



## 2002 Minnesota Sexually Transmitted Disease Statistics

Minnesota Department of Health, STD and HIV Section

For more information, contact: (612) 676-5414

**Overview of Statistics and Highlights:** The number of cases and rates (per 100,000 persons) for all reportable bacterial sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) for the years 1998 through 2002 are presented in Table 1 by year of diagnosis. Table 2 displays chlamydia, gonorrhea and primary/secondary syphilis case numbers and rates by residence, age, gender, and race/ethnicity for 2002. Chlamydia and gonorrhea case numbers and rates by county for 2002 are shown in Table 3.

Between 2001 and 2002 in Minnesota, the chlamydia rate increased by 21% and the gonorrhea rate increased by 13%. Portions of the increases were reporting artifacts caused by the addition of an active component to the previously passive surveillance system. Although both laboratories and physicians are required to report STDs to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), laboratory reports alone do not provide adequate information to include cases in the surveillance statistics. Thus, in January 2002 the MDH began cross-checking reports of laboratory test results against clinician case reports. For instances in which a positive laboratory result was reported but a corresponding clinician case report was not received within 45 days, MDH mailed a reminder letter and report form to the appropriate clinical facility. Through this process, 631 chlamydia case reports and 146 gonorrhea case reports were completed and returned to MDH. These account for a 7% and 5% increase in chlamydia and gonorrhea cases, respectively, between 2001 and 2002. The process likely accounts for even larger portions of the increases because as clinicians were made aware or reminded of the reporting requirements, more cases were reported while fewer letters and forms had to be mailed out. The number of additional case reports received due to the educational effect of the process cannot be quantified.

Between 2001 and 2002 in Minnesota, the primary/secondary syphilis rate increased by 71%. The rate increase was driven by an increase in syphilis cases among white men who have sex with men (MSM). Eighty-two cases of early syphilis (which includes primary, secondary, and early latent stages) were reported in Minnesota in 2002 compared to 49 cases in 2001. Of the 82 early syphilis cases in 2002, 70 (85%) occurred among men. Fifty-six (80%) of the men reported having sex with other men. Almost half (45%) of the MSM diagnosed with early syphilis were co-infected with HIV. Similar trends have been observed in other parts of the country. MDH is collaborating with local physicians, clinics, and community-based organizations to stem the increase.

STD rates continue to be highest in the seven-county metropolitan area, particularly in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Adolescents and young adults aged 15-24 years have the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea, whereas the highest rates of primary/secondary syphilis are among persons in older age groups. Gonorrhea rates are comparable for men and women. However, due to more frequent screening among women, the rate of chlamydial infection among women is more than twice the rate among men. Rates of STDs remain elevated among communities of color. Blacks, American Indians, Asians and Hispanics typically have rates that are much higher (2 to 40 times higher) than rates for Whites, depending on the STD and racial/ethnic group.

**Sources and Limitations of Data:** In Minnesota, laboratory-confirmed infections of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and chancroid are monitored by the MDH through a combined physician and laboratory-based surveillance system. State law (Minnesota Rule 4605.7040) requires both physicians and laboratories to report all cases of these four bacterial STDs directly to the MDH. Other common sexually transmitted conditions caused by viral pathogens, such as herpes simplex virus (HSV) and human papillomavirus (HPV), are not reported to the MDH. Factors that impact the completeness and accuracy of the available data on STDs include: level of screening, accuracy of diagnostic tests, and compliance with case reporting. Thus, any changes in STD rates may be due to one of these factors, or due to actual changes in STD occurrence.

Population counts used to calculate rates by residence, by gender, and by race/ethnicity were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. Population counts for 1998 and 1999 were estimated by interpolation between the 1990 and 2000 Census data. Rates for 2000, 2001, and 2002 were calculated using each year's case data and 2000 population counts. The 2000 Census data on race include the number of persons by race alone or in combination with one or more races. Thus, persons who identified themselves by more than one race are "overcounted".

**Table 1. Number of Cases and Rates (per 100,000 persons) of  
Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and Chancroid -- Minnesota, 1998 - 2002**

Disease	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Chlamydia	6,997	145	7,460	153	8,147	166	8,369	170	10,107	205
Gonorrhea	2,716	56	2,830	58	3,189	65	2,708	55	3,049	62
All Stages of Syphilis	78	1.6	72	1.5	81	1.6	135	2.7	148	3.0
Primary/Secondary Syphilis	9	0.2	10	0.2	16	0.3	33	0.7	59	1.2
Early Latent Syphilis	8	0.2	9	0.2	18	0.4	16	0.3	23	0.5
Late Latent Syphilis*	61	1.3	52	1.1	45	0.9	81	1.6	64	1.3
Other Syphilis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.1	1	0.0
Congenital Syphilis**	0	0.0	1	1.5	2	3.0	2	3.0	1	1.5
Chancroid	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

