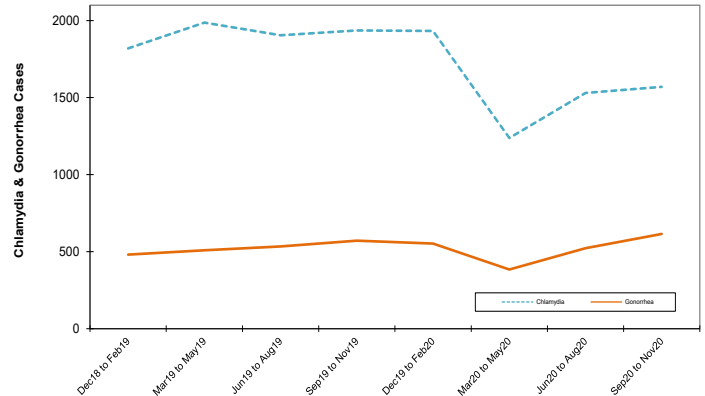
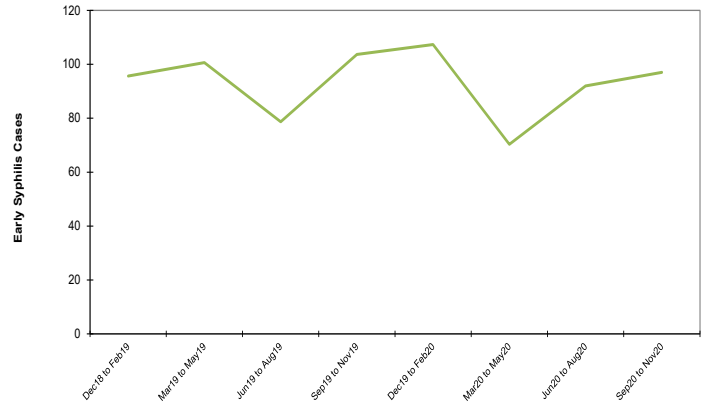


Figure 2. Early Syphilis Reported Among County of San Diego Residents, by 3-Month Period.

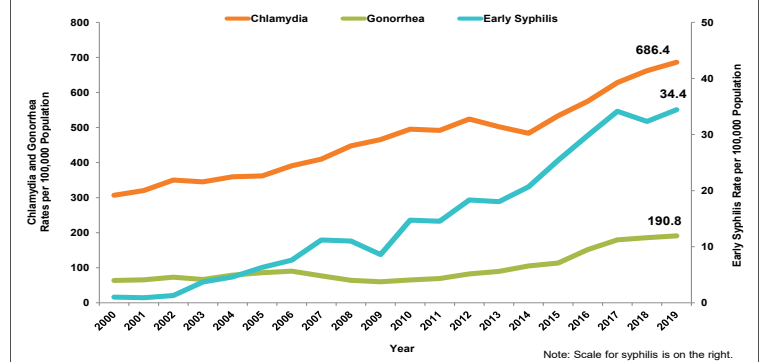


Editorial Note: Final Local and National 2019 STD Surveillance Data Show Historically High Cases

The final 2019 STD surveillance data slides for San Diego County are now available [online](#) and have replaced the preliminary data slides that were posted in September 2020 (see [Volume 12, Issue 8](#) of this report for more details). Reported cases of STDs in San Diego County remained the highest that they have been in decades and continued to increase as follows:

- **Chlamydia:** 23,007 reported cases (4.1% increase from 2018, 32.1% increase from 2015)
- **Gonorrhea:** 6,395 reported cases (3.1% increase from 2018, 73.1% increase from 2015)
- **Primary and secondary syphilis (P&SS, symptomatic stages of early syphilis):** 551 cases (0.9% increase from 2018, 12.4% increase from 2015)
- **Early latent syphilis:** 603 reported cases (13.1% increase from 2018, 77.9% increase from 2015)

Figure 3. Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Early Syphilis Rates per 100,000 Population, San Diego County, CA 2000 - 2019.



County of San Diego STD Clinics: www.STDSanDiego.org
 Phone: (619) 692-8550 Fax: (619) 692-8543
 STD Clinical Consultation Line: (619) 609-3245 (8am-5pm, M-F)



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Editorial Note (Continued):

- **Congenital syphilis:** 21 reported cases (40% increase from 2018, 200% increase from 2015), including three stillbirths

Reported STD cases at the national level also have continued to increase and reached historically high levels, according to the [2019 STD Surveillance Report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At both the national and local levels, STDs are associated with significant health disparities, with disproportionate effects on racial and ethnic minority populations, youth, and gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM). For example, in San Diego County in 2019:

- Early syphilis (i.e., P&SS and early latent syphilis) case rates among Black/African-American and Hispanic/Latino men were 2.0 and 1.6 times the rate among White men.
- The chlamydia case rate among women aged 20-24 years was 4,359.0 cases per 100,000 population and was 1.7 times the next highest case rate that was among women aged 15-19 years (2,593.3 cases per 100,000 population).
- MSM accounted for 81.6% of reported early syphilis cases, and 53.6% of MSM early syphilis cases also had human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

While STD prevention and control efforts face multiple challenges, which have been exposed by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic as described in a [recent report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine](#), there is momentum to improve public health and health care infrastructure to address these epidemics with the adoption by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) of a [Sexually Transmitted Infections National Strategic Plan](#), the first of its kind.

Providers can help to address these rises in STDs by normalizing sexual health discussions with patients, providing welcoming, inclusive, and stigma-free spaces for patients to address sexual health issues, providing easy access to STD testing, and following national evidence-based recommendations for STD testing and treatment.

