SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY 2023 DATA SLIDES

County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency
Public Health Services
HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch







Acknowledgements





Preface

This publication, Sexually Transmitted Infections in San Diego County, 2023 Data Slides, includes reported disease data collected through 2023 for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. All tables and figures published here supersede those in prior publications.

This slide set provides a comprehensive picture of reported sexually transmitted infection (STI) trends and current morbidity in San Diego. These data are compiled to guide policy and program development within the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch, local STI programs, and other public health agencies.

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Suggested Citation

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TECHNICAL NOTES & STI/HIV SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS







Case Counts and Rates





- These slides include case counts and rates of reportable STIs.
- Rates take population size into account and indicate the impact of STIs on a group or population.
- In this report, most rates are expressed as the number of cases per 100,000 persons in a group or population. Congenital syphilis rates are expressed as the number of cases per 100,000 live births.
- Population estimate source: SANDAG Vintage 2023 Population Estimates; County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services Department, Community Health Statistics Unit. 10/2024.
- The following is an example of the difference between cases and rates:

Region	Count	Population	Rate per 100,000
			Case Count * 100,000 Population
А	10,000	200,000	5,000
В	10,000	100,000	10,000

Despite having the same number of affected individuals (10,000), the rate for Region B is higher than Region A because there are fewer inhabitants. Accounting for the population size allows for a more consistent comparison of the level of disease per person between regions.

Gender Information





- In these slides, the gender variable may not coincide with the gender identities of the individuals.
 - Gender represents person's reported current gender.
 - Transgender/Genderqueer/Non-binary individuals were included in the gender categories representing their sex assigned at birth.
 - Cases were excluded from the calculations involving the gender variable if they were missing sex assigned at birth information and
 - missing gender information or
 - gender reported as "unknown," "identity not listed," or "declined to answer."

STI/HIV Screening Recommendations





United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)

- Chlamydia and gonorrhea screening in sexually active females* aged 24 years and younger (Grade B)
- Chlamydia and gonorrhea screening in sexually active females* aged 25 years and older with risk factors (Grade B)
- Screening for syphilis in asymptomatic, nonpregnant adolescents and adults who are at increased risk for infection (Grade A)
- Early screening for syphilis in all pregnant persons (Grade A)
- Screening for HIV infection in adolescents and adults aged 15 to 65 years, and younger adolescents and older adults at increased risk of infection (Grade A)
- Screening for HIV infection in all pregnant persons (Grade A)
- Offering of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to persons who are at increased risk of HIV acquisition (Grade A)

*Note: Recommendation and net benefit are based on sex assigned at birth, rather than gender identity.

Source: https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org

STI DATA OVERVIEW







Key Points





STI Data Overview, San Diego County

Reported cases and rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, early syphilis and congenital syphilis changed in San Diego County from 2022 to 2023 as follows:

Chlamydia

- 17,720 cases (2.3% decrease from 2022)
- Rate of 538.5 cases per 100,000 (2.4% decrease from 2022)

Gonorrhea

- 6,651 cases (13.6% decrease from 2022)
- Rate of 202.1 cases per 100,000 (13.7% decrease from 2022)

Early Syphilis

- 1,089 cases (3.7% decrease from 2022)
- Rate of 33.1 cases per 100,000 (3.8% decrease from 2022)

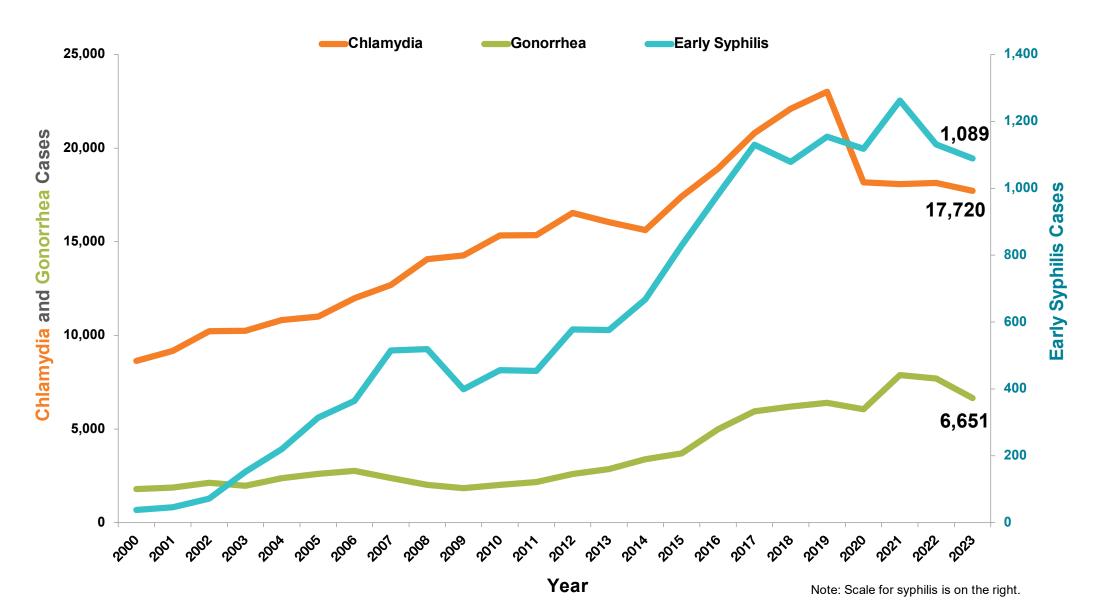
Congenital Syphilis

- 36 cases (2.9% increase from 2022)
- Rate of 95.0 cases per 100,000 live births (8.2% increase from 2022)

Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Early Syphilis Cases, San Diego County, 2000-2023



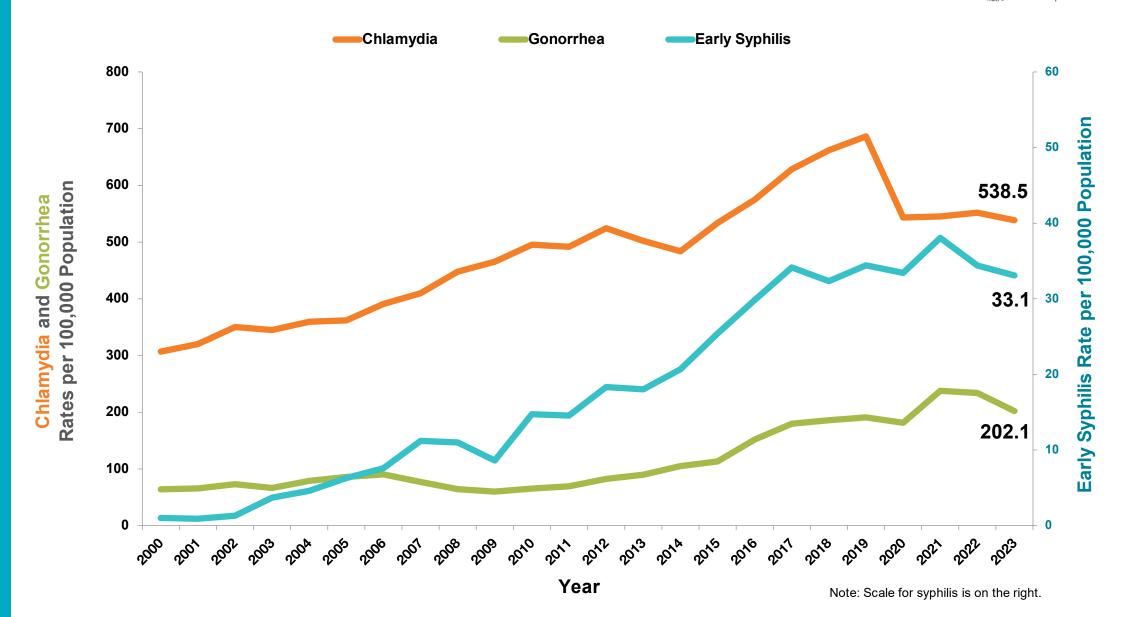




Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Early Syphilis Rates, San Diego County, 2000-2023



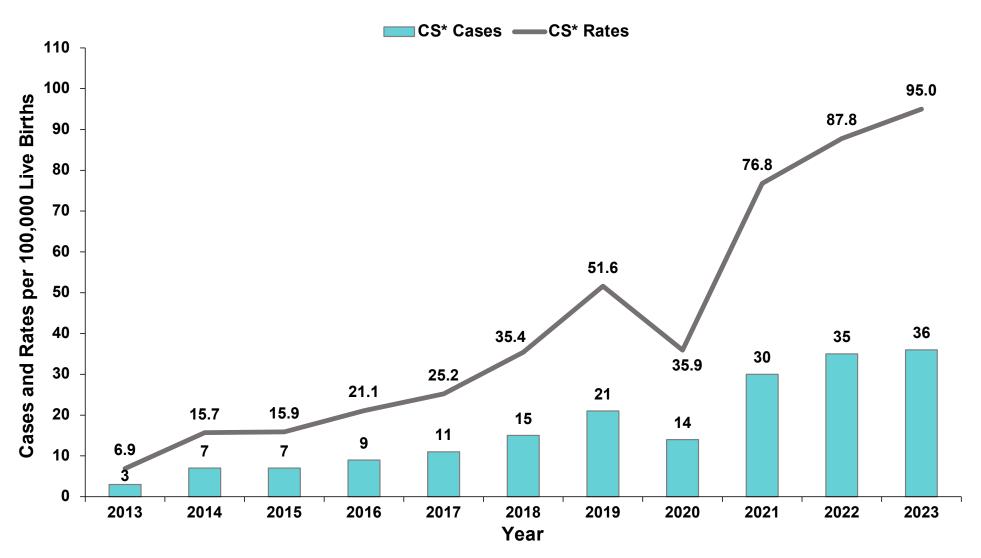




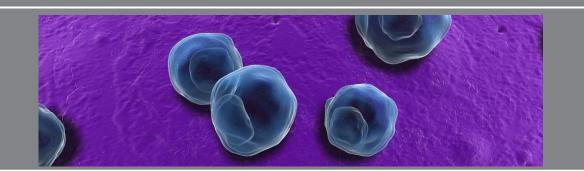
Congenital Syphilis Cases and Rates, San Diego County, 2013-2023







CHLAMYDIA









Key Points





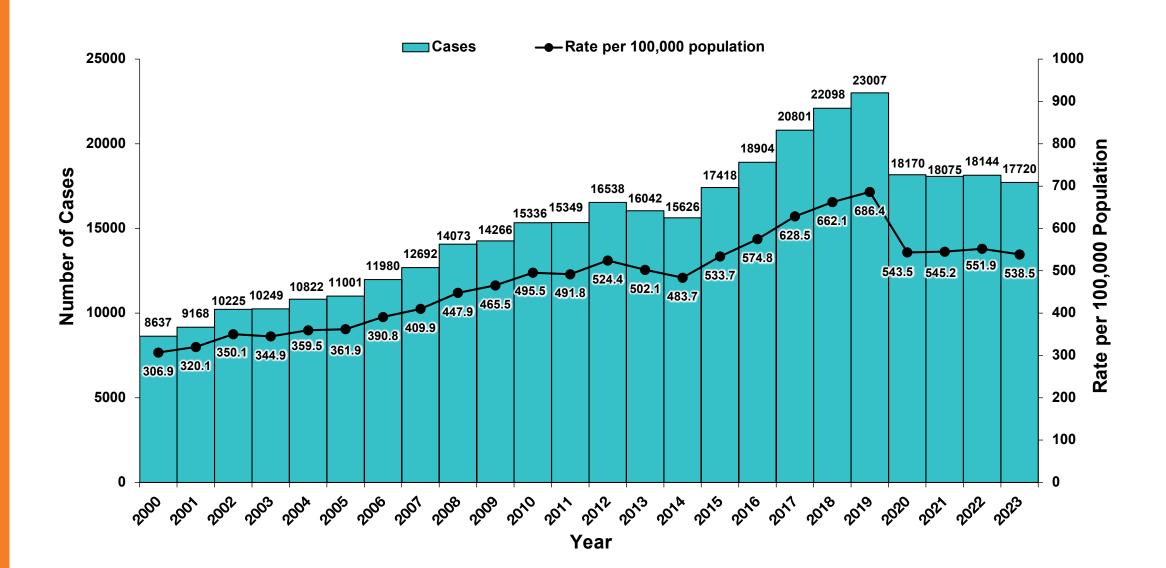
Chlamydia in San Diego County

- Chlamydia was the most commonly reported STI in San Diego County and in California in 2023.
- Cases of chlamydia decreased by 2.3% from 18,144 cases in 2022 to 17,720 cases in 2023.
- The overall rate of chlamydia decreased by 2.4% from 551.9 cases per 100,000 in 2022 to 538.5 cases per 100,000 in 2023.
- The rate of chlamydia in women is 1.4 times the rate in men.
- Young women, aged 20 to 24 years, have the highest rate of infection.
- Based on limited race/ethnicity data, rates of chlamydia were higher among African American/black and other/mixed race women and men than those of other populations.

Chlamydia Cases and Rates by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023



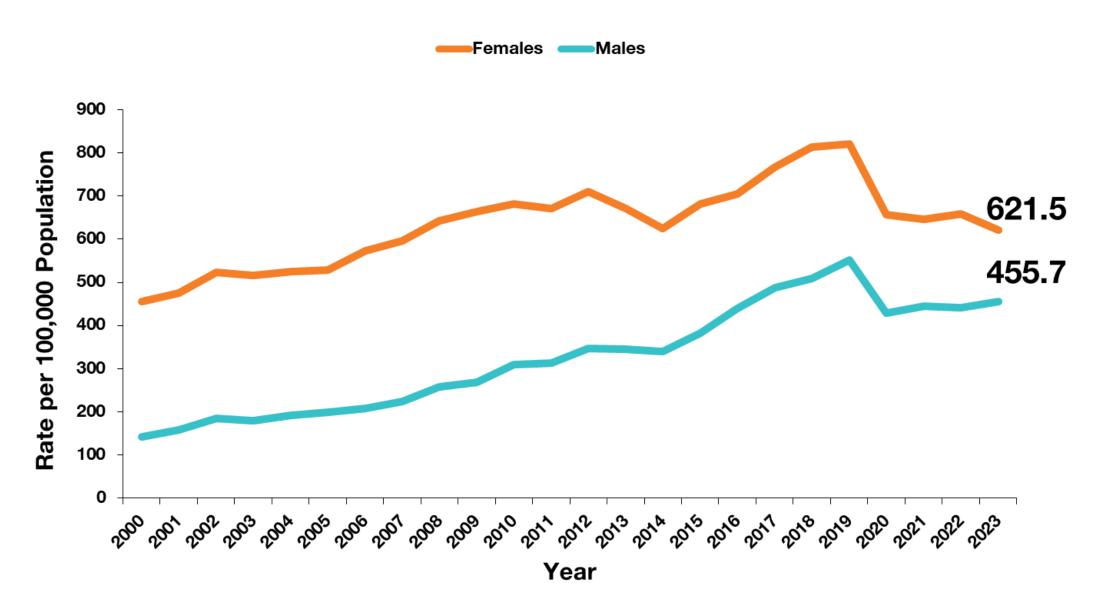




Chlamydia Rates by Gender and Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023