\* Late latent syphilis includes neurosyphilis

\*\* Congenital syphilis rate expressed per 100,000 live births

**Table 2. Number of Cases and Rates (per 100,000 persons) of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and  
Primary/Secondary Syphilis by Residence, Age, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity --  
Minnesota, 2002**

Group	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		Primary/Secondary Syphilis	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
<b>Residence</b>						
Minneapolis	2,897	757	1,390	363	36	9.4
St. Paul	1,829	637	593	207	5	1.7
Suburban*	2,676	136	714	36	14	0.7
Greater Minnesota	2,705	119	352	15	4	0.2
<b>Age</b>						
<10 yrs	8	1	1	0	0	0.0
10-14 yrs	144	38	47	13	0	0.0
15-19 yrs	3,269	873	758	202	0	0.0
20-24 yrs	3,846	1193	930	288	4	1.2
25-29 yrs	1,606	502	522	163	4	1.3
30-34 yrs	625	177	309	87	11	3.1
35-44 yrs	502	61	368	45	24	2.9
45+ yrs	107	6	114	7	16	1.0
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	2,755	113	1,361	56	55	2.3
Female	7,352	296	1,688	68	4	0.2
<b>Race**/Ethnicity</b>						
White	4,335	97	857	19	42	0.9
Black	2,931	1444	1,512	745	9	4.4
American Indian	304	375	71	88	0	0.0
Asian	412	245	49	29	0	0.0
Other	581	653	141	158	4	4.5
Unknown***	1,544	--	419	--	4	--
Hispanic****	838	584	131	91	4	2.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,107</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>3,049</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1.2</b>

\* Suburban is defined as the seven-county metropolitan area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties), excluding the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul

\*\* Race categories include persons by race alone or in combination with one or more races

\*\*\* No comparable population data available to calculate rates

\*\*\*\* Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race

**Table 3. Number of Cases and Rates (per 100,000 persons) of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea by County of Residence -- Minnesota, 2002**

County	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		County	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate		Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Aitkin	2	13	0	0	Marshall	2	20	0	0
Anoka	383	128	94	32	Martin	19	87	0	0
Becker	26	87	1	3	Meeker	23	102	4	18
Beltrami	78	197	5	13	Mille Lacs	15	67	1	4
Benton	29	85	5	15	Morrison	25	79	8	25
Big Stone	4	69	0	0	Mower	90	233	24	62
Blue Earth	143	256	19	34	Murray	10	109	2	22
Brown	20	74	1	4	Nicollet	17	57	3	10
Carlton	48	152	2	6	Nobles	48	230	1	5
Carver	52	74	4	6	Norman	4	54	0	0
Cass	23	85	5	18	Olmsted	226	182	37	30
Chippewa	19	145	0	0	Otter Tail	26	45	3	5
Chisago	36	88	4	10	Pennington	18	133	1	7
Clay	38	74	8	16	Pine	27	102	4	15
Clearwater	4	47	2	24	Pipestone	4	40	2	20
Cook	2	39	0	0	Polk	16	51	0	0
Cottonwood	9	74	1	8	Pope	4	36	0	0
Crow Wing	56	102	10	18	Ramsey	2073	406	660	129
Dakota	540	152	134	38	Red Lake	2	47	0	0
Dodge	26	147	0	0	Redwood	5	30	0	0
Douglas	31	94	3	9	Renville	14	82	4	23
Faribault	10	62	2	12	Rice	79	139	7	12
Fillmore	13	62	0	0	Rock	1	10	0	0
Freeborn	33	101	2	6	Roseau	14	86	1	6
Goodhue	40	91	6	14	St. Louis	364	182	50	25
Grant	3	48	0	0	Scott	101	113	10	11
Hennepin	4041	362	1726	155	Sherburne	50	78	6	9
Houston	14	71	6	30	Sibley	10	65	0	0
Hubbard	13	71	0	0	Stearns	273	205	50	38
Isanti	28	89	8	26	Steele	46	137	2	6
Itasca	72	164	4	9	Stevens	7	70	2	20
Jackson	7	62	1	9	Swift	8	67	0	0
Kanabec	13	87	1	7	Todd	22	90	0	0
Kandiyohi	81	197	4	10	Traverse	0	0	0	0
Kittson	2	38	0	0	Wabasha	17	79	2	9
Koochiching	7	49	0	0	Wadena	7	51	0	0
Lac qui Parle	4	50	0	0	Waseca	9	46	0	0
Lake	9	81	1	9	Washington	212	105	69	34
Lake of the Woods	3	66	1	22	Watsonwan	15	126	0	0
Le Sueur	16	63	0	0	Wilkin	4	56	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	Winona	56	112	5	10
Lyon	39	153	4	16	Wright	70	78	17	19
McLeod	32	92	5	14	Yellow Medicine	10	90	0	0
Mahnomen	15	289	5	96					