



EPI WATCH

Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter

STI Awareness Week

By: George Hughes

205 Dr. MLK Jr. St. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-6900

Director

Ulyee Choe, DO

Editor

Rachel Ilic, MPH, CPH, CIC
Rachel.Ilic@FLHealth.gov



Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

Disease Reporting

To report diseases and clusters of illness:

Phone: (727) 824-6932

Fax: (727) 484-3865

(excluding HIV/AIDS)

To report HIV/AIDS by mail:

Surveillance Room 3-138

205 Dr. MLK Jr St. N

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Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Awareness Week is observed the second full week of April and provides an opportunity to raise awareness about STIs and how they impact our lives, reduce STI-related stigma, fear, and discrimination, and ensure people have the tools and knowledge for prevention, testing, and treatment. STIs continue to be among the most important public health problems in the United States with over 19 million men, women and children infected each year.

In 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)¹ estimates about 20 percent of the U.S. population—approximately one in five people— had an STI, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV, human papillomavirus (HPV), and syphilis. Many of these infections go undetected because they often have no recognizable symptoms. If left untreated, many of these infections can have serious health consequences and severe, adverse effects including, but not limited to, infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and increased HIV risk. Thus, proven STI prevention is essential for protecting America's health and wellness. In 2018, STIs cost the American health care system nearly \$16 billion, and the cost has increased through 2022.

In Florida, congenital syphilis case reports increased 82% from 99 to 180 cases between 2017 and 2021. Reported cases of accompanying adult syphilis have risen dramatically, as well, from 8,954 cases in 2017 to 16,438 in 2021, an 83% increase. Among women of childbearing age, cases have increased 63%. This is especially concerning as these trends have led to adverse impacts among infants born to untreated mothers, including 72 syphilitic still births and infant deaths between 2017 and 2021.

The most frequently reported bacterial STIs in the U.S. are chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis.



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Chlamydia is one of the most common STIs in the U.S. and is passed from person to person through unprotected sex (sex without a condom). Chlamydia is common in sexually active teenagers and young adults. Most people with chlamydia do not notice any symptoms and do not know they have it.

Symptoms of chlamydia include:

- pain when peeing
- unusual discharge from the vagina, penis or anus
- in women, pain in the tummy, bleeding after sex and bleeding between periods
- in men, pain and swelling in the testicles

Gonorrhea is an STI caused by bacteria called *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or *gonococcus* and was previously known as "the clap". Gonorrhea is easily passed between people through unprotected vaginal, oral, or anal sex and sharing vibrators or other sex toys that have not been washed or covered with a new condom each time they're used.

Symptoms of gonorrhea include:

- a thick green or yellow discharge from the vagina or penis
- pain when peeing
- in women, bleeding between periods

Syphilis if left untreated, can cause serious and potentially life-threatening problems. The symptoms of syphilis are often mild and hard to notice. They tend to change over time and may come and go.

Symptoms of syphilis include:

- small sores (ulcers) on the penis, vagina, or around the anus which are usually painless, and only one might be present
- sores in other areas, including in the mouth, lips, hands, or anus
- white or grey warty growths most commonly on the penis, vagina or around the anus
- a non-itchy rash on the palms of hands and soles of feet that can sometimes spread all over the body
- white patches in the mouth
- flu-like symptoms, such as a high temperature, headaches, and tiredness
- swollen glands
- patchy hair loss on the head, beard, and eyebrows

It can take three or more weeks for the symptoms of syphilis to appear after infection. Sometimes the symptoms can improve or go away completely but will not clear the body until treatment is received. Therefore, transmission may still occur.