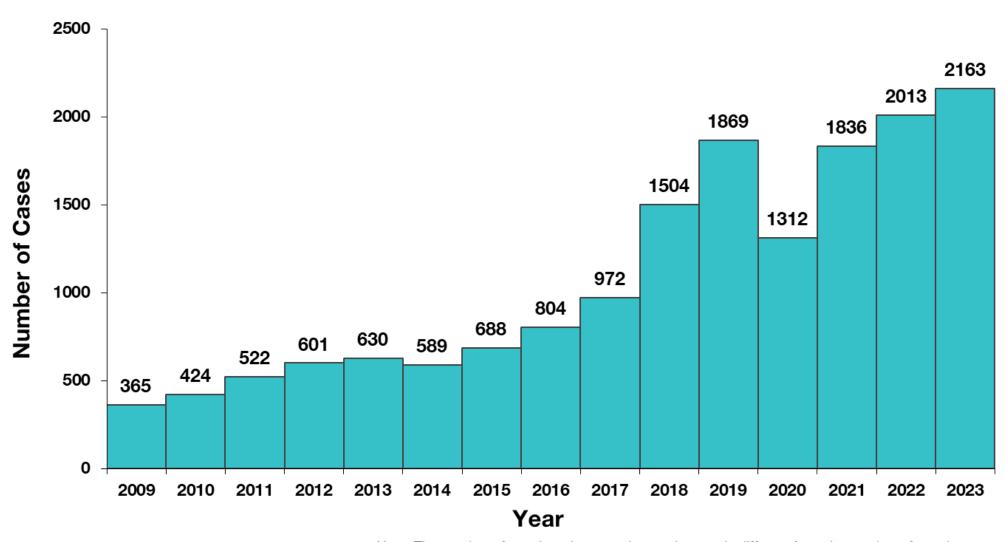




Rectal or Pharyngeal Chlamydia Infections in Males, San Diego County, 2009-2023





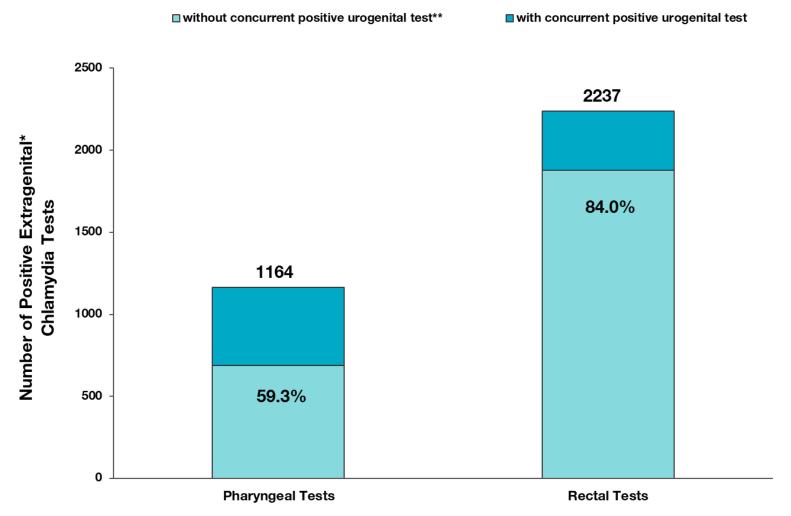


Note: The number of rectal or pharyngeal cases in 2018 is different from the number of rectal or pharyngeal cases published in 2018 STD Data Slides due to recalculation with revised methodology.

Proportion of Extragenital* Chlamydia Infections With & Without Concurrent Positive Urogenital Test, San Diego County, 2023







^{*}Extragenital refers to pharyngeal and rectal anatomic sites.

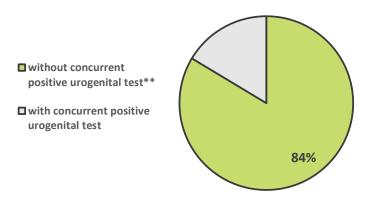
^{**}Note: Due to negative chlamydia laboratory results not being reportable to the local public health departments, "without concurrent positive urogenital test" category means that no positive urogenital test result was reported to the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch for the specified episode of extragenital infection and does not mean that the case had a negative urogenital test.

Proportion of Extragenital* Chlamydia Infections With & Without Concurrent Positive Urogenital Test by Gender, San Diego County, 2023

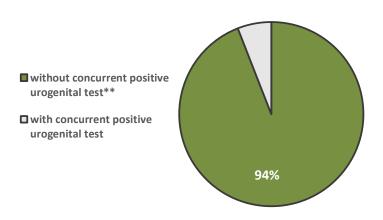




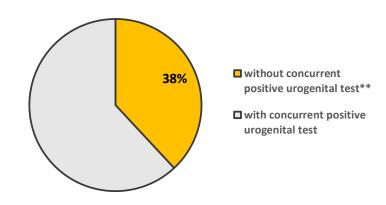




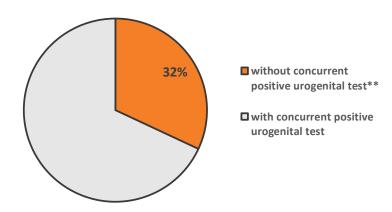
Rectal Chlamydia in Males



Pharyngeal Chlamydia in Females



Rectal Chlamydia in Females



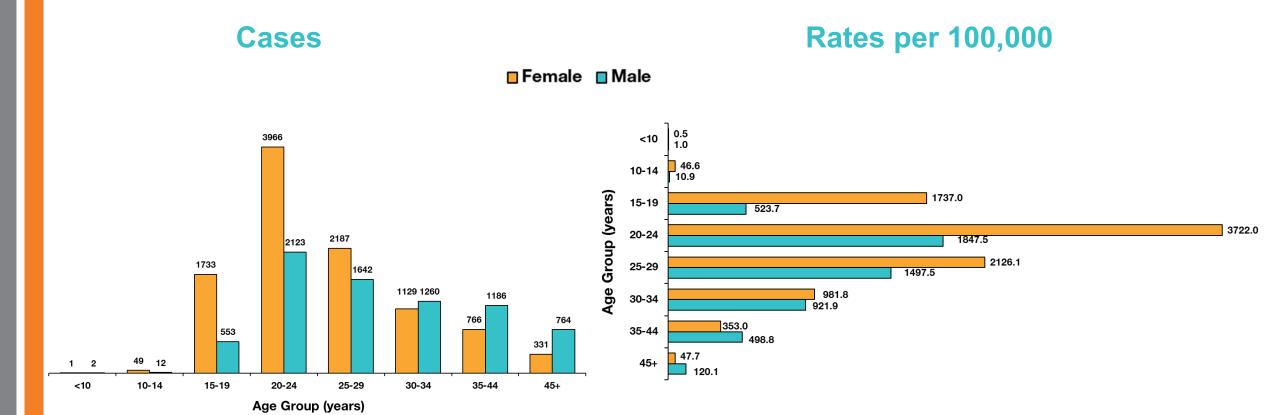
^{*}Extragenital refers to pharyngeal and rectal anatomic sites.

^{**}Note: Due to negative chlamydia laboratory results not being reportable to the local public health departments, "without concurrent positive urogenital test" category means that no positive urogenital test result was reported to the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch for the specified episode of extragenital infection and does not mean that the case had a negative urogenital test.

Chlamydia Cases and Rates by Gender and Age, San Diego County, 2023



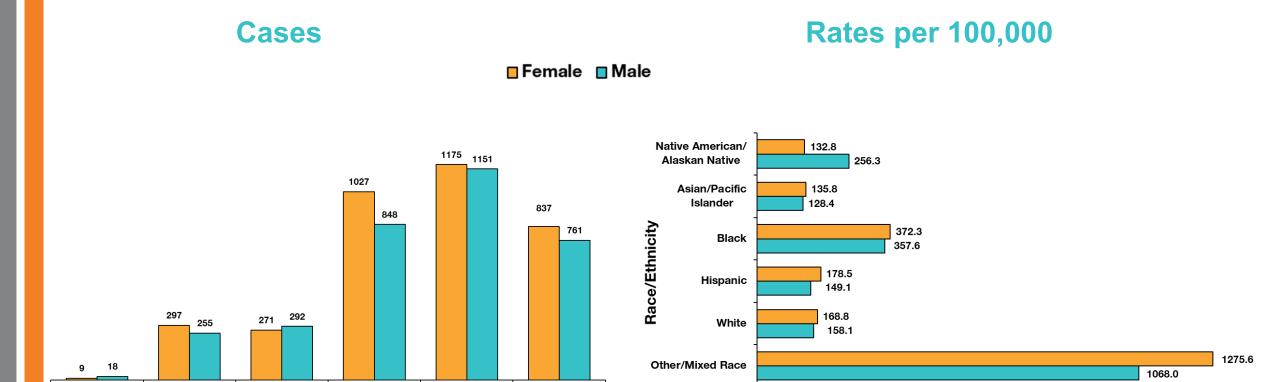




Chlamydia Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023







Note: 60.8% of cases were missing race/ethnicity or gender information and are not included in the counts above.

White

Other/Mixed Race

Hispanic

Race/Ethnicity

Black

Asian/Pacific

Islander

Native American/

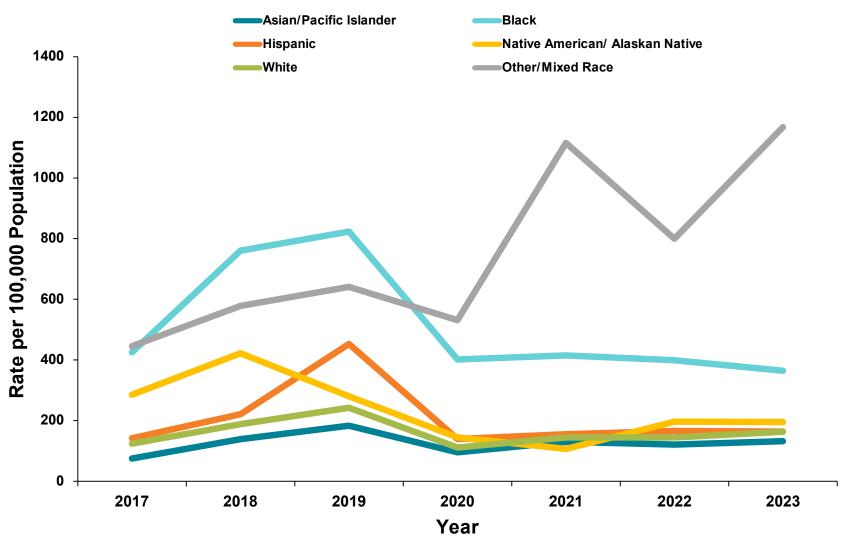
Alaskan Native

As of October 1, 2019, Chlamydia trachomatis (CT) infections have no longer been required to be reported to the local health department by healthcare providers; positive CT tests have continued to be reported by laboratories.

Chlamydia Rates by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2017-2023





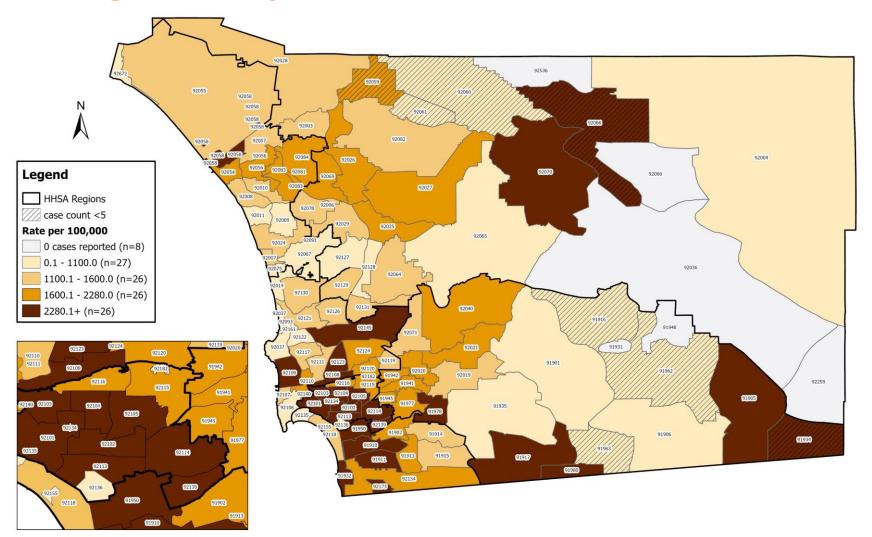


Note: Race/ethnicity data for chlamydia are limited. The sharp increase in chlamydia rate among Other/Mixed category is most likely due to reporting. As of October 1, 2019, *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) infections have no longer been required to be reported to the local health department by healthcare providers; positive CT tests have continued to be reported by laboratories.

Chlamydia Rates by Zip Code Among Persons of 15-29 Years of Age, San Diego County, 2023



