

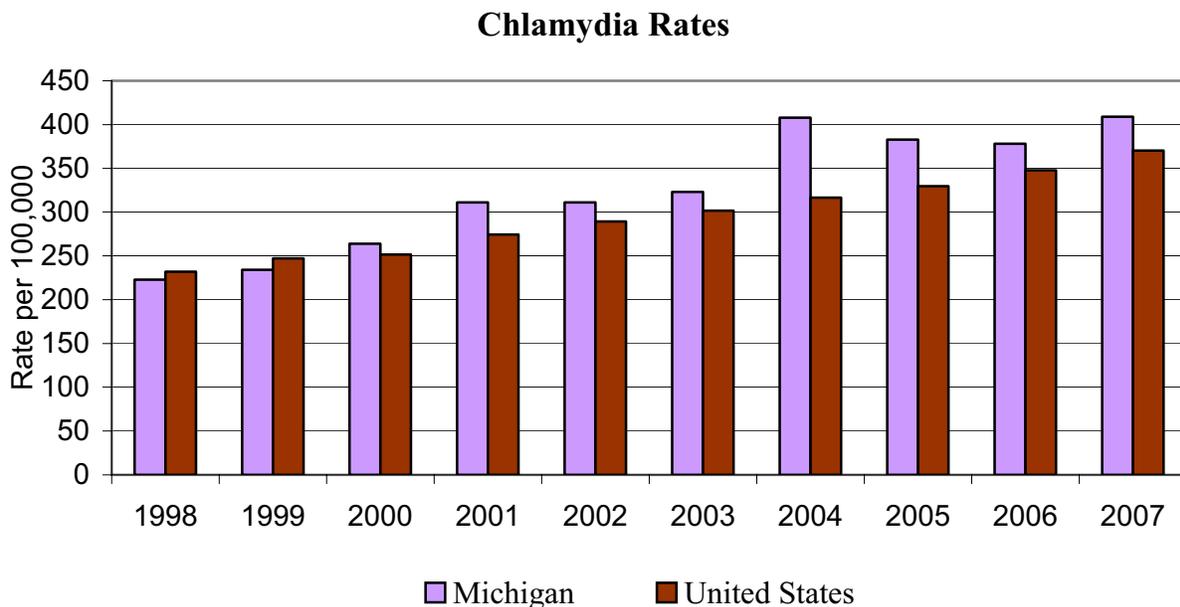


Topic: Sexually Transmitted Disease

34. Chlamydia

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection predominately spread through sexual contact. It is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States, responsible for an estimated one million cases each year.

How are we doing?



The rates of chlamydia have increased since Michigan began reporting cases in 1992. This is due to several factors, including improved reporting, increased levels of testing, targeting of testing, and advances in testing technology. In 2007, there were 41,291 reported cases of chlamydia, an eight percent increase from 2006. In 2006, 38,142 cases were reported, a seventeen percent increase from 2003. These increases follow national trends. In 2007, for the first time, over a million Chlamydia cases were reported nationally. Michigan has continued efforts to screen the populations at highest risk. Additionally, improved data systems have resulted in more accurate counting of cases. Michigan’s goal is to see a decrease in the number of reported chlamydia infections by maintaining current screening and surveillance practices. Based on data from the Michigan Infertility Prevention Project (IPP), over 90% of reported chlamydia cases are treated.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

The rate of chlamydia in Michigan was 409 per 100,000 population in 2007, significantly higher than the national rate of 370.2 (provisional) per 100,000.



How are different populations affected?

The highest rates of chlamydia are found among the 15-19 and 20-24 year old age cohorts. These two groups combined accounted for 74% of the 2007 morbidity. The rates are highest among women in this age range, especially Black women. The rate among Blacks is 9.6 times that of Whites. The rate among Black women is eight times higher than for White women. Given that sexual activity does not vary by race, this rate is evidence that once a pathogen is in a community or social network, the likelihood of acquiring that infection increases significantly, thus resulting in higher transmission rates.

The overall rate among women is 3.2 times higher than in men, largely due to targeted screening towards females. Males are more often symptomatic and treated presumptively (without testing), based on symptoms. Additionally, young females are at increased risk for infection because of an immature cervix which has a thin layer of epithelium that provides less protection from bacteria than a mature cervix.

The highest rates of chlamydia, in 2007, were in the City of Detroit, and in Genesee, Muskegon, Ingham, and Kent Counties.

What is the Department of Community Health doing to improve this indicator?

Because chlamydia causes costly complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the Department is working to decrease the prevalence of chlamydia and its health consequences. The MDCH participates in the National Infertility Prevention Project (IPP) which targets adolescents and young adults (15-24 year olds). Adolescents and young adults are a population on which Michigan places special emphasis; IPP is the core of these efforts. The IPP provides chlamydia screening in STD and family planning clinics, as well as school-based clinics, juvenile detention centers, and alternative adolescent sites, such as runaway shelters and alternative schools.

Increased screening is encouraged as part of local health department reviews, Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) reports, and IPP program evaluation.

The Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control/STD Section has been awarded \$750,000 to identify and treat infections in the highest risk population. As a part of this, a Request For Proposal (RFP) has been released in which 4-6 awards will be made to applicants best exemplifying their ability to screen at least 350 adolescent/young adults ages 15-24 who are considered high risk.