



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health
Division of HIV and STD Programs

2013 Sexually Transmitted Diseases¹ Fact Sheet

CHLAMYDIA

How common is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is the most commonly reported sexually transmitted disease (STD) in Los Angeles County (LAC), the US and California¹. In 2013, there were 48,080 cases of chlamydia reported to the LAC Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP). This corresponds to a rate of 511 per 100,000 LAC residents.

How has the chlamydia trend changed in the past 5 years?

From 2009-2013, the number of cases of chlamydia reported to DHSP has increased by nearly 10%. This increase is slightly lower than the 14% increase that occurred throughout California over this time period².

Which populations are most impacted by chlamydia?

Females: Nearly two-thirds of all LAC chlamydia cases reported to DHSP in 2013 and 67% in California occurred among females.

Youth and young adults: Despite accounting for roughly 15% of the total LAC population and 15% of the California population, persons ages 15-24 accounted for 59% of the chlamydia cases reported to DHSP in 2013 and 60% of the cases reported in California².

African Americans and Latinos: The rate of chlamydia among African Americans is 2.5 times higher than the rate among Latinos and almost 6 times higher than the rate among whites. The rate of chlamydia among Latinos is more than double that of whites.

Which geographic regions of the county are most impacted by chlamydia?

Compared to other STDs, chlamydia morbidity is more geographically dispersed throughout LAC. Nonetheless, 21% of all reported cases occurred among residents living in the South (SPA 6) region which includes 11% of the total 2013 LAC population. The rate of chlamydia in the South region (954 per 100,000) is three times higher than in the region with the lowest rate (West-SPA 5, 313 per 100,000).

GONORRHEA

How common is gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is the second most commonly reported STD in Los Angeles County (LAC). In 2013, there were 12,484 cases of gonorrhea reported to DHSP. This corresponds to a rate of 133 per 100,000 LAC residents.

How has the gonorrhea trend changed in the past 5 years?

From 2009-2013, the number of cases of gonorrhea reported to DHSP increased by 47%. This increase is lower than the 60% increase that occurred throughout California over this time period².

Which populations are most impacted by gonorrhea?

Youth and young adults: Despite accounting for roughly 15% of the total LAC population and 15% of the California population, persons ages 15-24 accounted for 43% of the gonorrhea cases reported to DHSP in 2013 and 40% of the cases reported in California².

African Americans: The rate of gonorrhea among African Americans is 5 times higher than the rates among whites or Latinos.

Men who have sex with men (MSM): Among clients who tested for gonorrhea at any of the 12 STD clinics operated by the LAC Department of Public Health in 2013, the positivity rate among MSM was 17.8%. This is substantially higher than the positivity rates among both heterosexual males (4.9%) and females (4.2%).

Which geographic regions of the county are most impacted by gonorrhea?

Although gonorrhea cases are reported from all areas of the county, 28% and 21% of all cases reported to DHSP in 2013 occurred among residents living in the Metro (SPA 4) and South (SPA 6) regions, respectively. The rates of gonorrhea in these areas (Metro - 301 per 100,000; South 246 per 100,000) are substantially higher than in the region with the lowest rate (San Gabriel-SPA 3, 63 per 100,000). In addition, although only 13% of LAC's 15-24 year olds live in the South (SPA 6) region, 29% of total LAC gonorrhea cases in persons ages 15-24 occurred among residents living in the South (SPA 6) region.

SYPHILIS

How common is syphilis?

Syphilis is the third most commonly reported STD in Los Angeles County (LAC). Syphilis infections are classified into stages and in 2013 there were 1,014 cases (11 per 100,000) of Primary and Secondary (P&S) syphilis, 1,322 cases (14 per 100,000) of early latent (EL) syphilis and 1,375 cases (15 per 100,000) of late latent/unknown duration syphilis reported to DHSP, respectively. P&S syphilis is of greatest concern due to the infectious nature of this stage of the disease.

How has the syphilis trend changed in the past 5 years?

From 2009-2013, the number of cases of P&S syphilis reported to DHSP has increased by 44%. This increase is considerably lower than the 76% increase that has occurred throughout California over this time period².

Which populations are most impacted by syphilis?

Men: 95% of the P&S syphilis cases reported to DHSP in 2013 occurred among males.

African Americans: The P&S syphilis rate among African American males is 2.5 times higher than the corresponding rate in white males.

Men who have sex with men (MSM): Excluding cases that were missing information on sexual orientation, 88% of all P&S syphilis cases among males that were reported to DHSP in 2013 occurred among MSM.

Individuals co-infected with HIV: 44% of all P&S syphilis cases among MSM that were reported to DHSP in 2013 had a confirmed co-infection with HIV.

Which geographic regions of the county are most impacted by syphilis?

Although P&S cases are reported from all areas of the county, 39% of all cases reported to DHSP in 2013 occurred among residents living in the Metro (SPA 4) region. The rate of P&S syphilis in this area (34 per 100,000) is three times higher than in the region with the next highest rate (South - SPA 6, 11 per 100,000).

¹ All 2013 LAC STD numbers, population denominators and rates are provisional and exclude the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena.

² California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch. "Sexually Transmitted Disease Data Tables." Online posting, 2 Sept. 2014, <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Pages/STDDDataTables.aspx>