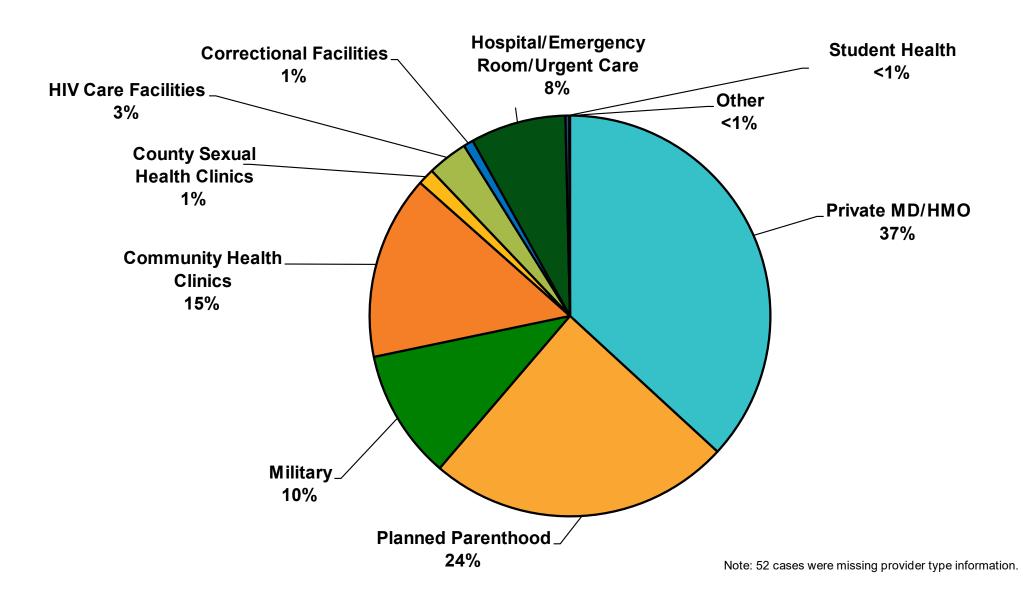




Chlamydia Cases by Reporting Facility Type San Diego County, 2023



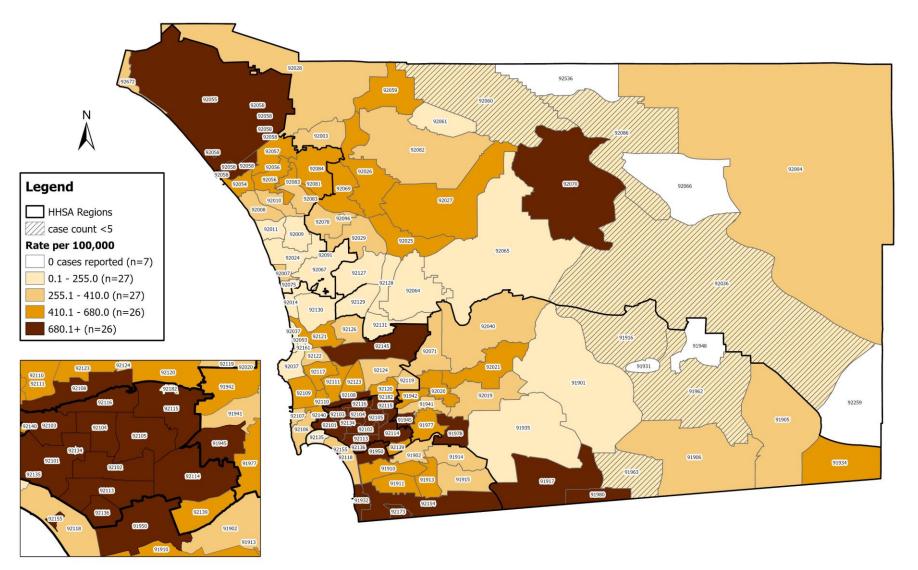




Chlamydia Rates by Zip Code, San Diego County, 2023







GONORRHEA









Key Points





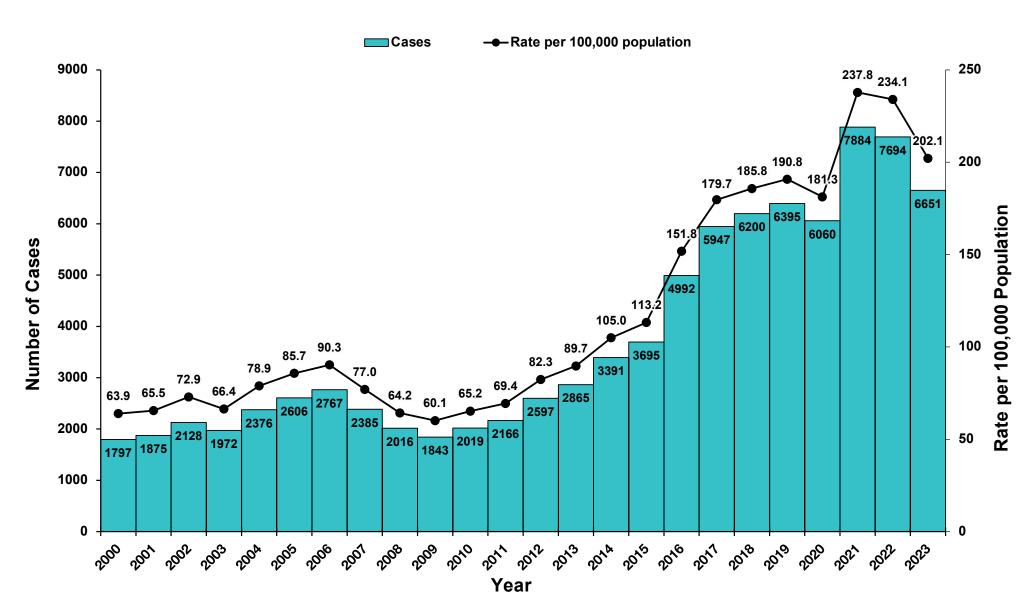
Gonorrhea in San Diego County

- Cases of gonorrhea decreased by 13.6% from 7694 cases in 2022 to 6651 cases in 2023.
- The overall rate of gonorrhea decreased by 13.7% from 234.1 cases per 100,000 in 2022 to 202.1 cases per 100,000 in 2023.
- The rate of gonorrhea in males is 2.9 times the rate in females and decreased by 6.8% between 2022 and 2023.
- Men aged 25 to 34 years have the highest rates of infection.
- The rate of gonorrhea in African-American/black males is 2.7 times that of white males and
 2.5 times that of Hispanic males; the rate of infection in African-American/black females is 3.1
 times that of white females and 2.2 times that of Hispanic females.

Gonorrhea Cases and Rates by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023



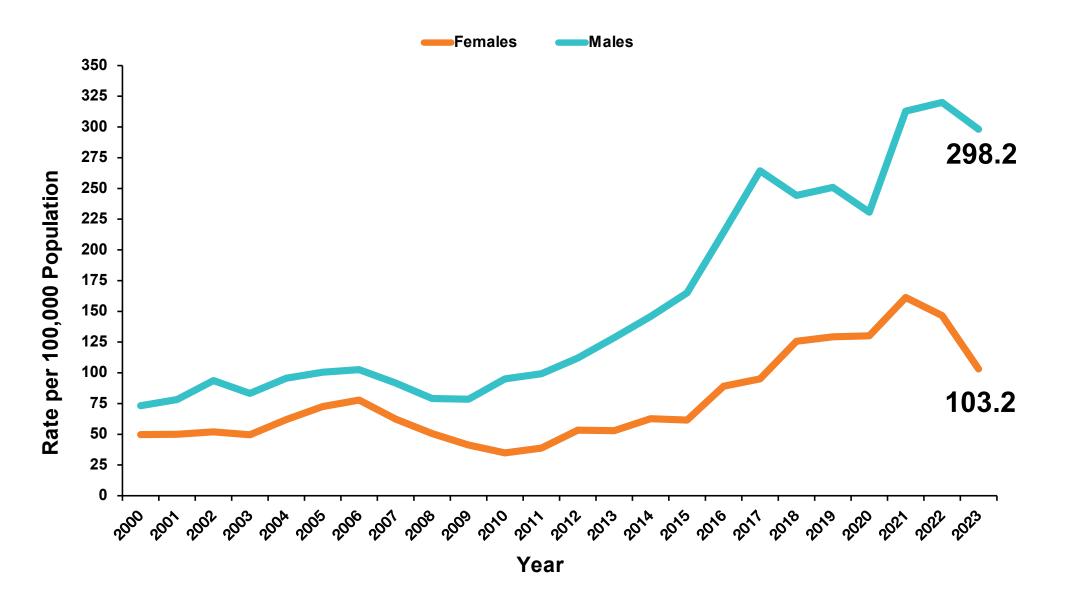




Gonorrhea Rates by Gender and Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023



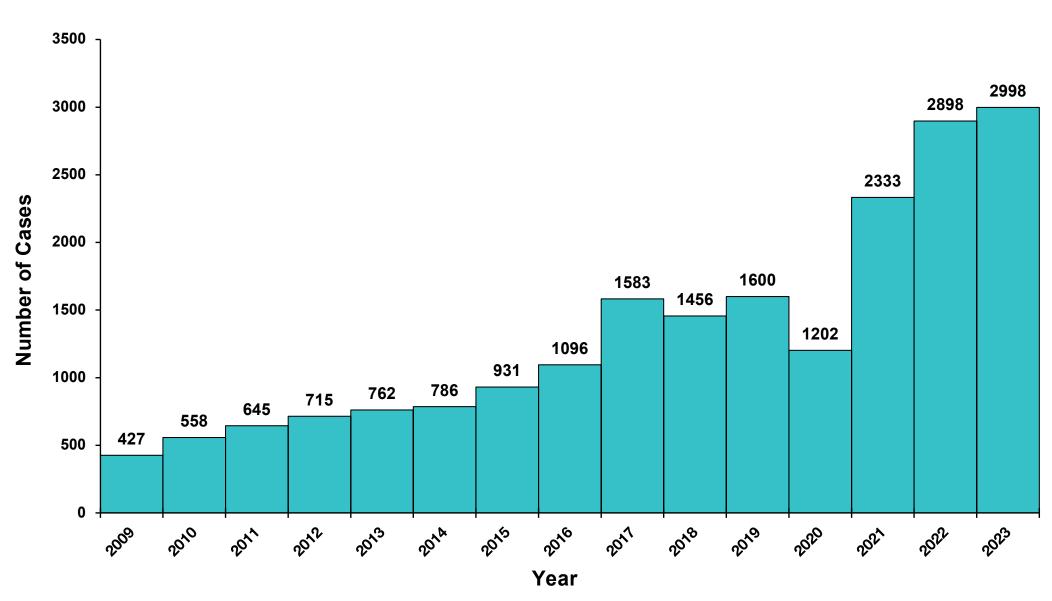




Rectal or Pharyngeal Gonorrhea in Males, San Diego County, 2009-2023



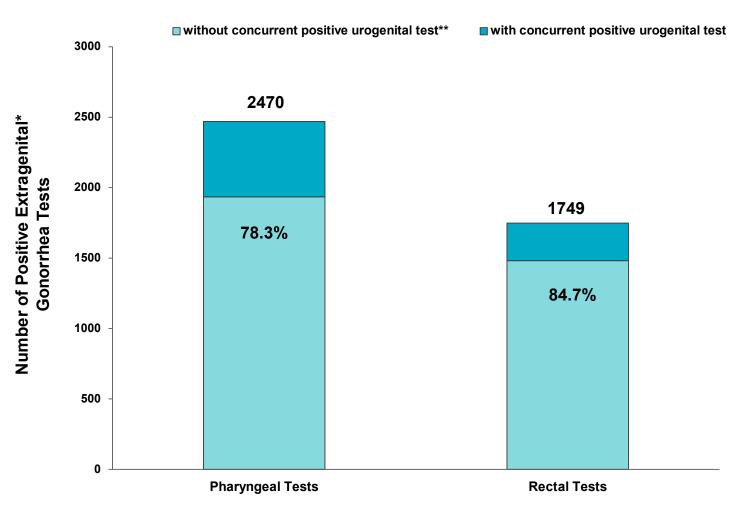




Proportion of Extragenital* Gonorrhea With & Without Concurrent Positive Urogenital Test, San Diego County, 2023







^{*}Extragenital refers to pharyngeal and rectal anatomic sites.

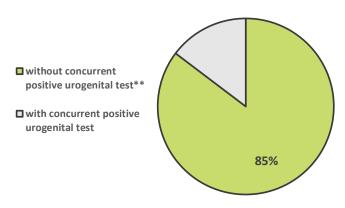
^{**}Note: Due to negative gonorrhea laboratory results not being reportable to the local public health departments, "without concurrent positive urogenital test" category means that no positive urogenital test result was reported to the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch for the specified episode of extragenital infection and does not mean that the case had a negative urogenital test.

Proportion of Extragenital* Gonorrhea With & Without Concurrent Positive Urogenital Test by Gender, San Diego County, 2023

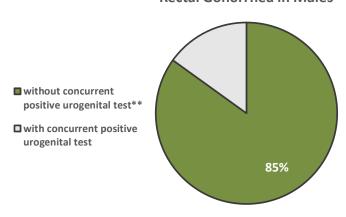




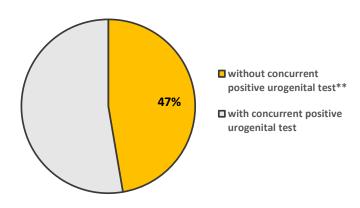




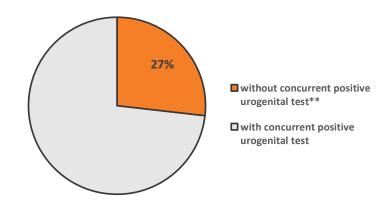
Rectal Gonorrhea in Males



Pharyngeal Gonorrhea in Females



Rectal Gonorrhea in Females



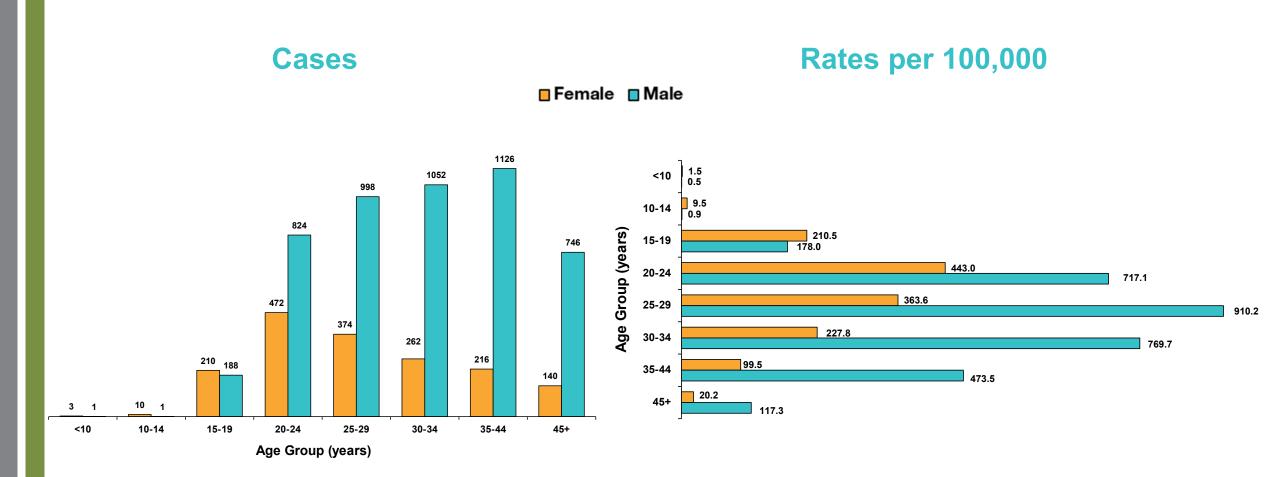
^{*}Extragenital refers to pharyngeal and rectal anatomic sites.

^{**}Note: Due to negative gonorrhea laboratory results not being reportable to the local public health departments, "without concurrent positive urogenital test" category means that no positive urogenital test result was reported to the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch for the specified episode of extragenital infection and does not mean that the case had a negative urogenital test.

Gonorrhea Cases and Rates by Gender and Age, San Diego County, 2023





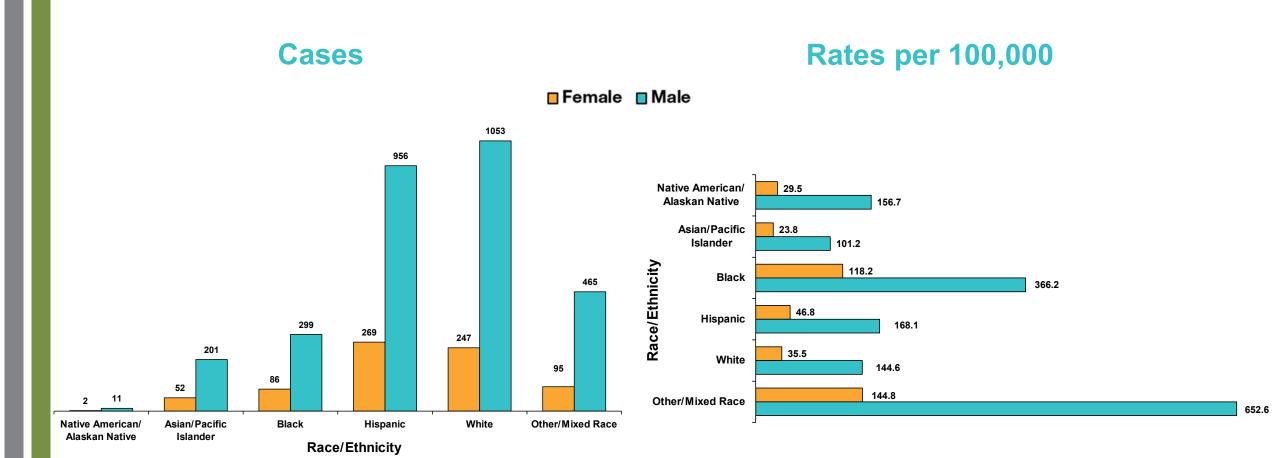


Note: 28 cases were missing gender information and are not included in the counts above.

