

Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Texas

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in Texas and across the U.S. STDs can infect both men and women and are especially common in youth ages 15-24. STD infection often causes no symptoms. Both chlamydia and gonorrhea can cause health problems if left untreated, including infertility. Gonorrhea can also cause blindness in newborn babies.

Since 2010, chlamydia cases have increased 31% and gonorrhea cases have increased 80% in the U.S.

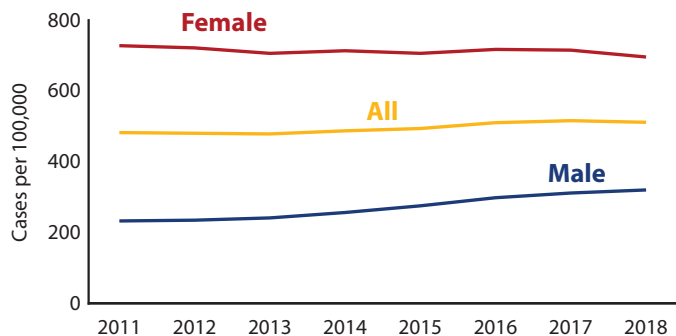
Chlamydia in Texas

- In 2018, there were 145,874 reported chlamydia cases, a rate of 508 cases per 100,000 Texans.
- In 2018, youth ages 15-24 had the highest reported rate of chlamydia (2,310 cases per 100,000), accounting for 64% of chlamydia cases in Texas (n=93,136).
- The reported chlamydia case rate among men has risen each year between 2011 and 2018, going from 229 to 317 per 100,000 males.
- The reported chlamydia case rate among all populations has risen each year between 2011 and 2018, going from 479 to 508 per 100,000 Texans.

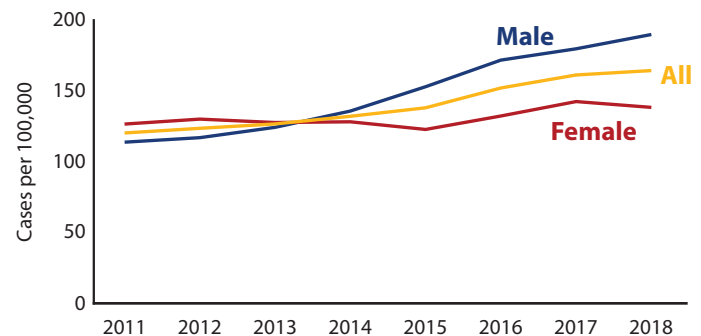
Gonorrhea in Texas

- In 2018, there were 46,958 gonorrhea cases reported in Texas, a rate of 163 cases per 100,000 Texans.
- In 2018, youth ages 15-24 had the highest reported rate of gonorrhea (580 per 100,000), accounting for half of all gonorrhea cases (n=23,403).
- Between 2011 and 2018, gonorrhea cases in Texas increased by 4% to 12% each year.

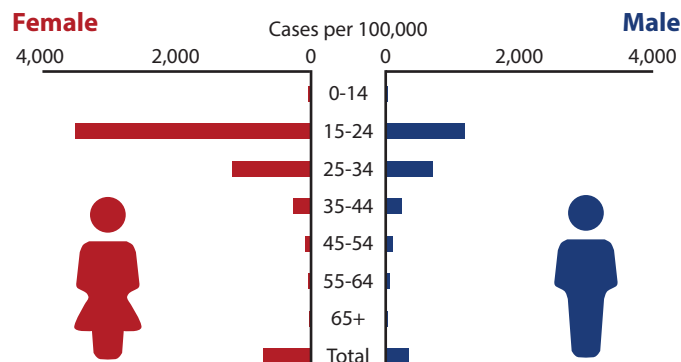
Chlamydia Rate by Sex in Texas, 2011-2018