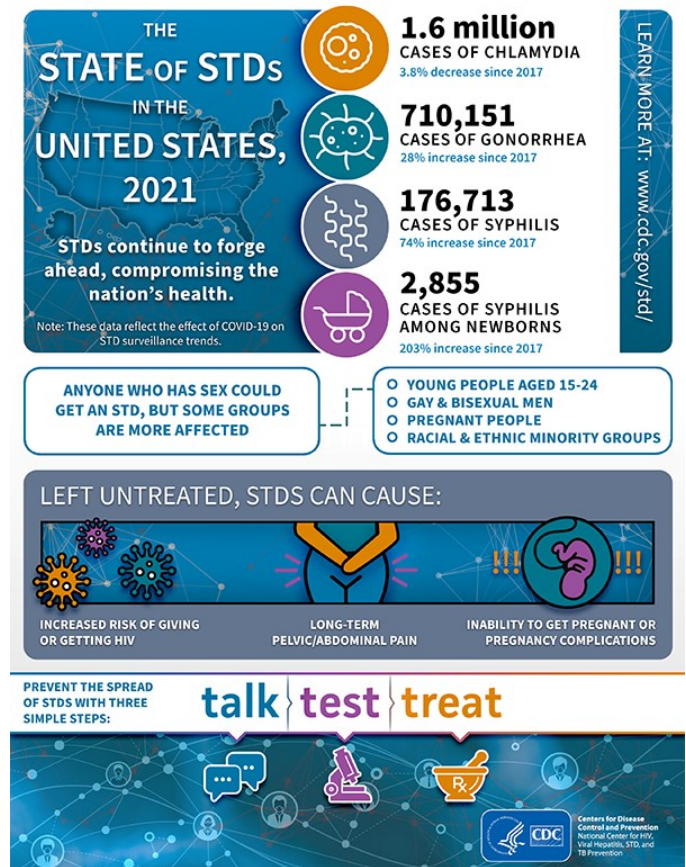
Chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are bacterial infections that can be treated with antibiotics. The CDC² recommends completing all prescribed antibiotics and not sharing with others. If symptoms persist, patients are advised to contact their healthcare provider.

The Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) has several health centers located throughout the county. Please visit <https://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/> for more information.

Resources:

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/default.htm>



Select Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	Pinellas		YTD Total		Pinellas County Annual Totals		
	Mar 2023	Mar 2022	Pinellas 2023	Florida 2023	2022	2021	2020
A. Vaccine Preventable							
Coronavirus 2019	1933	2079	8554	214133	119224	103356	44852
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mpox	2	0	3	32	2861	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0	4	14	9	20
Pertussis	0	0	0	21	60	55	216
Varicella	1	2	7	129	435	365	348
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	1	0	15	51	22	10
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	0	0	2	31	128	83	81
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	0	16	68	27	17
C. Enteric Infections							
Campylobacteriosis	16	18	48	973	4024	3873	3403
Cryptosporidiosis	8	1	14	183	619	343	291
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	8	509	252	153
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)	7	1	9	239	1042	573	454
Giardiasis	4	1	8	308	1179	710	656
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	0	17	3	4
Listeriosis	0	1	0	7	55	57	38
Salmonellosis	10	10	29	1049	7060	6240	6738
Shigellosis	2	3	13	287	948	535	549
D. Viral Hepatitis							
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	41	320	203	1021
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	3	1	4	149	427	292	325
Hepatitis B, Acute	6	3	8	204	790	654	549
Hepatitis C, Acute	10	15	32	381	1688	1809	1688
E. Vectorborne/Zoonoses							
Animal Rabies	0	0	0	22	65	85	82
Rabies, possible exposure	18	7	44	1381	4839	3738	3458
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Dengue fever	0	1	0	84	965	32	116
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	2	0	2	27	259	193	121
Malaria	0	0	2	10	60	44	18
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0	9	10	51
Zika Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F. Others							
Chlamydia	295	318	592	N/A	4027	4090	3956
Gonorrhea	118	140	265	N/A	1734	1883	1634
Hansen's Disease	0	0	0	5	8	13	27
Legionellosis	1	3	3	87	524	503	428
Mercury Poisoning	0	0	0	9	37	15	9
Syphilis, Total	41	57	99	N/A	879	634	479
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	18	15	55	N/A	336	274	212
Syphilis, Early Latent	15	29	33	N/A	269	239	166
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0	0	N/A	5	7	5
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	8	13	11	N/A	269	114	96
Tuberculosis	1	1	2	N/A	22	21	24
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	2	2	2	2	230	178	226

*YTD up to March 31, 2023. n/a = not available at this time