Gonorrhea Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023





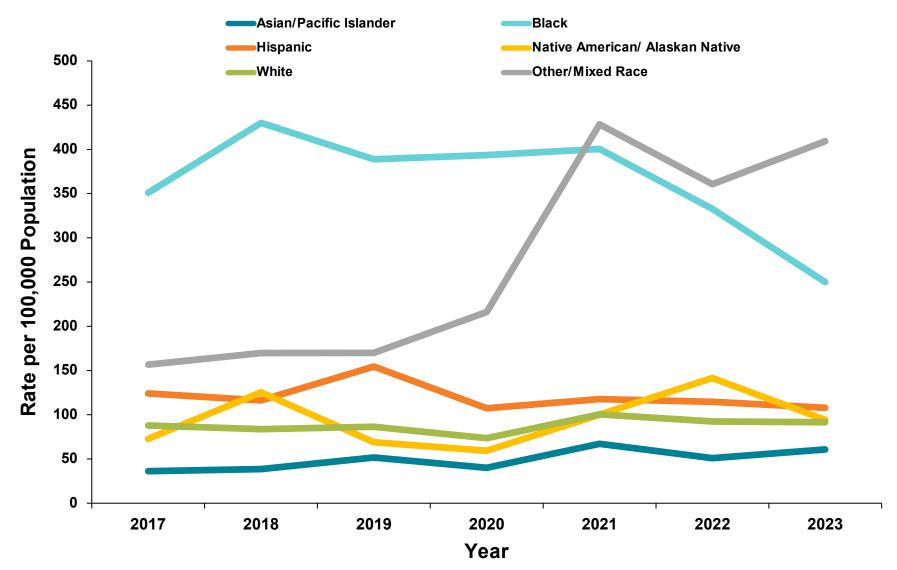


Note: 43.8% of cases were missing race/ethnicity or gender information and are not included in the counts above.

Gonorrhea Rates by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2017-2023



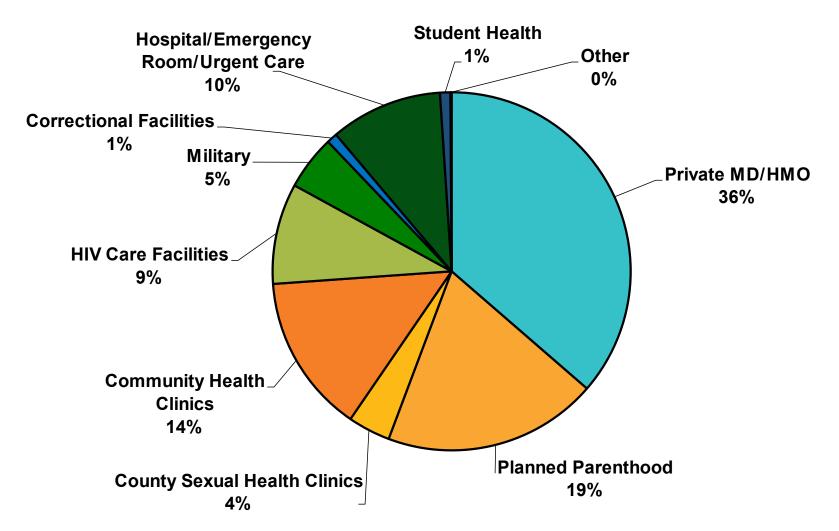




Gonorrhea Cases by Reporting Facility Type, San Diego County, 2023



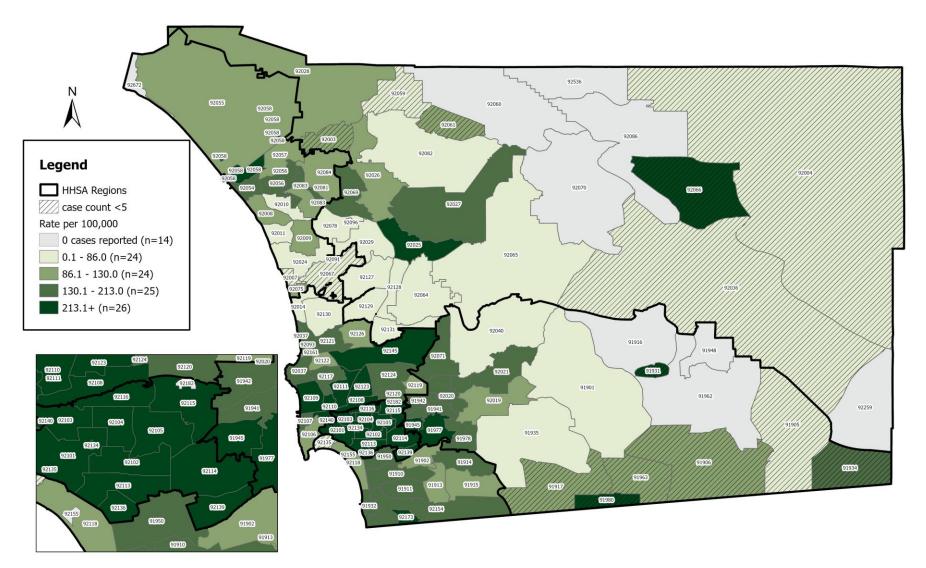




Gonorrhea Cases by Zip Code, San Diego County, 2023







SYPHILIS









Key Points





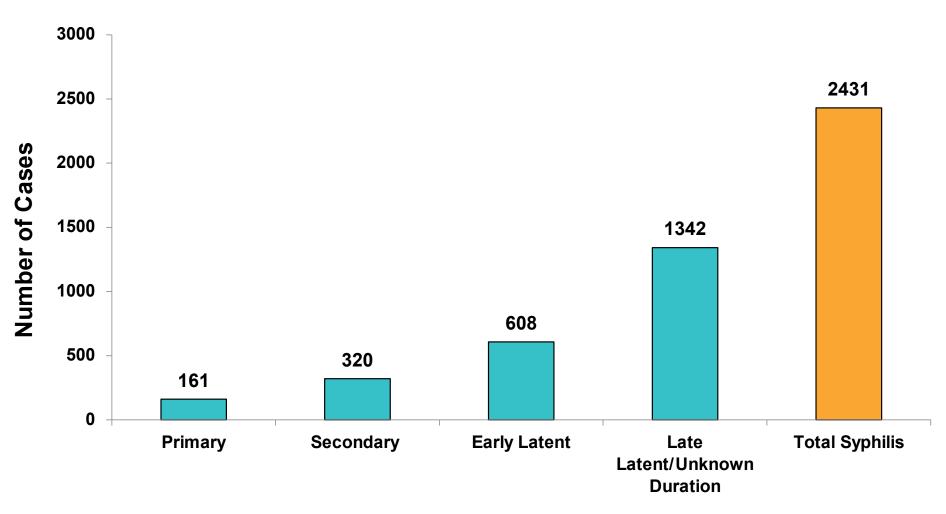
All Syphilis Stages and Significance

- Primary: painless ulcer(s) at site of initial contact with bacteria (*Treponema pallidum*); atypical (i.e., painful) lesions may occur.
- <u>Secondary</u>: widespread infection with variable presentation; typical findings include, but are not limited to, rash (may involve palms and soles), condylomata lata (wart-like lesions), mucous patches, and/or patchy alopecia.
- <u>Early latent</u>: no signs or symptoms of active infection; infection can be proven to have occurred
 year ago.
- Late latent: no signs or symptoms of active infection; infection occurred ≥1 year ago, or duration is unknown.
- Sexual transmission between adults is only possible during early syphilis (i.e., primary, secondary, & early latent stages).
- Transmission from a pregnant person to a fetus can occur during any stage of infection.

Case Count by Stage of Syphilis, San Diego County, 2023





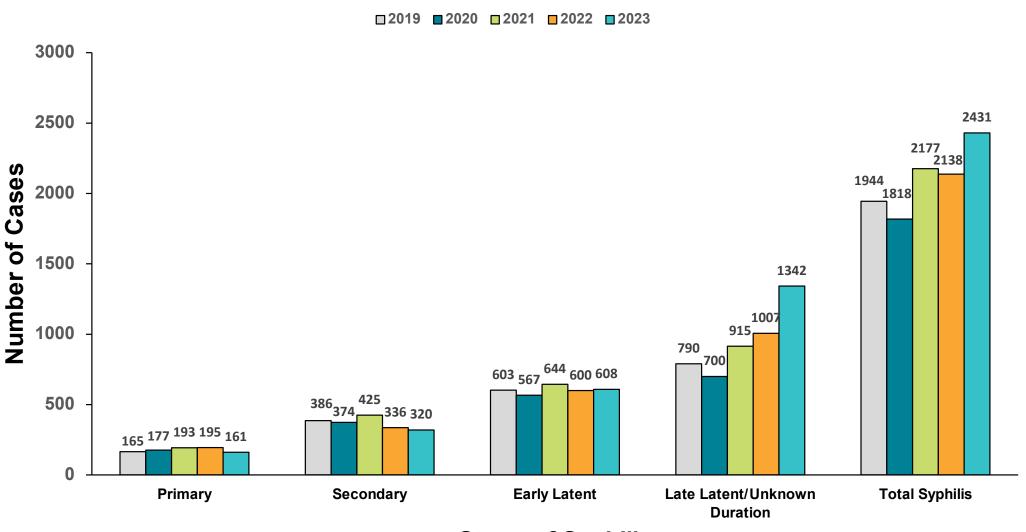


Stage of Syphilis

Case Count by Stage of Syphilis, San Diego County, 2019-2023







Stage of Syphilis

SYPHILIS (ALL STAGES)



Primary, Secondary, Early Latent, and Late/Unknown Duration Stages of Syphilis



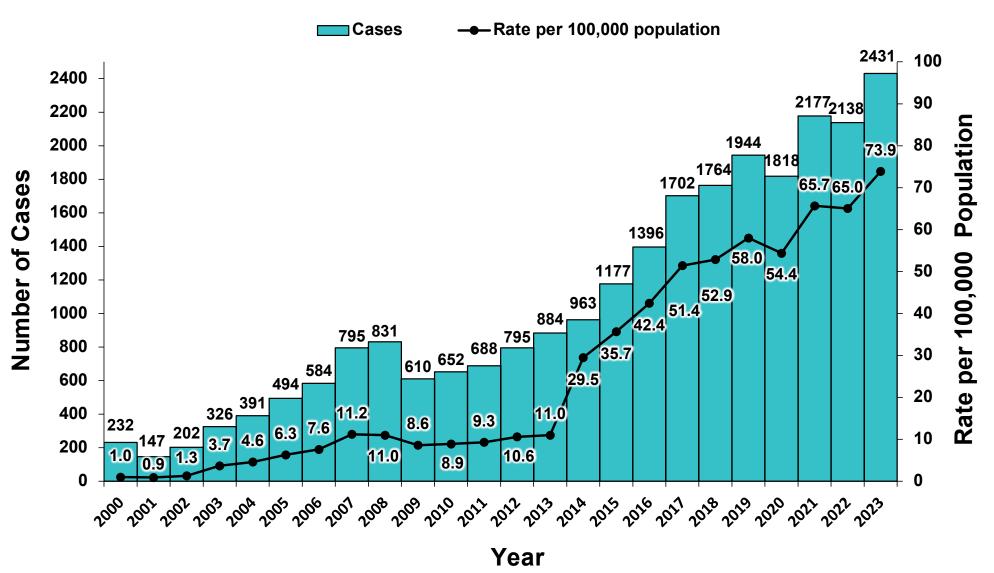




Syphilis (All Stages) Cases and Rates by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023



