

# County of San Diego Monthly STD Report

Volume 13, Issue 9: Data through April 2021; Report released October 4, 2021.



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

	2020		2021	
	Apr	Previous 12-Month Period*	Apr	Previous 12-Month Period*
Chlamydia	1073	21777	1490	17755
Female age 18-25	403	8017	558	6681
Female age ≤ 17	44	803	52	603
Male rectal chlamydia	41	1243	115	1274
Gonorrhea	343	6272	707	6968
Female age 18-25	55	1012	103	1064
Female age ≤ 17	6	97	14	133
Male rectal gonorrhea	25	742	127	1013
Early Syphilis (adult total)	61	1086	114	1219
Primary	13	155	19	203
Secondary	16	354	29	413
Early latent	32	577	66	603
Congenital syphilis	1	20	3	15

\* 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.**

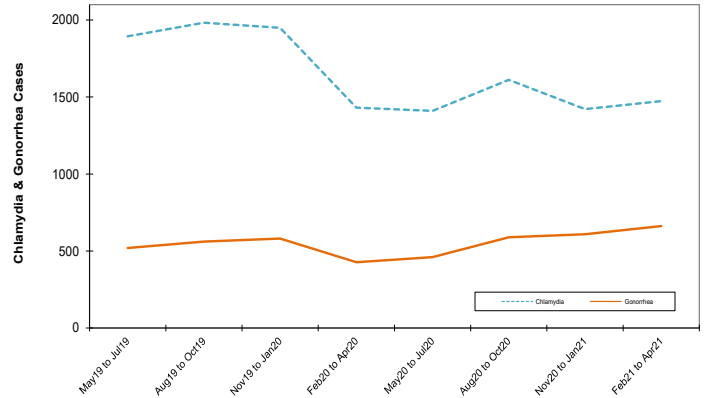
	All Races*		Asian/PI		Black		Hispanic		White	
	cases	rate	cases	rate	cases	rate	cases	rate	cases	rate
<i>All ages</i>										
Chlamydia	5855	524.0	154	104.6	196	349.1	545	149.5	697	138.4
Gonorrhea	2627	235.1	80	54.3	228	406.0	411	112.8	506	100.5
Early Syphilis	452	40.5	22	14.9	49	87.3	199	54.6	143	28.4
<i>Under 20 yrs</i>										
Chlamydia	924	319.6	17	53.1	28	199.5	74	61.1	113	107.5
Gonorrhea	247	85.4	6	18.7	16	114.0	27	22.3	31	29.5
Early Syphilis	5	1.7	0	0.0	1	7.1	2	1.7	1	1.0

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.

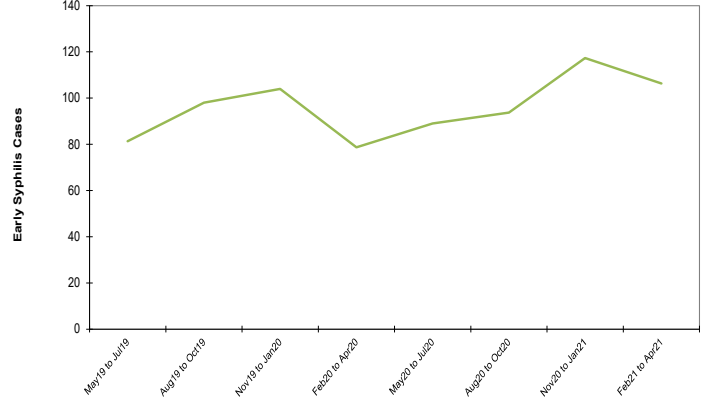
\* Includes cases designated as "other," "unknown," or missing race/ethnicity.

**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: Re-launch of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Home Testing Program, I Know – [www.DontThinkKnow.org](http://www.DontThinkKnow.org)

In 2013, with support from the California Department of Public Health, the HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch (HSHB) of Public Health Services launched *I Know*, a program that provides free home vaginal test kits for chlamydia and gonorrhea to San Diego County residents under 25 years of age. The website, [DontThinkKnow.org](http://DontThinkKnow.org), has recently been revamped and relaunched, and users may once again order a free home test kit.

Youth, particularly young women of color, bear a disproportionate burden of chlamydia infections. In 2019, a total of 23,007 cases of chlamydia were reported in San Diego County, 37% of which were among women under 25 years of age. That same year, a total of 6,395 cases of gonorrhea were reported in San Diego County, 16% of which were among women under 25 years of age [1]. Without treatment, both infections can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, tubal scarring, ectopic pregnancy, and infertility.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force issued a Grade B recommendation for 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) [2]. However, many young women experience barriers to accessing testing, including lack of transportation, lack of a nearby clinic, privacy concerns, or financial burden. *I 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.

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## Editorial Note (Continued):

The kit can be ordered in English or Spanish from [DontThinkKnow.org](http://DontThinkKnow.org) or via phone by calling (619) 692-KNOW (5669) 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 users with positive result(s) to verify treatment or to assist with accessing treatment if needed.

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).

A screenshot of the website's header and main banner. The header is purple and contains "San Diego County Change Location", "English", and "Login". Below the header is a navigation bar with icons for "Order a Test", "Testing Instructions", "Care Near You", "Facts &amp; FAQ", and "Home". The main banner features a woman's portrait and the text "Each year over 15,000 women in San Diego County get chlamydia or gonorrhea." with "ORDER A HOME TEST" and "GET RESULTS" buttons. Below the banner are three sections: "Why Get Tested?", "Who Can Get Tested?", and "How Does It Work?".