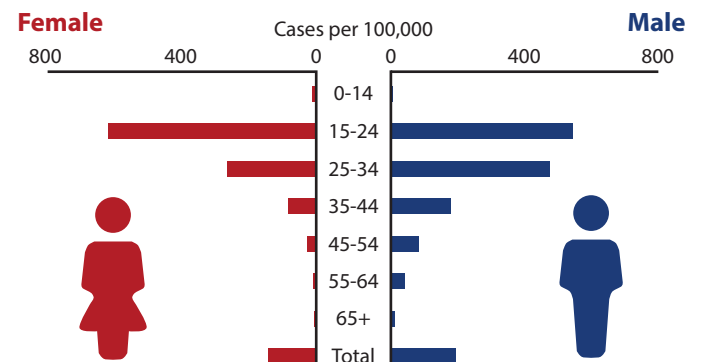
Gonorrhea Rate by Sex in Texas, 2011-2018



Chlamydia Rate by Age and Sex in Texas, 2018



Gonorrhea Rate by Age and Sex in Texas, 2018



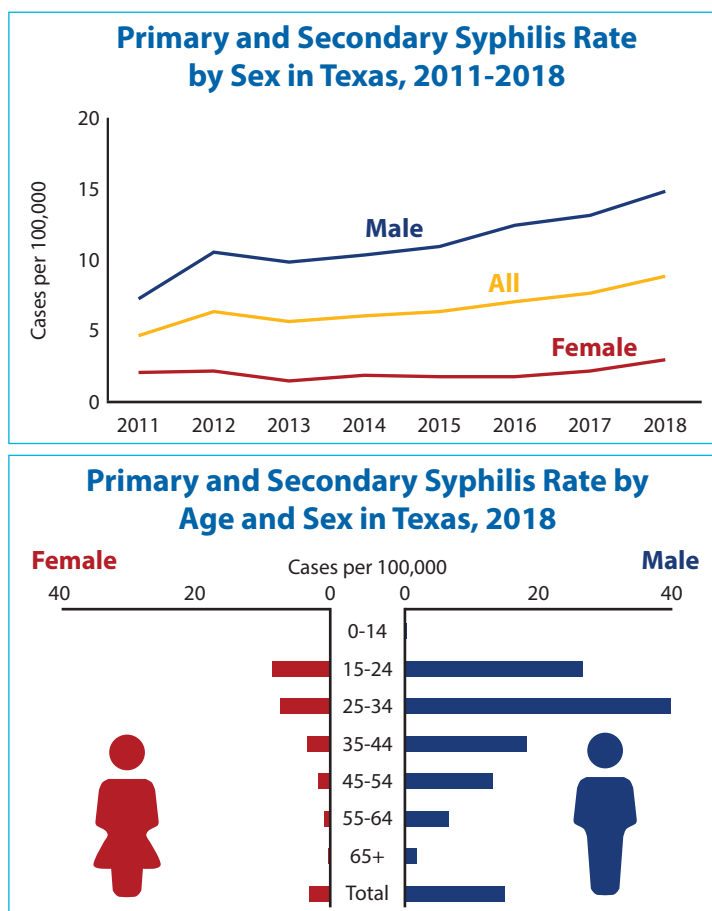
Primary and Secondary Syphilis

Syphilis is an STD caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. Syphilis can cause serious health problems if not adequately treated. Primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis refers to the earliest stages of syphilis when it is the most transmissible.

In 2018, P&S syphilis accounted for one out of every three syphilis cases in the U.S. The rate of P&S cases in the U.S. per 100,000 population rose 91.3% between 2011 and 2018.

Primary and Secondary Syphilis in Texas

- There were 2,528 P&S syphilis cases reported in 2018, a rate of 8.8 per 100,000 Texans.
- In 2018, the rate of reported P&S syphilis cases was highest among those aged 25-34 (23.7 cases per 100,000 population).
- In 2018, the rate of reported P&S syphilis cases among men was five times higher than it among women (14.8 per 100,000 males vs. 2.9 per 100,000 females). Men accounted for a large majority (83%) of all reported P&S syphilis cases.
- From 2011 to 2018, the rate of reported P&S syphilis cases among men more than doubled from 7.2 to 14.8 per 100,000 males.



While STDs affect individuals of all ages, STDs take a particularly heavy toll on young people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that youth ages 15-24 make up just over one quarter of the sexually active population, but account for half of the 20 million new sexually transmitted infections that occur in the U.S. each year.

DSHS HIV/STD Program

737-255-4300

dshs.texas.gov/hivstd

Publication No. 13-15700 (Rev. 3/2020)



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services