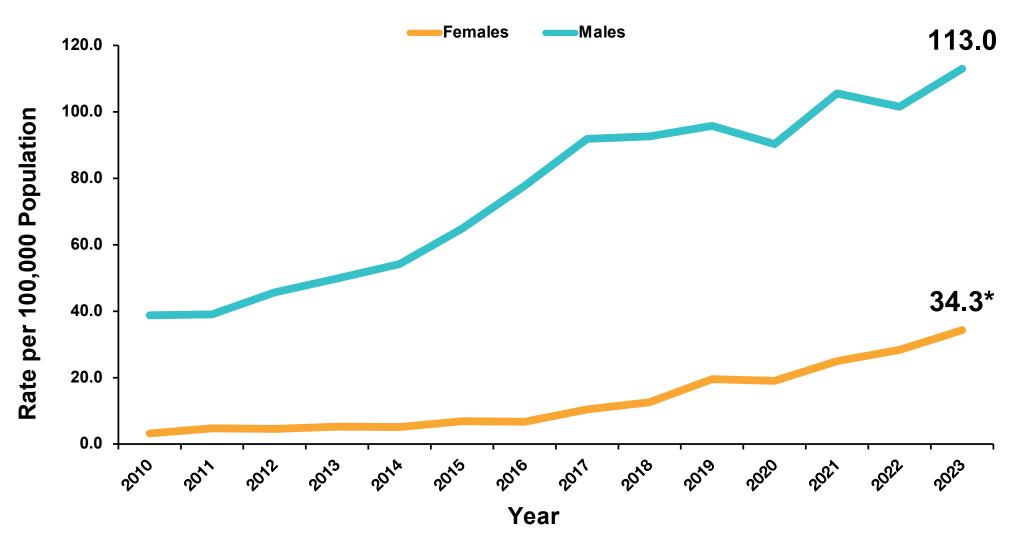




Syphilis (All Stages) Rates by Gender and Year, San Diego County, 2010-2023



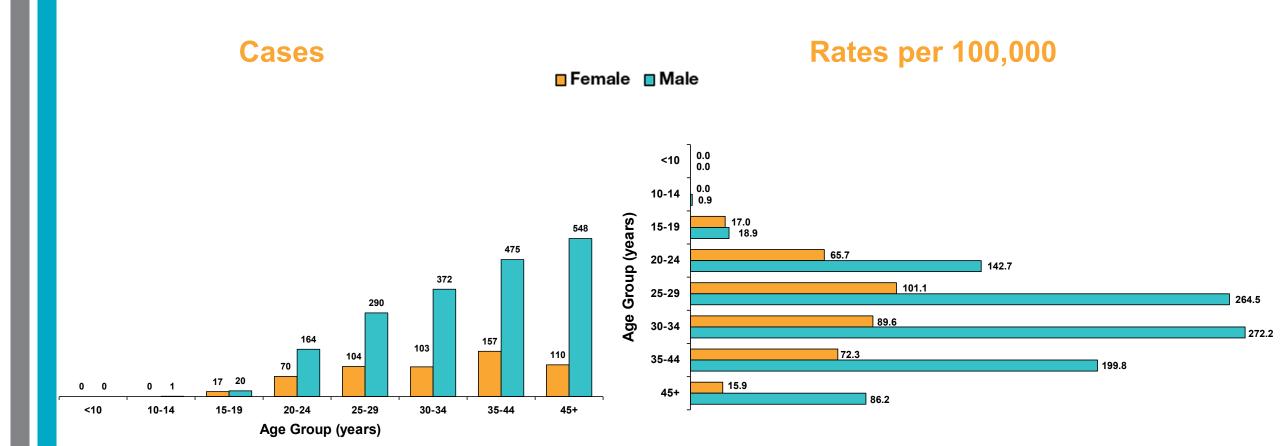




Syphilis (All Stages) Cases and Rates by Gender and Age, San Diego County, 2023



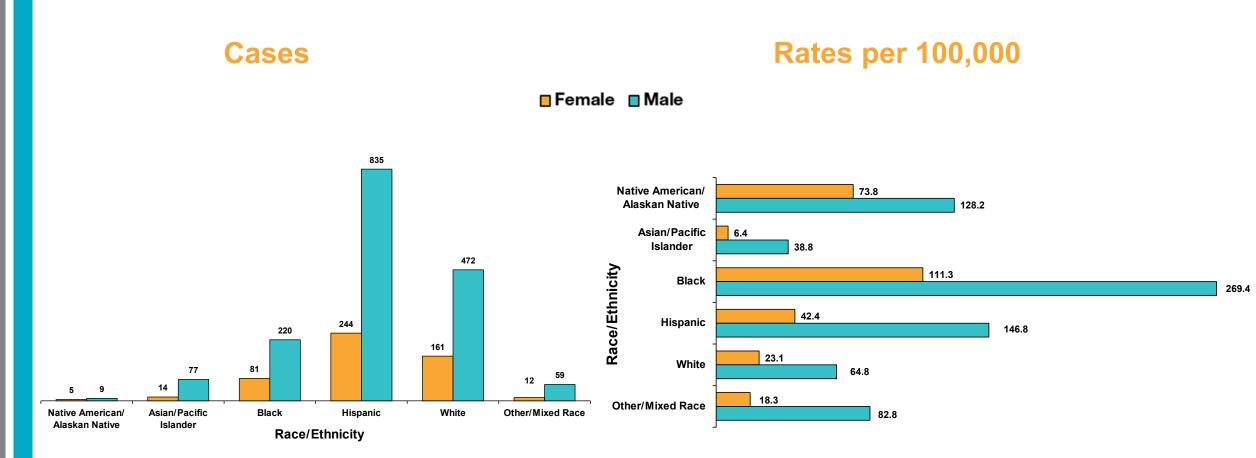




Syphilis (All Stages) Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023



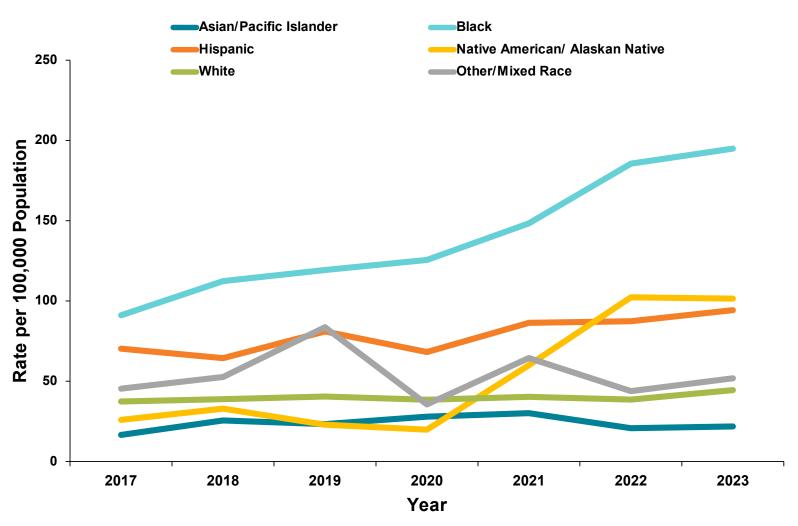




Syphilis (All Stages) Rates by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2017-2023





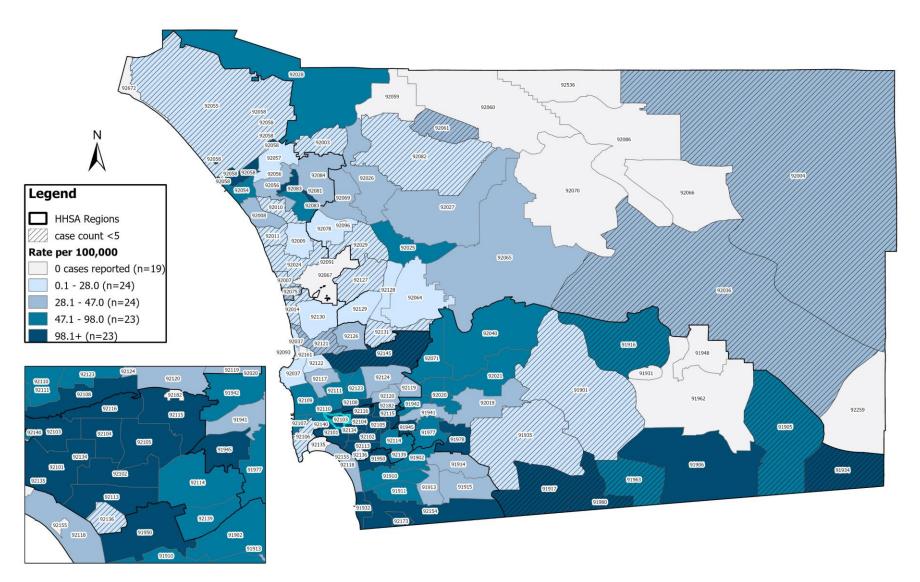


Note: Syphilis (All Stages) rates for Native American/Alaska Native race should be interpreted with caution, as the counts for this race category are small (<20) for all years.

Syphilis (All Stages) Rates by Zip Code, San Diego County, 2023







P&S SYPHILIS



Primary and Secondary Stages of Syphilis







Key Points





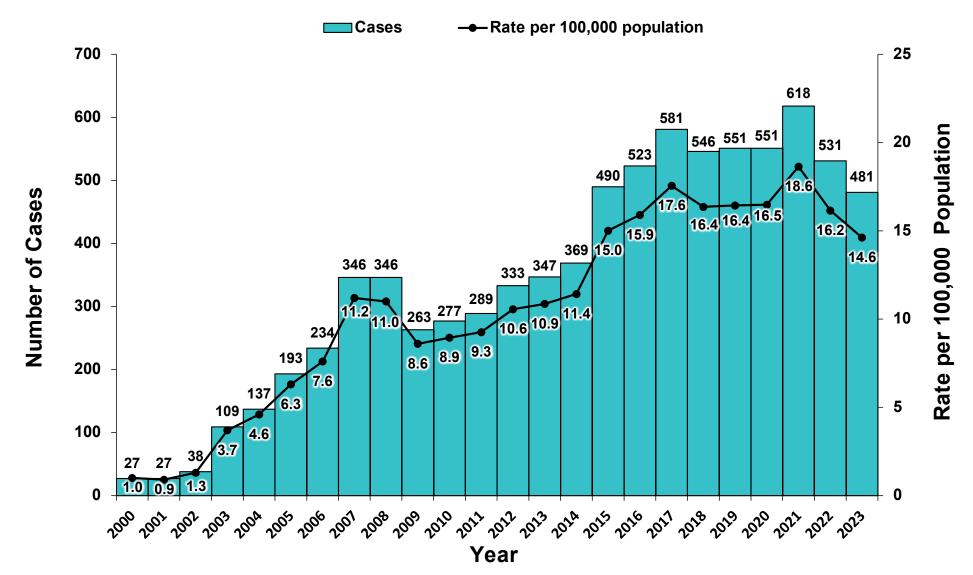
Primary & Secondary Syphilis in San Diego County

- Cases of primary and secondary syphilis decreased by 9.4% from 531 cases in 2022 to 481 cases in 2023.
- The overall rate of primary and secondary syphilis decreased by 9.9% from 16.2 cases per 100,000 in 2022 to 14.6 cases per 100,000 in 2023.
- More than half of primary and secondary syphilis cases (54%) are men who have sex with men (MSM). An estimated 34% of MSM primary and secondary syphilis cases are living with HIV.
- Rates are highest among males aged 25 to 34 years.
- African-American/black males have the highest rate of infection; the rate of infection in African-American/black males is 2.9 times that of white males.

Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases and Rates by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023



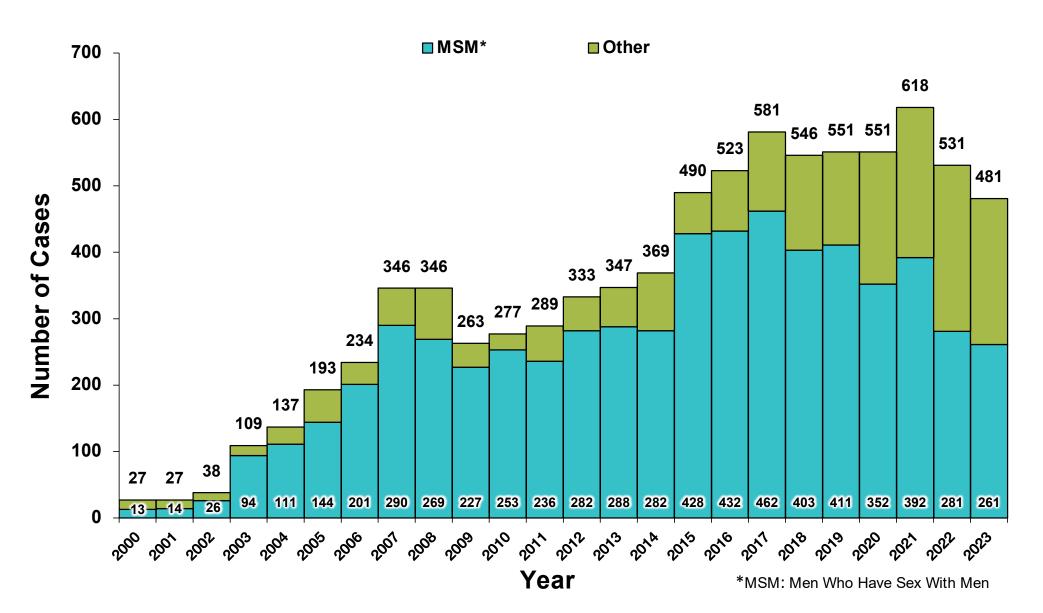




Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023



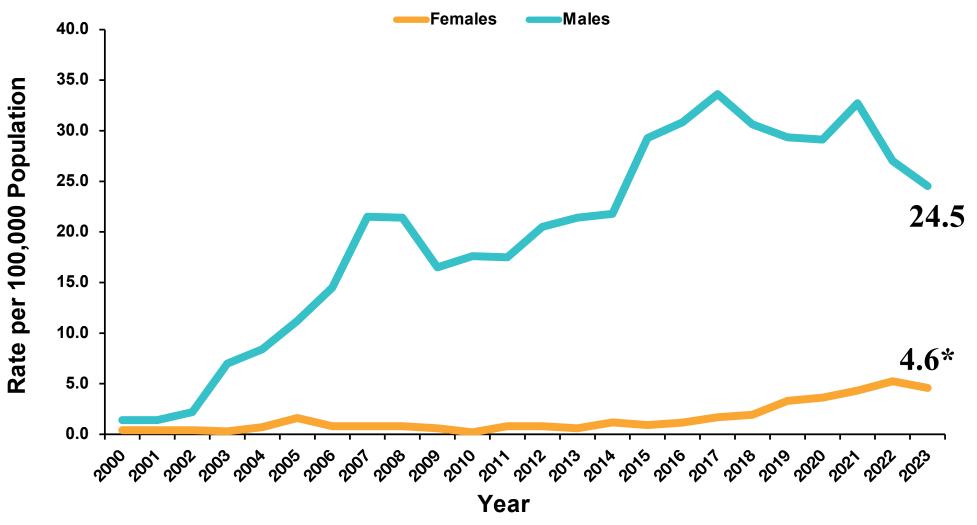




Primary & Secondary Syphilis Rates by Gender and Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023







^{*} Between 2022 and 2023 primary and secondary syphilis rates decreased in both females and males by 11.5% and 9.3%, respectively.

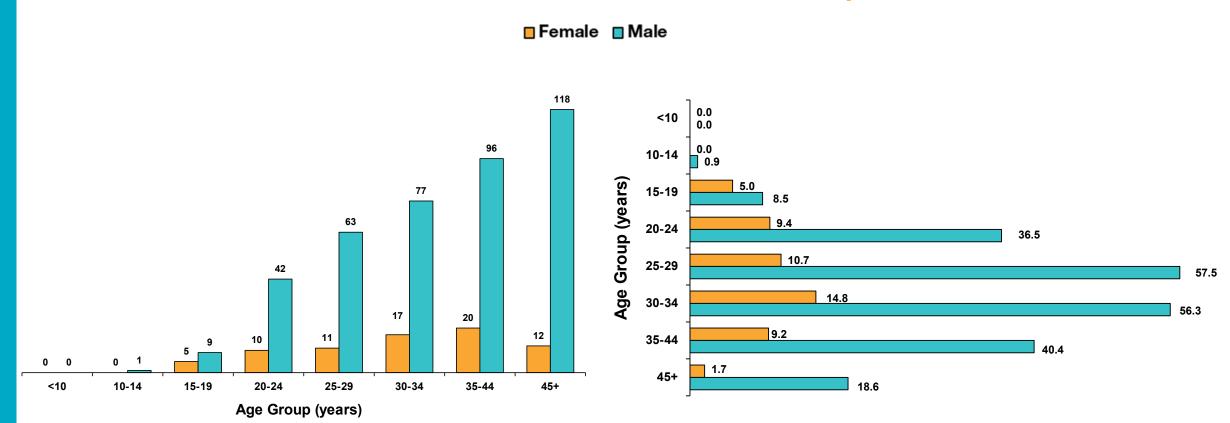
Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases and Rates by Gender and Age, San Diego County, 2023





Cases

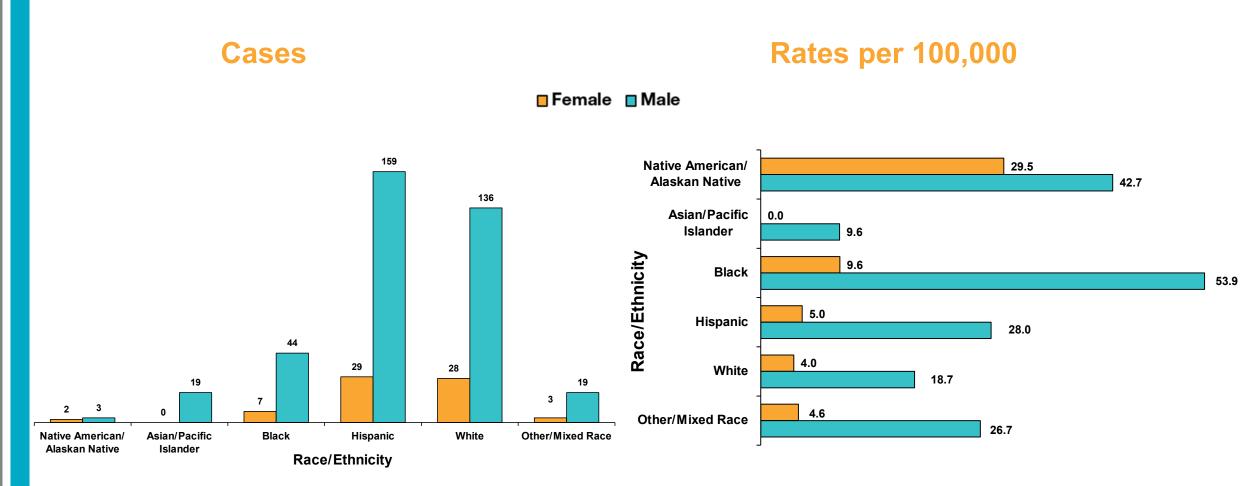
Rates per 100,000



Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023



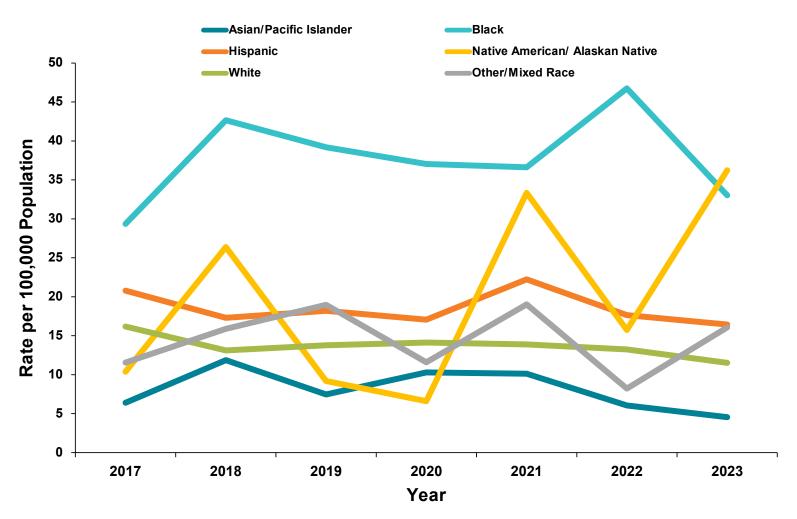




Primary & Secondary Syphilis Rates by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2017-2023





