



# County of San Diego Monthly STD Report

Volume 6, Issue 4: Data through December 31, 2013; Report released May 5, 2014.



Table 1. STDs reported among San Diego County residents, by month (December 2013) and year-to-date.

|                              | 2012 |       | 2013 |       |
|------------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|
|                              | Dec  | YTD   | Dec  | YTD   |
| Chlamydia                    | 1297 | 16564 | 1101 | 16094 |
| Female age 18-25             | 540  | 7179  | 432  | 6734  |
| Female age ≤ 17              | 77   | 772   | 44   | 869   |
| Male rectal chlamydia        | 44   | 521   | 38   | 563   |
| Gonorrhea                    | 211  | 2601  | 237  | 2877  |
| Female age 18-25             | 40   | 484   | 27   | 414   |
| Female age ≤ 17              | 1    | 44    | 5    | 50    |
| Male rectal gonorrhea        | 32   | 367   | 33   | 410   |
| Early Syphilis (adult total) | 45   | 568   | 52   | 577   |
| Primary                      | 9    | 119   | 15   | 124   |
| Secondary                    | 15   | 214   | 14   | 223   |
| Early latent                 | 21   | 235   | 23   | 230   |
| Neurosyphilis*               | 0    | 7     | 1    | 10    |
| Congenital syphilis*         | 1    | 3     | 0    | 3     |
| HIV Infection**              |      |       |      |       |
| HIV (not AIDS)               | 29   | 444   | 27   | 415   |
| AIDS                         | 22   | 277   | 20   | 280   |

YTD: Year to Date

\*Includes confirmed and probable cases. Current neurosyphilis data are pending.

\*\*New infections are reported either as HIV or, if an individual was also diagnosed with AIDS within one month, as AIDS.

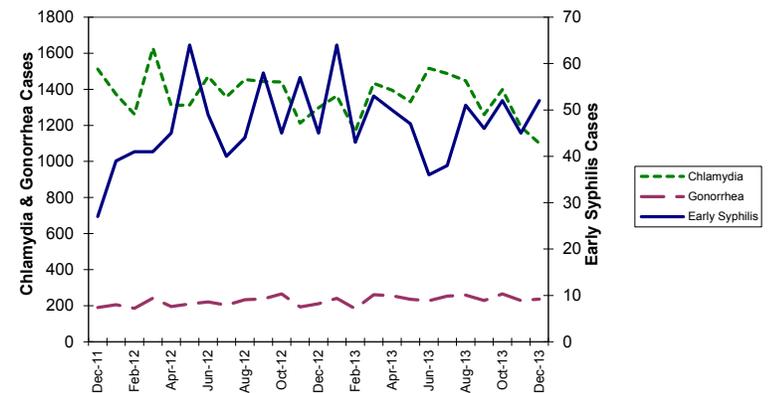
Table 2. Selected STD cases and annualized rates per 100,000 population for San Diego County, by age and race/ethnicity, year-to-date, 2013.

|                     | All races* |       | Asian/PI |       | Black |       | Hispanic |       | White |       |
|---------------------|------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
|                     | cases      | rate  | cases    | rate  | cases | rate  | cases    | rate  | cases | rate  |
| <i>All ages</i>     |            |       |          |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |
| Chlamydia           | 16094      | 510.9 | 570      | 158.6 | 1048  | 792.4 | 3777     | 358.4 | 2463  | 166.0 |
| Gonorrhea           | 2877       | 91.3  | 96       | 26.7  | 270   | 204.1 | 524      | 49.7  | 666   | 44.9  |
| Early syphilis      | 577        | 18.3  | 31       | 8.6   | 47    | 35.5  | 202      | 19.2  | 249   | 16.8  |
| <i>Under 20 yrs</i> |            |       |          |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |
| Chlamydia           | 3081       | 363.7 | 82       | 95.4  | 306   | 862.0 | 922      | 240.2 | 376   | 129.9 |
| Gonorrhea           | 262        | 30.9  | 2        | 2.3   | 48    | 135.2 | 57       | 14.9  | 30    | 10.4  |
| Early syphilis      | 12         | 1.4   | 1        | 1.2   | 2     | 5.6   | 7        | 1.8   | 1     | 0.3   |

Note: Rates calculated using 2013 SANDAG population estimates.

\*Includes cases denoted as "other" or "unknown" and for which no race/ethnicity data are specified.

Figure 1. Chlamydia, gonorrhea and early syphilis\* cases reported among San Diego County residents, by month.



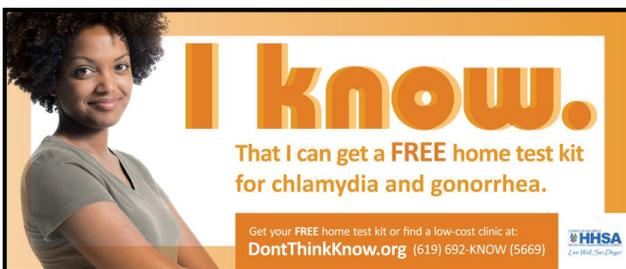
\*Early syphilis includes primary, secondary and early latent syphilis.

### Key Points comparing YTD cases reported through December 2012 to December 2013.

- Chlamydia has decreased 2.8%.
  - Female (≤17) chlamydia has increased 12.6%.
- Gonorrhea has increased 10.6%.
  - Female (18-25) gonorrhea has decreased 14.5%.
  - Male rectal gonorrhea has increased 11.7%.
- Early syphilis has increased 1.6%.

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.

## Editorial Note: Don't Think, Know: Home Testing Program Update



In 2013, 16,094 cases of chlamydia were reported in the County of San Diego. Youth, and young women of color in particular, bear a disproportionate burden of chlamydia infections, with 47% all cases reported among young women aged 25 years or younger. Women in this age group also accounted for 16% of all gonorrhea cases.

To address the high rates of infection among this age group, in May 2013, with support from the California Department of Public Health, the County launched *Don't Think, Know*, a home chlamydia and gonorrhea testing program for women aged 25 years and younger. The kit can be ordered for free from [DontThinkKnow.org](http://DontThinkKnow.org) and can be sent to any address within the county. The kit contains a vaginal swab with

instructions for specimen self-collection. Users can retrieve their results securely online approximately one week after returning the kit. County staff follow up with all women with positive result(s) to verify treatment or to assist with accessing treatment if needed.

During the first year of the program, 133 kits were ordered. Ninety-eight percent of those who ordered a kit were 18 years of age or older, all ordered the kit in English (the website and all instructions are also available in Spanish) and 35% were white, 32% were Hispanic and 9% were black. Forty four percent of the kits have been returned to the lab, and all those received were testable. Eight (14%) were positive for chlamydia, and none were positive for gonorrhea. All users with a positive result were notified of their results, and all received appropriate treatment. To date, the chlamydia positivity rate found through *Don't Think, Know* is higher than the rate seen among females entering San Diego's juvenile detention system, a population known to be at high risk, suggesting that this program is successfully reaching high-risk young women in need of testing.

Free resources (i.e., posters, palm cards, artwork to post on social media) are available to promote *Don't Think, Know* within your organization. Please contact [SanDiego@DontThinkKnow.org](mailto:SanDiego@DontThinkKnow.org) for more information.

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STD Clinical Consultation Pager: (877) 217-1816 (8am-5pm, M-F)



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