

County of San Diego Monthly STD Report

Volume 14, Issue 1: Data through August 2021; Report released February 4, 2022.



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

	2020		2021	
	August	Previous 12-Month Period*	August	Previous 12-Month Period*
Chlamydia	1567	19889	1419	17852
Female age 18-25	612	7534	498	6555
Female age ≤ 17	58	725	56	607
Male rectal chlamydia	95	1119	128	1402
Gonorrhea	537	6079	716	7948
Female age 18-25	81	993	108	1204
Female age ≤ 17	8	107	15	146
Male rectal gonorrhea	62	706	127	1281
Early Syphilis (adult total)	92	1121	102	1290
Primary	14	171	18	200
Secondary	35	382	30	422
Early latent	43	568	54	668
Congenital syphilis	1	19	0	23

* 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	11750	527.2	299	121.6	421	396.4	1119	146.9	1315	128.4
Gonorrhea	5526	247.9	160	65.0	444	418.1	888	116.5	1030	100.6
Early Syphilis	883	39.6	49	19.9	93	87.6	377	49.5	290	28.3
<i>Under 20 yrs</i>										
Chlamydia	1811	307.9	28	43.2	77	275.3	181	90.0	207	76.7
Gonorrhea	478	81.3	8	12.3	41	146.6	61	30.3	58	21.5
Early Syphilis	15	2.5	1	1.5	2	7.2	8	4.0	3	1.1

Note: Rates are calculated using 2020 Population Estimates; County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services Division, Community Health Statistics Unit. 8/2021.

* 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.

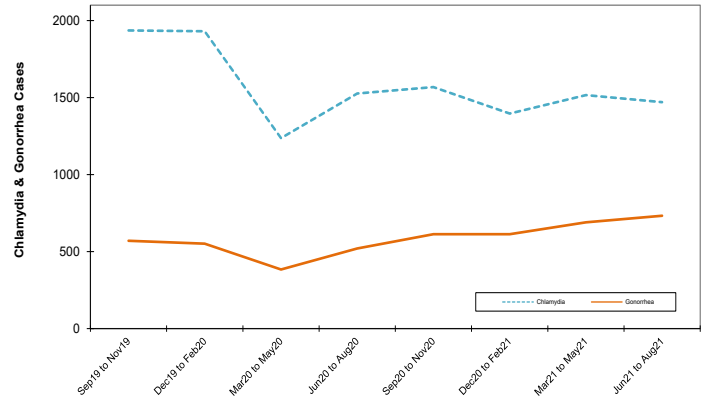
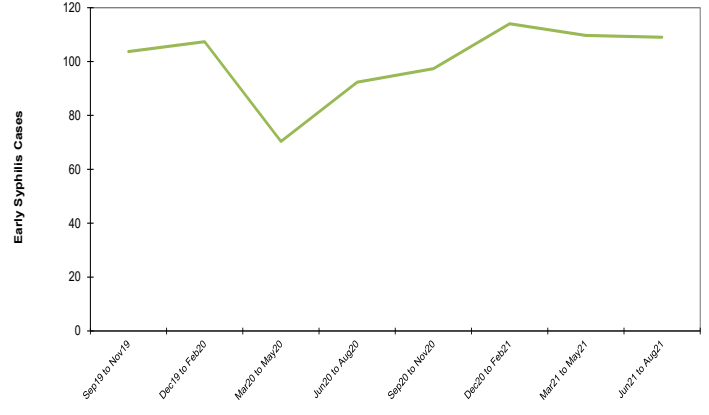


Figure 2. Early Syphilis Reported Among County of San Diego Residents, by 3-Month Period.



Editorial Note: 2020 STD Surveillance Data Slides Are Available Online

2020 STD surveillance data slides for San Diego County are now available [online](https://www.stdsandiego.org). While STD cases and rates remain among the highest observed over the last three decades, there were decreases compared to 2019 (see Figure 3). These decreases are likely attributable to effects of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, including stay-at-home orders, social/physical distancing and facial covering measures, and decreased access to STD testing and screening. The largest decreases were observed for infections that are more likely to be asymptomatic and detected by routine screening (e.g., chlamydia, extragenital gonorrhea and chlamydia), and reported cases and rates were higher during the final two quarters of 2020 compared to the first two quarters. The long-term trajectory of the STD epidemics remains to be seen. Significant health disparities, with disproportionate impacts on youth (particularly young women), black/African-American and Hispanic/Latinx residents, and men who have sex with men (MSM), persist.

In 2020, there were:

- 18,170 cases of chlamydia (21.0% decrease from 2019), with a rate of 543.5 cases per 100,000 population (20.8% decrease from 2019)
- 6,060 cases of gonorrhea (5.2% decrease from 2019), with a rate of 181.3 cases per 100,000 population (5.0% decrease from 2019)
- 551 cases of primary and secondary syphilis (unchanged from 2019), with a rate of 16.5 cases per 100,000 population (0.6% increase from 2019)
- 1,118 cases of early (i.e., primary, secondary, and early latent) syphilis (3.1% decrease from 2019), with a rate of 33.4 cases per 100,000 population (2.9% decrease from 2019)
- 14 cases of congenital syphilis (33.3% decrease from 2019), with a rate of 35.9 cases per 100,000 live births (30.4% decrease from 2019)
- No reported syphilitic stillbirths

County of San Diego Monthly STD Report

Volume 14, Issue 1: Data through August 2021; Report released February 4, 2022.



Editorial Note (Continued):

Providers can help to decrease STDs by: normalizing sexual health discussions with patients; providing welcoming, inclusive, and stigma-free spaces for patients to address sexual health issues; providing easy access to STD testing recommended by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [United States Preventive Services Task Force](#); and promptly treating STDs according to the [2021 CDC STI Treatment Guidelines](#). Providers also can facilitate timely public health intervention for priority STDs and help to ensure the accuracy of local surveillance data by [reporting cases of notifiable STDs](#) (e.g., syphilis, gonorrhea) within the timeframes specified in Title 17, Section 2500 of the California Code of Regulations.