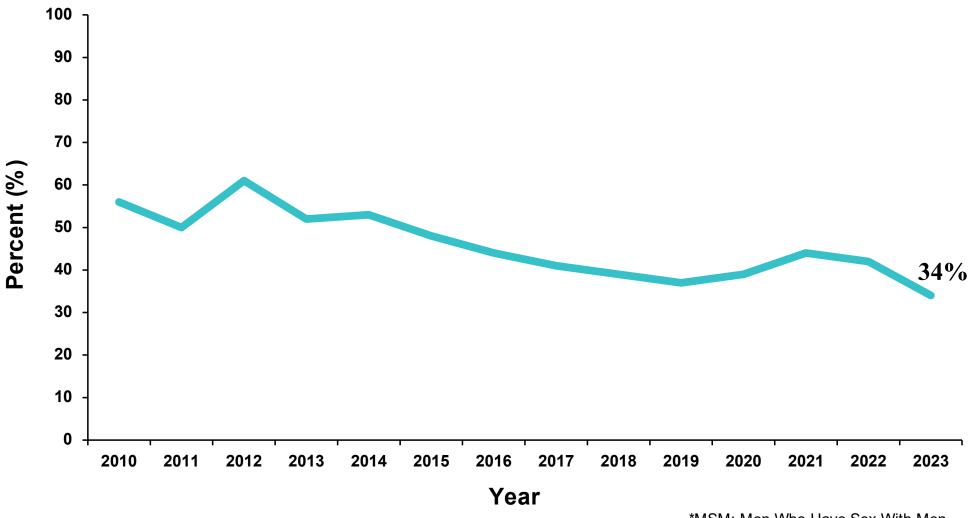


Note: Primary and secondary syphilis rates for Native American/Alaska Native race should be interpreted with caution, as the counts for this race category are small (≤5) for all years.

Percent of MSM* Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases Living with HIV by Year, San Diego County, 2010-2023



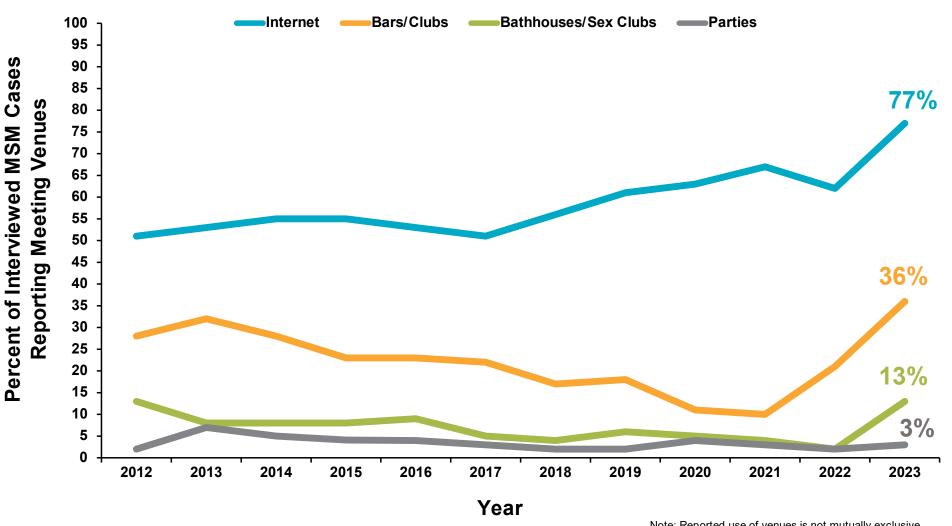




Meeting Venues Reported by Interviewed MSM* Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases, San Diego County, 2012-2023



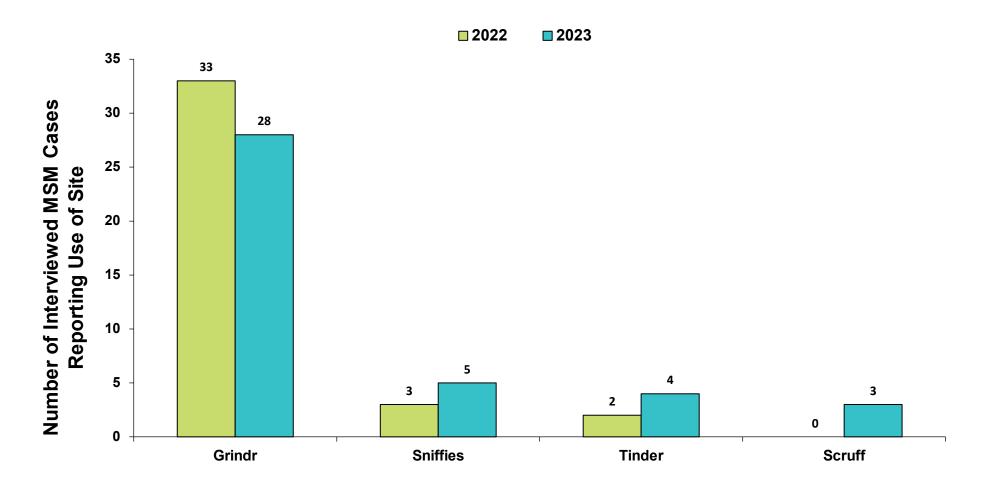




Reported Use of Internet-Based Services* Among MSM** Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases, San Diego County, 2022-2023



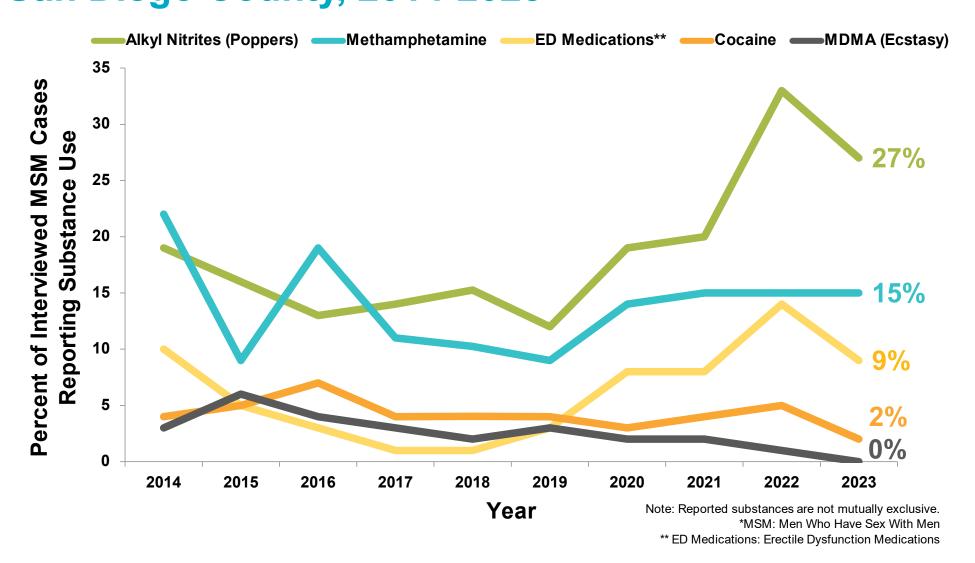




Reported Substance Use of Interviewed MSM* Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases by Year, San Diego County, 2014-2023



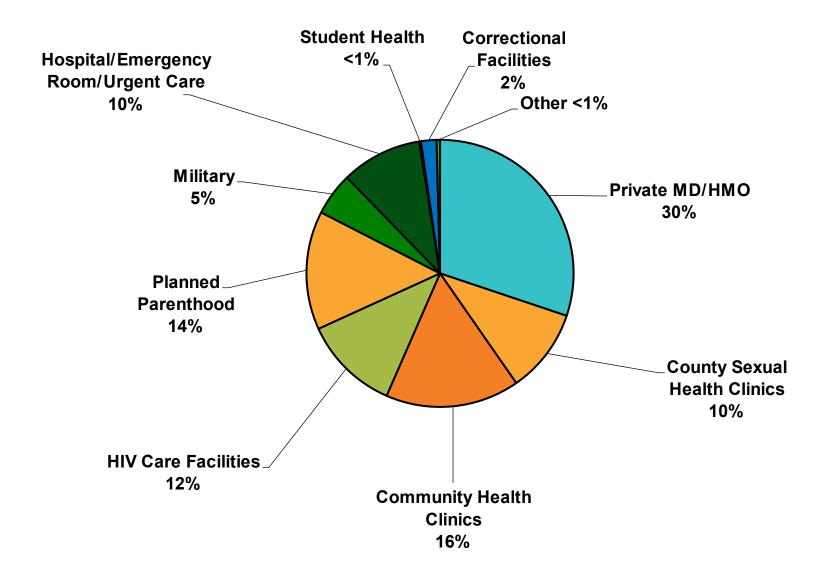




Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases by Reporting Facility Type, San Diego County, 2023



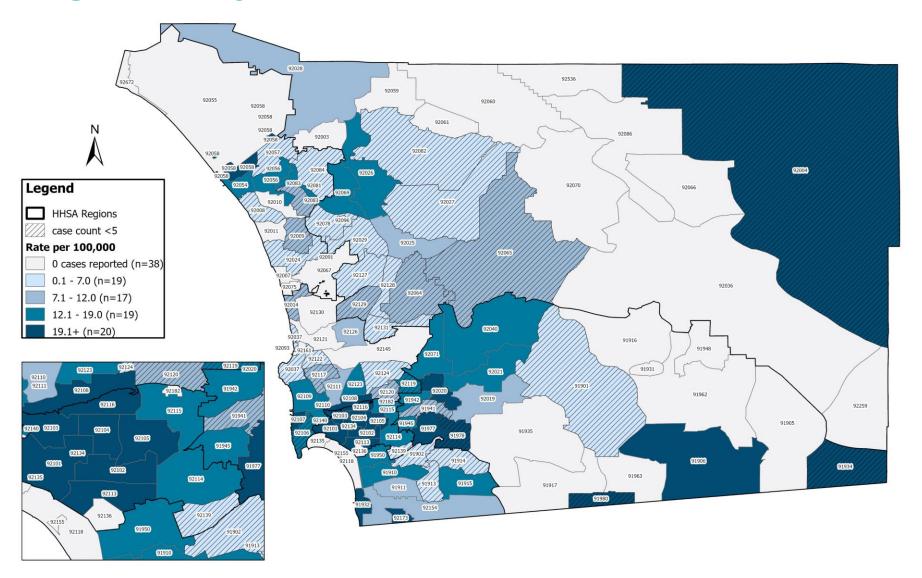




Primary & Secondary Syphilis Rates by Zip Code, San Diego County, 2023







EARLY SYPHILIS



Primary, Secondary, and Early Latent Stages of Syphilis







Key Points





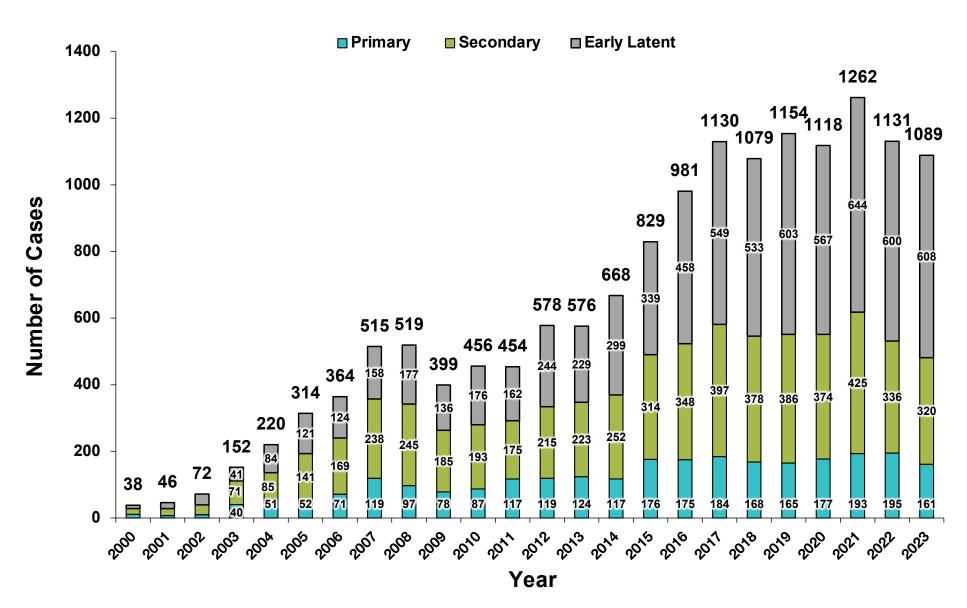
Early Syphilis in San Diego County

- Cases of early syphilis decreased by 3.7% from 1,131 cases in 2022 to 1,089 cases in 2023.
- The overall rate of early syphilis decreased by 3.8% from 34.4 cases per 100,000 in 2022 to 33.1 cases per 100,000 in 2023.
- The majority of early syphilis cases (64.3%) are men who have sex with men (MSM). An estimated 52.8% of MSM early syphilis cases are living with HIV.
- After continued increase since 2017, early syphilis rate in females decreased by 3.4% from 8.7 per 100,000 in 2022 to 8.4 per 100,000 in 2023.
- Rates are highest among males aged 25 to 44 years.
- The highest rates of infection are observed in the African-American/black population. The rate of early syphilis in African-American/black males is 3.0 times that of white males; the rate of early syphilis in African-American/black females is 3.2 times that of white females.

