

Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Infections

DESCRIPTION

More than 1 million sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are acquired every day worldwide.¹ STDs are spread predominantly by sexual contact. More than 30 different bacteria, viruses and parasites are known to be sexually transmitted with eight of these pathogens linked to most STDs. Four of these STDs are curable: chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and trichomoniasis. Another four (hepatitis B, herpes, HIV and human papillomavirus) are incurable but symptoms can be managed with treatment.¹ If left untreated, STDs can cause harmful, often irreversible complications.

HOW WE ARE DOING

In Minnesota, the gonorrhea rate increased between 2013-2017 from 73 per 100,000 population to 123 per 100,000 (6,519 cases). This compares to the 2017 Ramsey County rate of 233 per 100,000, which represents 1,184 cases.² Rates among adults ages 15-44 have been gradually rising. In 2016, the gonorrhea rate for females was 402 per 100,000 and the rate for young males was 369 per 100,000. This does not meet the Healthy People 2020 goal.³ The Minnesota chlamydia rate increased between 2013-2017 from 353 per 100,000 population to 444, which represents 23,528 cases. This compares to the 2017 Ramsey County rate of 660 per 100,000, which represents 3,356 cases.² The Minnesota rate for syphilis (all stages) increased between 2013-2017 from 10.1 per 100,000 population to 17.6, which represents 934 cases. In 2017, 83 percent of all male cases were among men who have sex with men.² In 2016 in Ramsey County, there were 119 syphilis diagnoses: 39 early latent syphilis, 44 late latent, 15 primary and 21 secondary.³

Preventing STDs by using safe sex practices is key to slowing the spread of these diseases. According to the 2016 Minnesota Student Survey, when students were asked if they had ever spoken to their sexual partners about safe sex and STD prevention, only 61.2 percent of 11th-graders and 52 percent of 9th-graders in Ramsey County reported having this conversation with every partner. There was also a sizable population that had never talked about protection with their partner: 24.3 percent of sexually-active 11th graders and 35.1 percent of sexually-active 9th graders.⁴

BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020⁵: Reduce gonorrhea rates in population aged 15-44 years.

U.S. Targets: Females: 251.9 new cases per 100,000 population. Males: 194.8 new cases per 100,000 population.

DISPARITIES

Persons of color in Minnesota are disproportionately affected by STDs. When compared with white Minnesotans; the 2017 chlamydia rates for African-Americans (non-Hispanic) were 9.7 times higher; the American Indian rate was 5 times higher; the Asian rate was times higher; and the Hispanic (of any race) rate was 3 times higher. The 2017 gonorrhea rates compared with whites: African-American (non-Hispanic) rate was 20 times higher; American Indian rate was 13 times higher; Asian rate was 2 times higher; and Hispanic (of any race) rate was 3 times higher.³ STDs also disproportionately affect youth. In 2017, youth (ages 15-24 years) accounted for 62 percent of chlamydia and 45 percent of gonorrhea cases reported.²

Information to note

- The gonorrhea rate for Ramsey County is 233 new cases per 100,000, which is higher than the Minnesota rate of 123 and does not meet the Healthy People 2020 target.
- The chlamydia rate for Ramsey County is 660 new cases per 100,000, which is higher than the Minnesota rate of 444.

¹ Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs110/en/>. Published August 2016. Accessed July 2018.

² Minnesota Department of Health. STD Surveillance Report Data Tables, Minnesota 2017. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Health; 2018. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stats/2017/tablestd.pdf>. Published April 24, 2018. Accessed July 2018.

³ Minnesota Department of Health. Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Surveillance Report. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stats/2017/stdreport.pdf>. Accessed July 2018.

⁴ Minnesota Department of Health. Minnesota Student Survey 2016. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/surveys/mss/index.html>. Accessed July 2018.

⁵ Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Healthy People 2020. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/sexually-transmitted-diseases/objectives>. Accessed July 2018.

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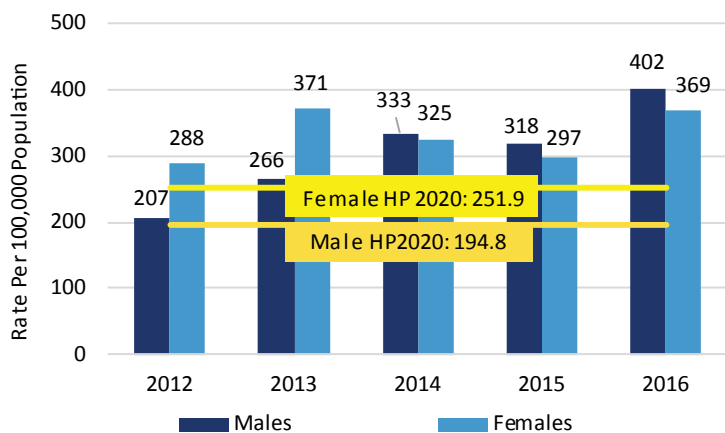
RISK FACTORS

