

# County of San Diego Monthly STD Report

Volume 11, Issue 2: Data through September 2018; Report released March 12, 2019.



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

	Sep	2017 Previous 12- Month Period*	Sep	2018 Previous 12- Month Period*
Chlamydia	1719	20486	1719	21774
Female age 18-25	648	7701	597	8211
Female age ≤ 17	76	869	84	968
Male rectal chlamydia	22	509	78	934
Gonorrhea	503	5725	414	6164
Female age 18-25	62	698	56	945
Female age ≤ 17	8	106	7	97
Male rectal gonorrhea	70	832	57	753
Early Syphilis (adult total)	85	1100	108	1088
Primary	15	186	17	173
Secondary	33	388	41	377
Early latent	37	526	50	538
Congenital syphilis	1	12	3	17

\* Cumulative case count of the previous 12 months.

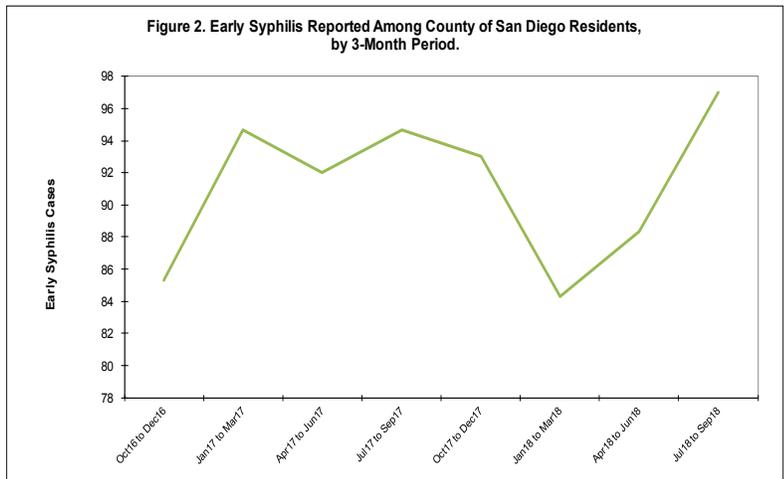
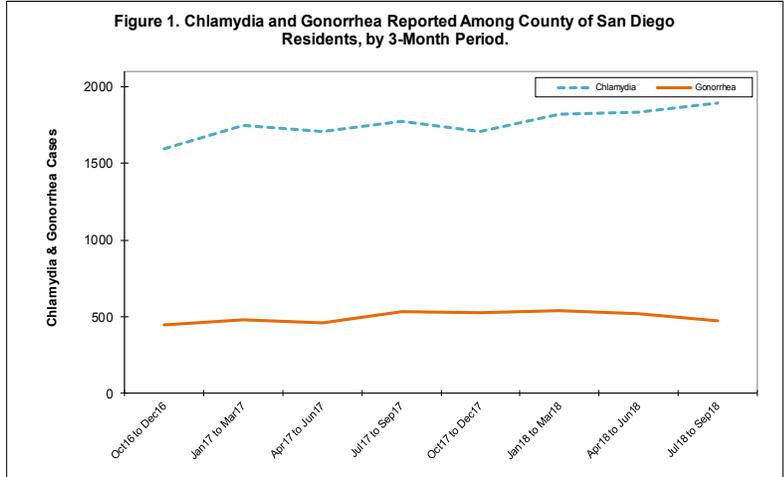
**Table 2. Selected STD Cases and Annualized Rates per 100,000 Population for San Diego County by Age and Race/Ethnicity, Year-to-Date.**

	All Races*		Asian/PI		Black		Hispanic		White	
	cases	rate	cases	rate	cases	rate	cases	rate	cases	rate
<i>All ages</i>										
Chlamydia	16648	670.7	270	91.5	667	563.1	1044	125.9	1728	150.4
Gonorrhea	4583	184.6	109	36.9	472	398.5	967	116.6	898	78.2
Early Syphilis	811	32.7	52	17.6	77	65.0	315	38.0	311	27.1
<i>Under 20 yrs</i>										
Chlamydia	2921	473.9	23	37.1	130	453.7	173	61.8	237	114.2
Gonorrhea	420	68.1	6	9.7	50	174.5	112	40.0	60	28.9
Early Syphilis	15	2.4	2	3.2	0	0.0	9	3.2	4	1.9

Note: Rates calculated using 2017 Preliminary Population Estimates; County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services Division, Community Health Statistics Unit. 7/2018.

\* 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.



## Editorial Note: *Don't Think, Know*: Home Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Testing Program for Young Women

In 2013, the HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch (HSHB) of Public Health Services, with support from the California Department of Public Health, launched *Don't Think, Know*, a free, chlamydia and gonorrhea home test kit for female San Diego County residents under 25 years old. Since its inception, almost 1,000 kits have been ordered, with just over half of those returned for testing, with an overall positivity rate of 13%.

Youth, and young women of color in particular, bear a disproportionate burden of chlamydia infections. In 2017, 20,801 cases of chlamydia were reported in San Diego County, 39% of which were among women under 25 years old. That same year, 5,947 cases of gonorrhea were reported in San Diego County, 13% of which were among women under 25 years old. Without treatment, both infections can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, tubal scarring, ectopic pregnancy, and infertility.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea in sexually active women aged 24 years and younger (and in older women who are at increased risk for infection)<sup>[1]</sup>. However, many young women experience barriers to accessing testing, including lack of transportation, lack of a nearby clinic, privacy concerns, or financial burden. *Don't Think, Know* addresses many of these barriers by allowing young women to order and complete a free and confidential test in the privacy of their own homes.

The kit can be ordered from [DontThinkKnow.org](http://DontThinkKnow.org) or via phone and can be sent to any address within San Diego County. The kit contains a vaginal swab with instructions for specimen self-collection. Users will receive either a text or e-mail message approximately one week later, letting them know that they can retrieve their results securely online. County staff follow up with all women with positive result(s) to verify treatment or to assist with accessing treatment if needed.

HSHB has recently updated the promotional materials for *Don't Think, Know* and created short video ads that are currently running on various social media platforms. If you would like promotional materials to share with your clients or patients, including posters, palm cards, digital artwork, or ads for your website or social media site, please email [SanDiego@dontthinkknow.org](mailto:SanDiego@dontthinkknow.org).