Early Syphilis Cases by Year and Stage, San Diego County, 2000-2023



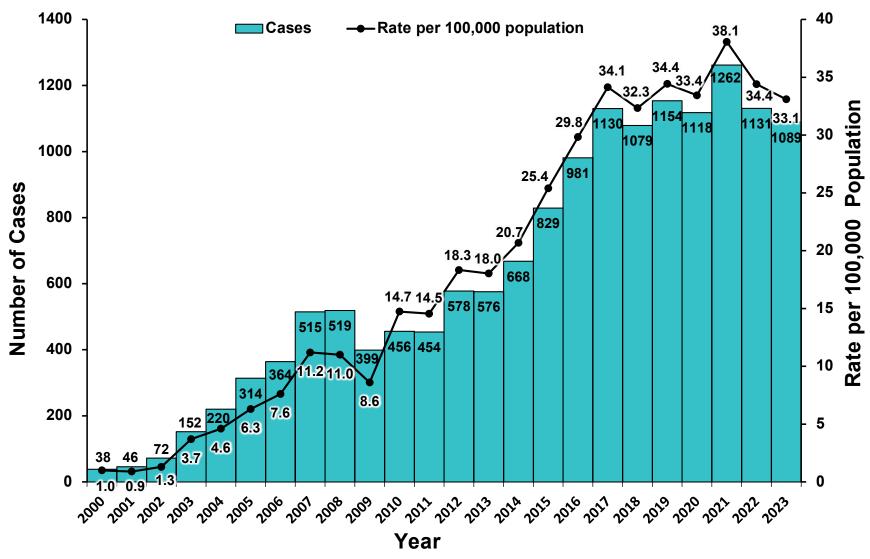




Early Syphilis Cases and Rates by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023



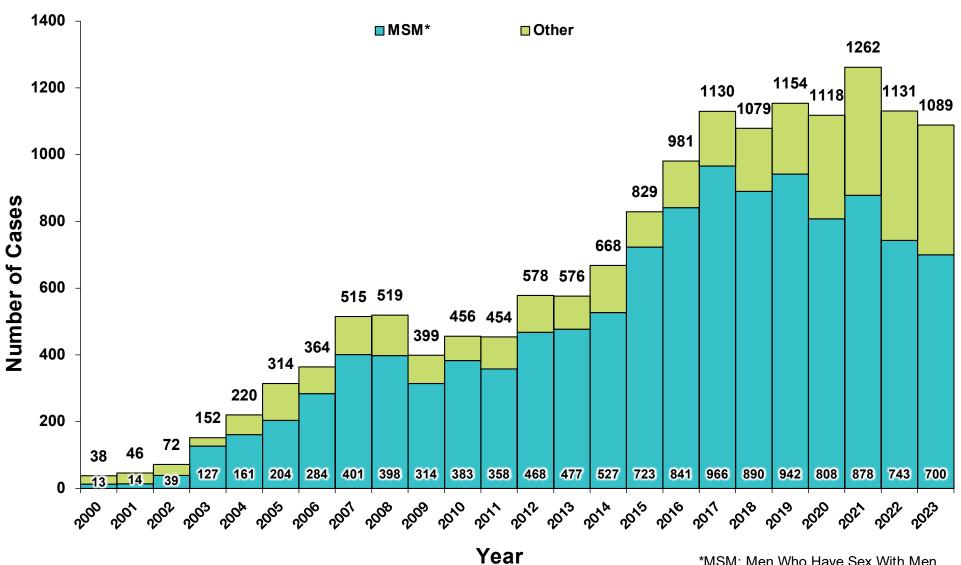




Early Syphilis Cases by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2023



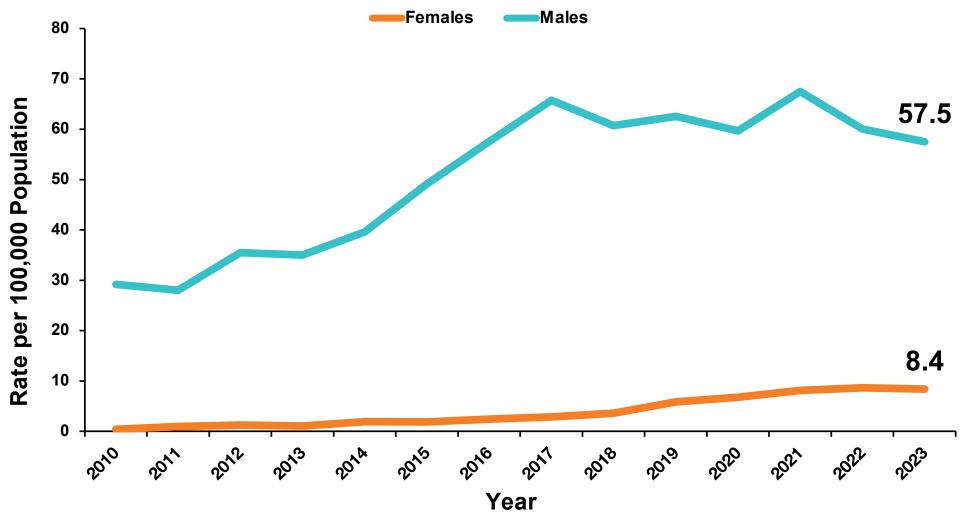




Early Syphilis Rates by Gender and Year, San Diego County, 2010-2023





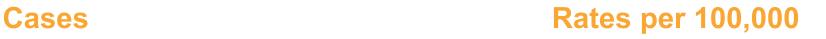


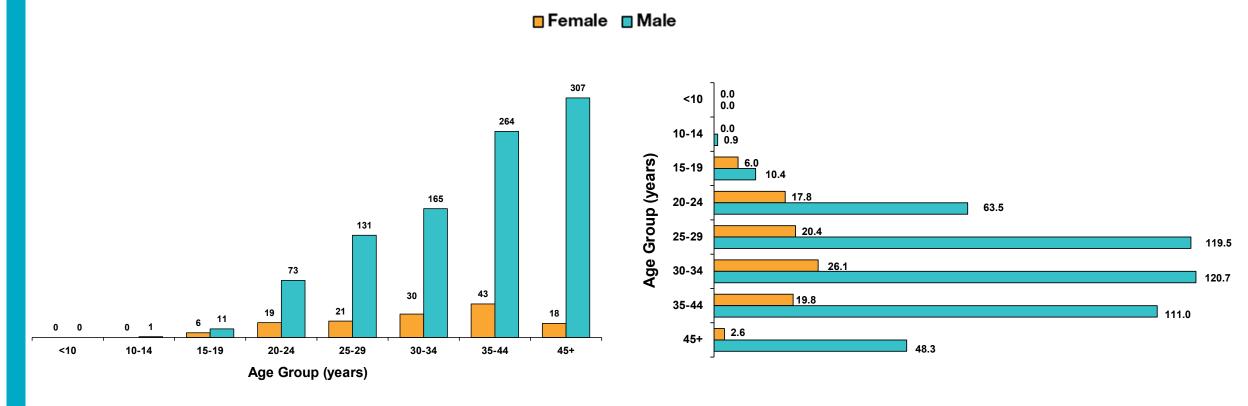
Between 2022 and 2023, the early syphilis cases and rate among females decreased by 3.5% and 3.4%, respectively; the early syphilis cases and rate among males decreased by 3.7% and 4.2%, respectively.

Early Syphilis Cases and Rates by Gender and Age, San Diego County, 2023





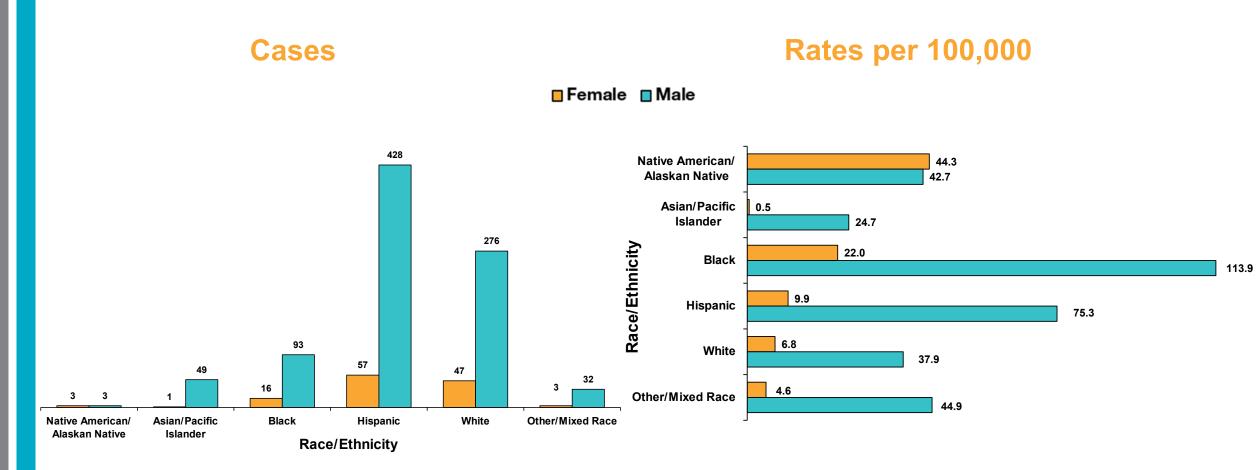




Early Syphilis Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023



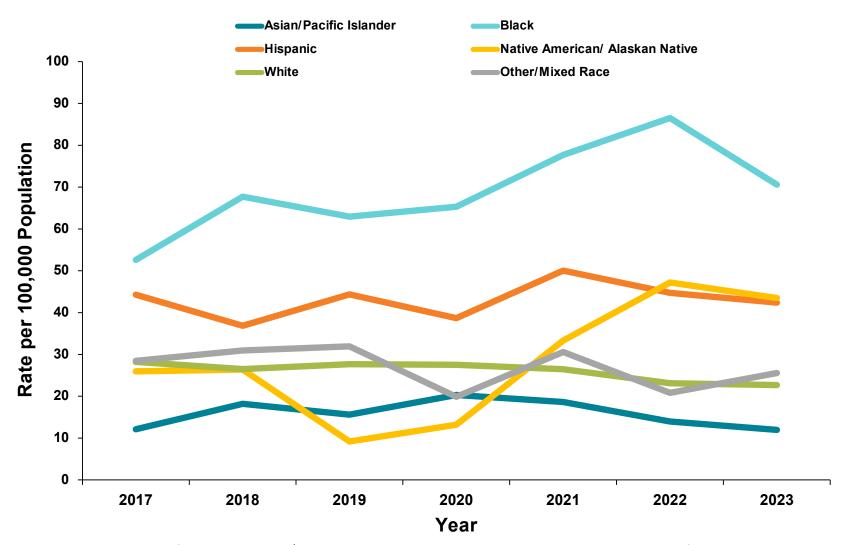




Early Syphilis Rates by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2017-2023





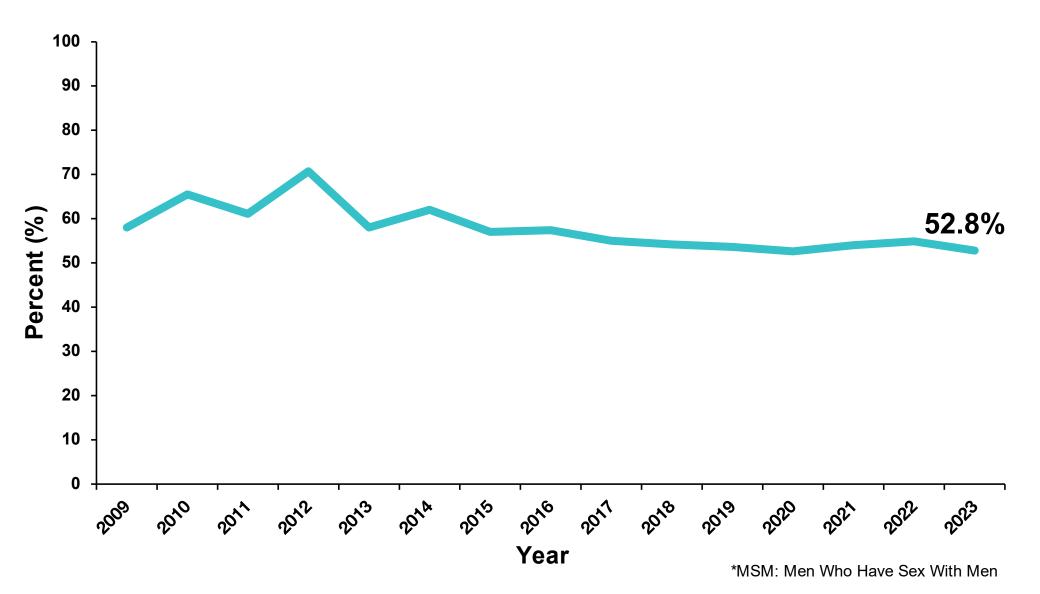


Note: Early syphilis rates for Native American/Alaska Native race should be interpreted with caution, as the counts for this race category are small (< 10) for all years.

Percent of MSM* Early Syphilis Cases Living with HIV by Year, San Diego County, 2009-2023



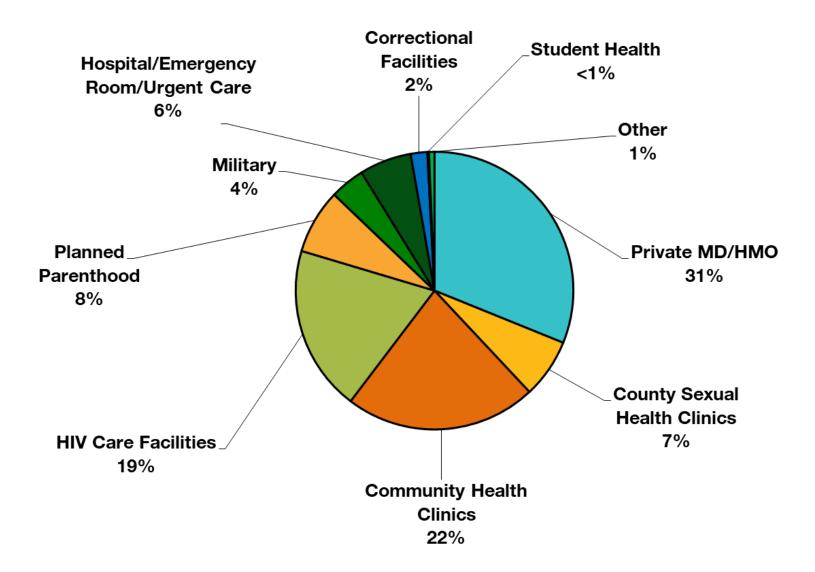




Early Syphilis Cases by Reporting Facility Type, San Diego County, 2023



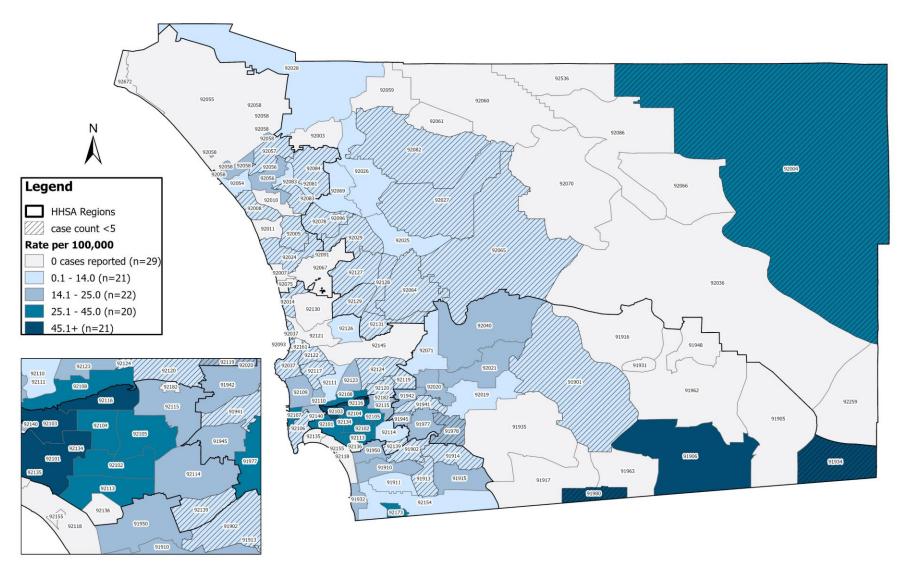




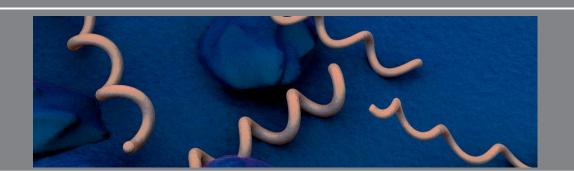
Early Syphilis Rates by Zip Code, San Diego County, 2023







SYPHILIS IN WOMEN & CONGENITAL SYPHILIS









Definitions





Congenital Syphilis Surveillance

- Congenital Syphilis (C.S.): Any infant whose birthing parent had untreated or inadequately treated*
 syphilis at the time of delivery, regardless of findings in the infant or child.
 - Confirmed C.S.: Infant or child in whom *Treponema pallidum* is identified by darkfield microscopy, direct fluorescent antibody, or other specific stains in specimens from lesions, placenta, umbilical cord, or autopsy material.
 - Probable C.S.: Meets case definition of C.S. This may also include an infant or child with a reactive treponemal test for syphilis and evidence of C.S. on physical examination, cerebrospinal fluid analysis, and/or long bone X-ray.
 - Syphilitic Stillbirth: Fetal death in which the birthing parent had untreated or inadequately treated* syphilis at the time of delivery of either a fetus after a 20-week gestation or a fetus weighing >500 grams.