Risk factors for STDs include unprotected sex and lack of awareness regarding modes of transmission, such as through oral sex.⁶ Some STDs can also be spread by non-sexual means through blood or blood products. Many STDs—including chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, HIV and syphilis—can also be transmitted from mother to child during pregnancy and childbirth.⁷

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

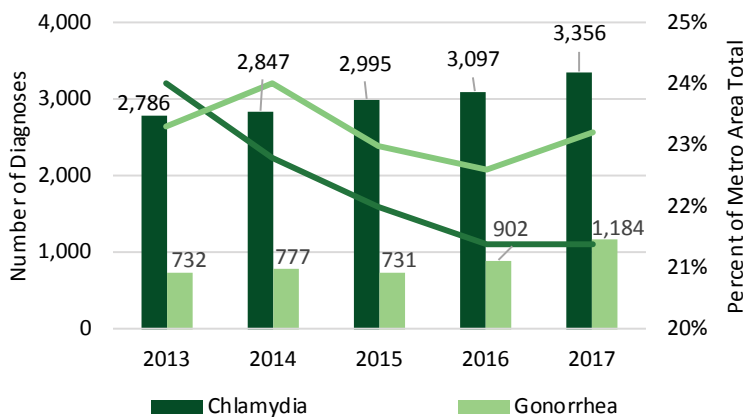
Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health provides screening, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) through Clinic 555 at the 555 Cedar St. location. Services are confidential and the cost is based on a sliding fee based on family size and income. Public Health staff also conduct outreach, screening, diagnosis and treatment in the community to increase accessibility of services. Additionally, Ramsey County provides funding to five Ramsey County community clinics to help offset the cost of services, including screening, diagnosis and treatment for STIs, provided to uninsured and underinsured clients. Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health also maintains a disease surveillance role, monitoring the prevalence of STDs/STIs in Ramsey County.

New Diagnoses of Gonorrhea, Ages 15 to 44, Ramsey County



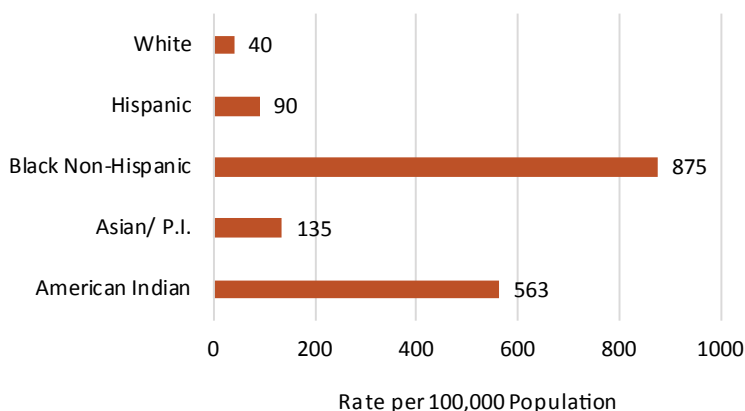
Source: Minnesota Department of Health.⁸

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Diagnoses, Ramsey County



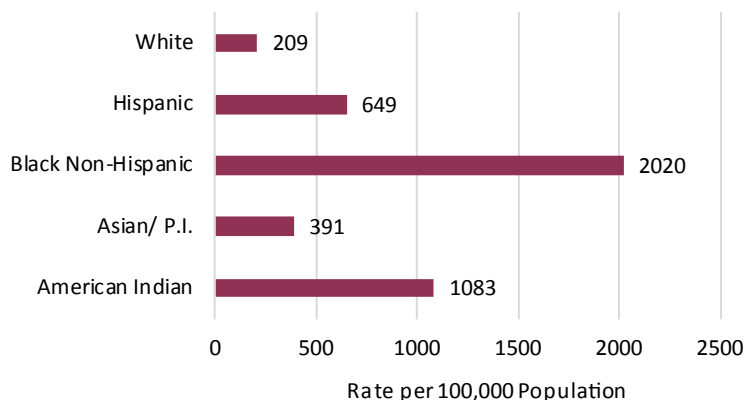
Source: Minnesota Department of Health.⁸

Gonorrhea Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Minnesota, 2017



Source: Minnesota Department of Health.⁸

Chlamydia Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Minnesota, 2017



Source: Minnesota Department of Health.⁸

⁶ Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/healthcomm/stdfact-stdriskandoralsex.htm>. Updated January 4, 2017. Accessed July 2018.

⁷ Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs110/en/>. Published August 2016. Accessed July 2018.

⁸ Source: Minnesota Department of Health. STD Surveillance Report Data Tables, Minnesota 2017. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Health; 2018. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stats/2017/tablesstd.pdf>. Accessed July 2018.