

County of San Diego Monthly STD Report

Volume 12, Issue 10: Data through May 2020; Report released November 9, 2020.



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

	2019		2020	
	May	Previous 12-Month Period*	May	Previous 12-Month Period*
Chlamydia	1972	22581	1132	20960
Female age 18-25	640	8242	461	7845
Female age ≤ 17	87	930	44	760
Male rectal chlamydia	120	1137	37	1053
Gonorrhea	510	6079	338	6107
Female age 18-25	80	925	60	992
Female age ≤ 17	6	101	13	104
Male rectal gonorrhea	71	793	27	686
Early Syphilis (adult total)	88	1152	82	1090
Primary	15	171	17	157
Secondary	27	391	28	355
Early latent	46	590	37	569
Congenital syphilis	0	21	0	21

* 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
<i>All ages</i>										
Chlamydia	7596	543.9	140	76.0	273	388.9	697	153.0	681	108.2
Gonorrhea	2214	158.5	56	30.4	246	350.5	543	119.2	467	74.2
Early Syphilis	428	30.6	36	19.6	43	61.3	181	39.7	148	23.5
<i>Under 20 yrs</i>										
Chlamydia	1282	354.8	14	35.0	61	347.7	113	74.6	116	88.3
Gonorrhea	224	62.0	8	20.0	24	136.8	72	47.5	37	28.2
Early Syphilis	8	2.2	1	2.5	0	0.0	5	3.3	2	1.5

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.

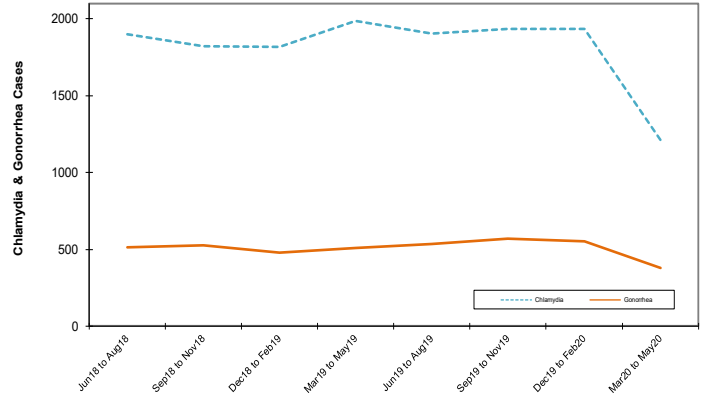
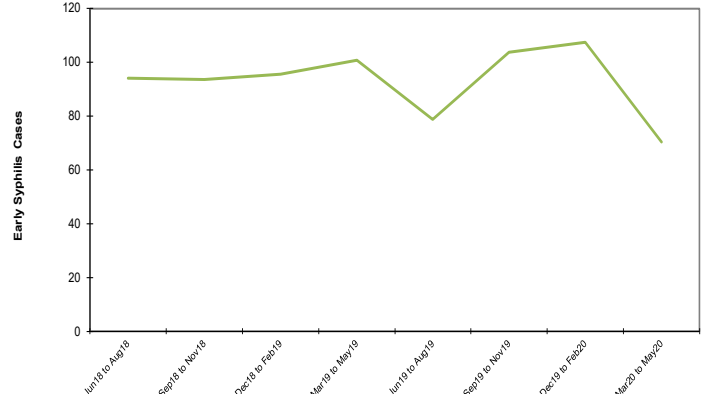


Figure 2. Early Syphilis Reported Among County of San Diego Residents, by 3-Month Period.

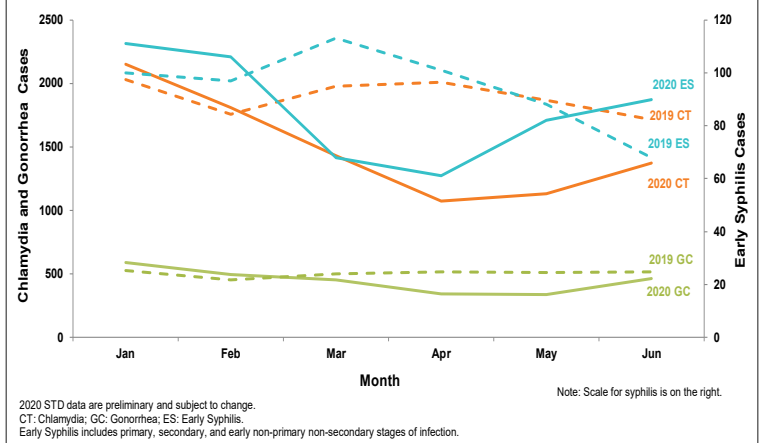


Editorial Note: Decreases in Rates of Reported STIs During COVID-19 Pandemic

In April 2020, reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and early (i.e., primary, secondary, and early latent) syphilis decreased by 50%, 41% and 45% respectively in San Diego County compared to January 2020 (see Figure 3) and were 47%, 33% and 40% lower than they were in April 2019 (see Figure 4). While these decreases are based on preliminary data that are subject to change, they are consistent with national trends reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). According to CDC, compared to the same period in 2019, weekly reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and primary/secondary syphilis were 53%, 33% and 33% below those reported in the equivalent period in 2019 [1].

The global Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic may affect reported sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in several ways. Shelter-in-place orders and recommendations to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 may decrease sexual encounters that increase STI acquisition risk. On the other hand, the COVID-19 crisis also has resulted in reduction in the availability and utilization of sexual health services and STI testing in many areas and impacted STI surveillance and disease intervention due to the deployment of STI contact tracers to the COVID-19 emergency response. While decreases in rates of reported infections are usually a positive development, there is concern that STIs are now going largely undetected due to decreased testing [2].

Figure 3. STD Cases by Month, January - June, 2019 and 2020



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Editorial Note (Continued):

As of June 2020, reported chlamydia, gonorrhea and early syphilis cases had increased by 28%, 34% and 48% in San Diego County compared to April 2020 but remained lower than the number of cases reported monthly prior to the pandemic. Chlamydia and gonorrhea cases remained lower than cases reported in the equivalent period in 2019, while early syphilis cases exceeded 2019 cases. CDC also reported that, as stay-at-home orders decreased in early June, corresponding increases in reported STI cases were observed and, in some cases, returned to or even exceeded 2019 levels [1]. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, providers are encouraged to stay informed of the most recent [guidance and resources](#) available through CDC and to contact the HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch for any issues related to STI testing, treatment and reporting (see contact information at the bottom of the page).