^{*}Inadequate birthing parent treatment refers to incomplete treatment, treatment that is not in accordance with national guidelines, and/or treatment that was not initiated at least 30 days prior to delivery.

Key Points





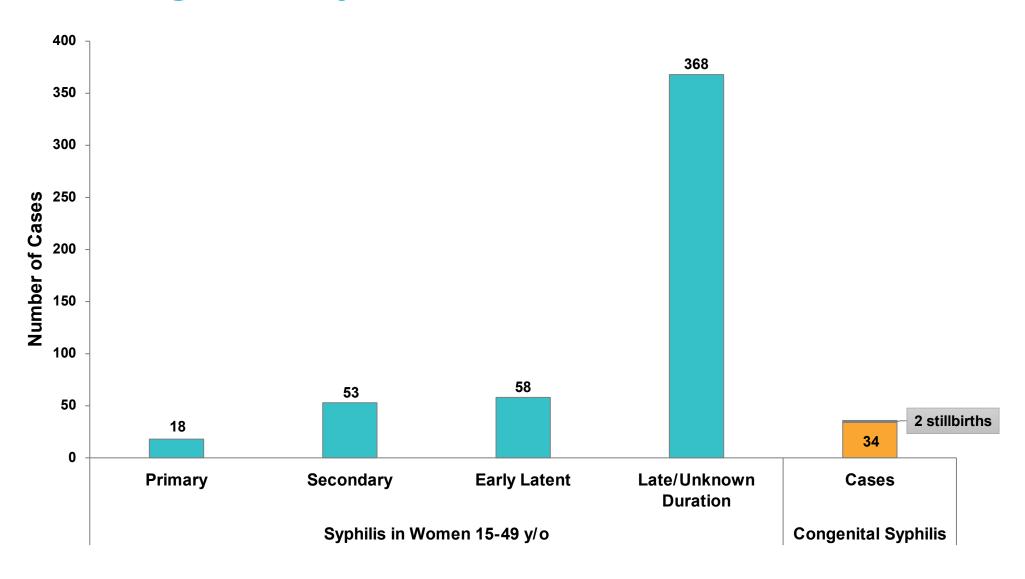
Female & Congenital Syphilis in San Diego County

- Cases and rates of syphilis of any stage and early (i.e., primary, secondary, and early latent) syphilis in females aged
 15-49 years (i.e., women of childbearing potential) have been increasing overall since 2015.
 - Cases of total syphilis (all stages) among 15-49 y/o women increased by 17.2% from 424 cases in 2022 to 497 cases in 2023, and the rate increased by 20.5% from 56.1 cases per 100,000 in 2022 to 67.6 cases per 100,000 in 2023. At the time of diagnosis, 16.3% of total syphilis cases among women of childbearing age were pregnant.
 - The number of early syphilis cases among 15-49 y/o women did not change between 2022 and 2023 (129 cases). At the time of diagnosis, 18.6% of early syphilis cases were pregnant. Among pregnant women, the early syphilis rate increased by 73.7% from 1.9 cases per 100,000 in 2022 to 3.3 cases per 100,000 in 2023.
 - Cases of syphilis of late/unknown duration among 15-49 y/o women increased by 24.7% from 295 cases in 2022 to 368 cases in 2023, and the rate among pregnant women decreased by 10.5% from 8.6 cases per 100,000 in 2022 to 7.7 cases per 100,000 in 2023. Among cases of syphilis of late/unknown duration, 15% were pregnant.
 - Congenital syphilis (CS) cases continued to increase with the highest number of cases reported in 2023. The total of 36 reported CS cases included two syphilitic stillbirths and one infant who was born alive and subsequently died. Compared to 2013 and 2022, congenital syphilis rate in 2023 increased by 1276.8% and 8.2%, respectively.

Cases of Syphilis in Women of Childbearing Age (15-49 y/o) and Congenital Syphilis, San Diego County, 2023



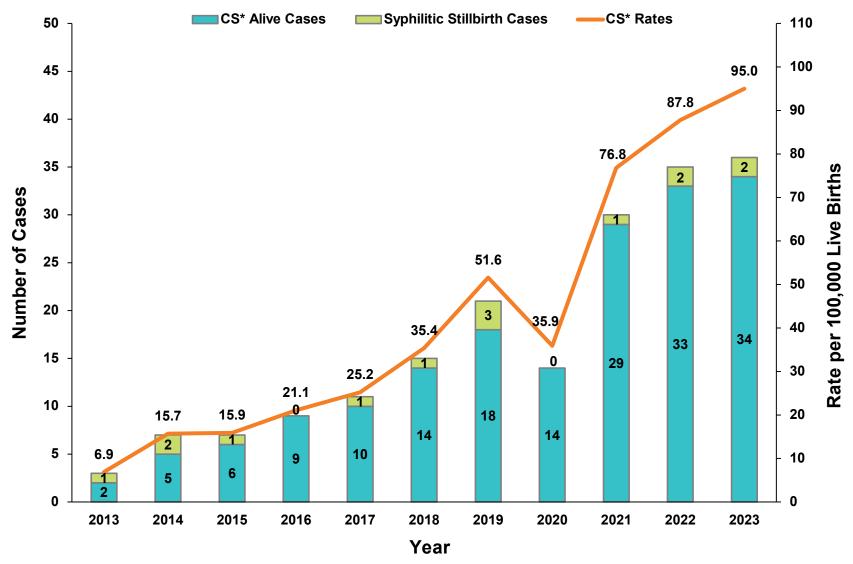




Congenital Syphilis Cases and Rates, San Diego County, 2013-2023





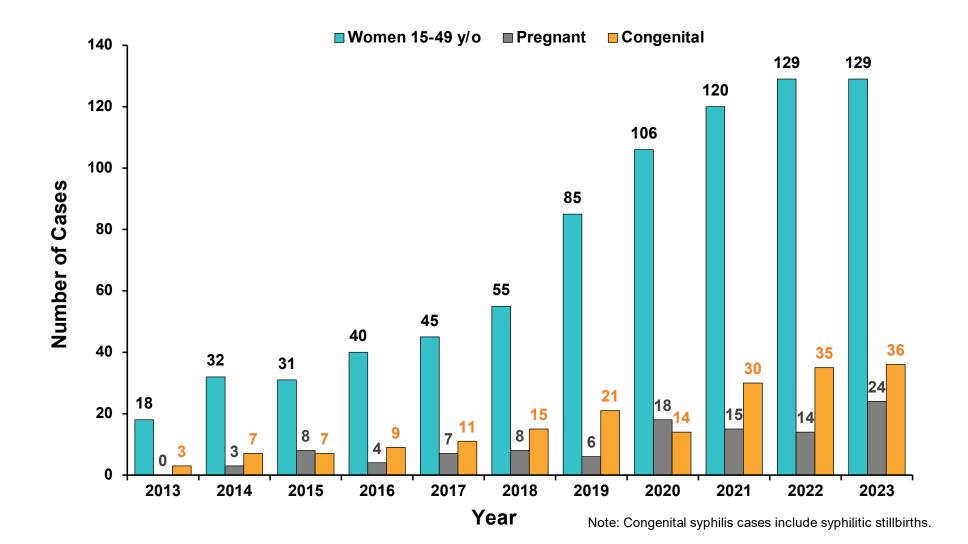


*CS: Congenital Syphilis. Rates for congenital syphilis were defined based on the number of live births and include syphilitic stillbirths. 2023 CS Alive Cases include one case who was born alive, then died.

Cases – Early Syphilis in Women of Childbearing Age (15-49 y/o) & Pregnant Women, Congenital Syphilis, San Diego County, 2013-2023



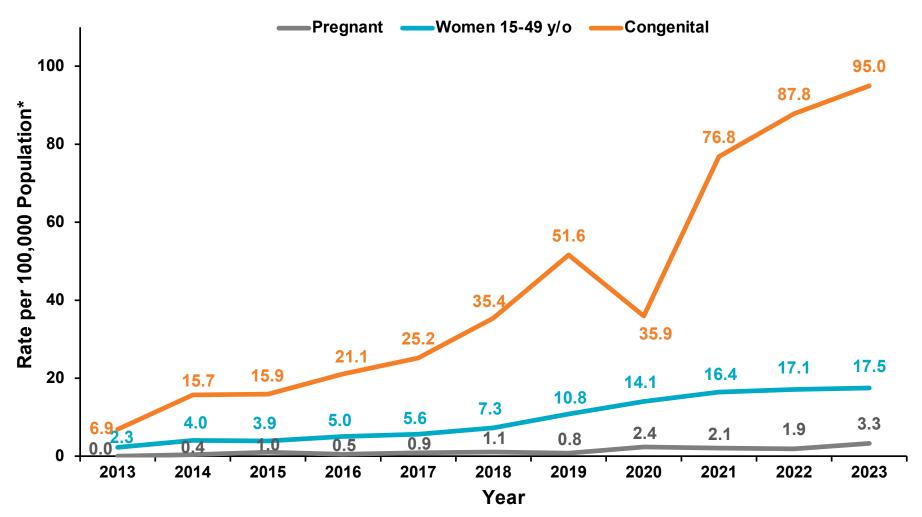




Rates – Early Syphilis in Women of Childbearing Age (15-49 y/o) & Pregnant Women, Congenital Syphilis, San Diego County, 2013-2023



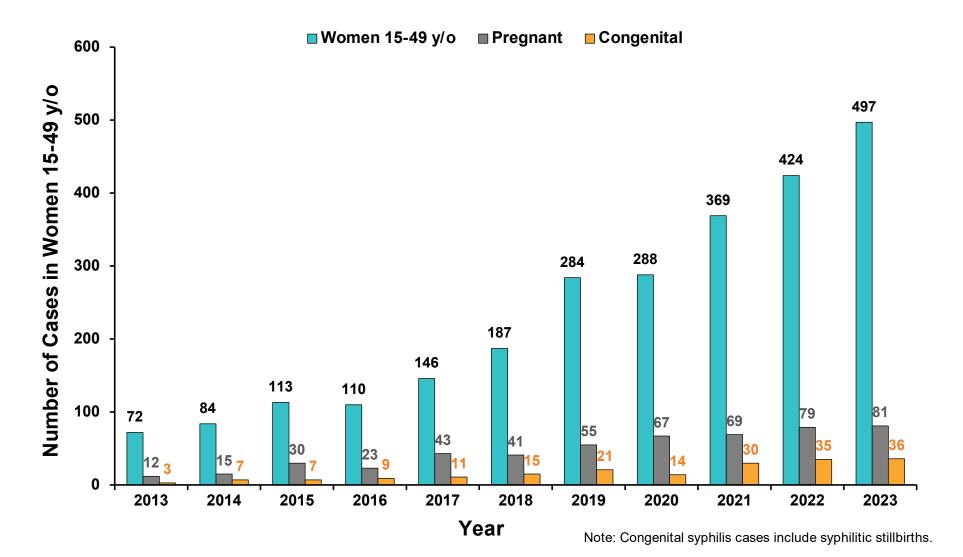




Cases – Syphilis (All Stages) in Women of Childbearing Age (15-49 y/o) & Pregnant Women, Congenital Syphilis, San Diego County, 2013-2023



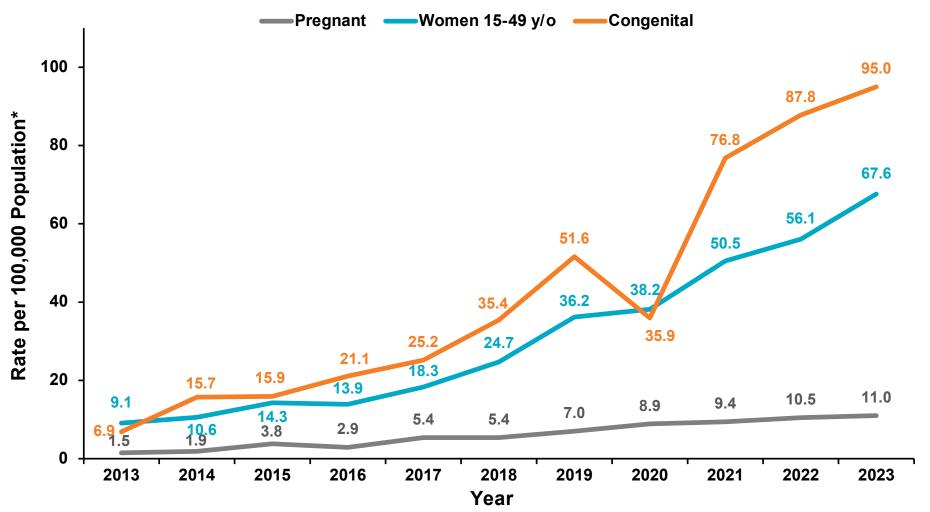




Rates – Syphilis (All Stages) in Women of Childbearing Age (15-49 y/o) & Pregnant Women, Congenital Syphilis, San Diego County, 2013-2023







*Rates for women 15-49 y/o and pregnant women were defined based on population estimates of women 15-49 years of age.

Rates for congenital syphilis were defined based on the number of live births.





Contact Information

For questions or requests for data that are not included in these slides, please send an e-mail to stellosdeounly.ca.gov, or visit www.STDSanDiego.org (click on "Reports and Statistics").



The Public Health Services department, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, has maintained national public health accreditation, since May 17, 2016, and was re-accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board on August 21, 2023.