

SOME FACTS ABOUT CHLAMYDIA

What is Chlamydia? Chlamydia is a STD that is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Because approximately 75 percent of women and 50 percent of men have no symptoms, most people infected with chlamydia are not aware of their infections and therefore may not seek health care.

When diagnosed, chlamydia can be easily treated and cured. Untreated, chlamydia can cause severe, costly reproductive and other health problems that include both short and long term consequences, including PID, a critical link to infertility, and potentially fatal tubal pregnancy.

Up to 40 percent of women with untreated chlamydia will develop PID. Undiagnosed PID caused by chlamydia is common. Of those with PID, 20 percent will become infertile; 18 percent will experience debilitating, chronic pelvic pain; and 9 percent will have a life-threatening tubal pregnancy. Tubal pregnancy is the leading cause of first-trimester, pregnancy-related deaths in American women. Chlamydia may also result in adverse outcomes of pregnancy, including neonatal conjunctivitis and pneumonia. In addition, recent research has shown that women infected with chlamydia have a 3 to 5 fold increased risk of acquiring HIV, if exposed. Chlamydia is also common among young men, who are seldom offered screening. Untreated chlamydia in men typically causes urethral infection, but may also result in complications such as swollen and tender testicles.

What is the magnitude of the problem? Chlamydia is the most frequently reported infectious disease in the United States, an estimated 3 million cases occur annually. Severe under reporting is largely a result of substantial numbers of asymptomatic persons whose infections are not identified because screening is not available.

How are adolescents and young women affected? As many as 1 in 10 adolescent girls tested for chlamydia is infected.

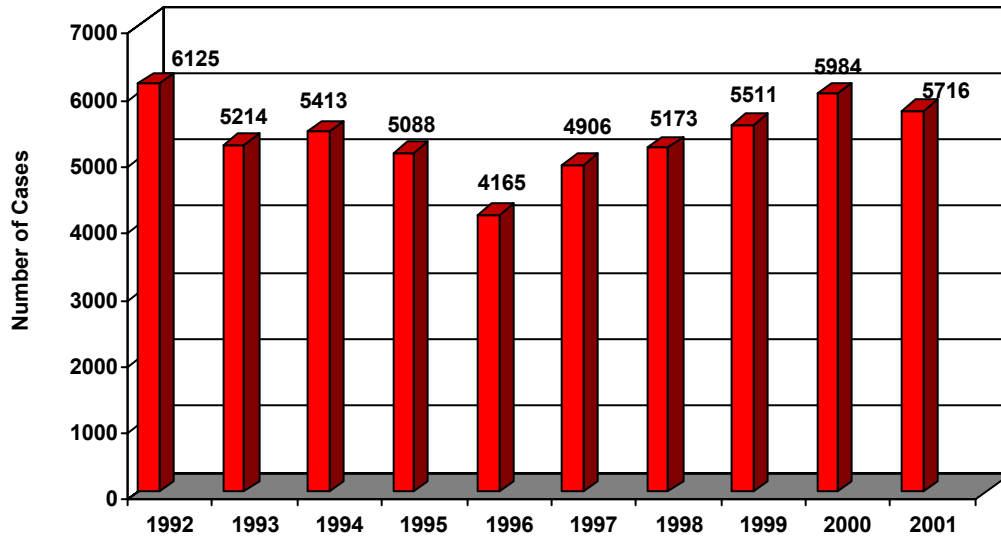
Based on reports to CDC provided by states that collect age-specific data, teenage girls have the highest rates of chlamydial infection. In the United States, 15 to 19-year-old girls represent 46 percent of infections and 20 to 24-year-old women represent another 33 percent. These high percentages are consistent with high rates of other STDs among teenagers.

What does chlamydia cost? The annual cost of chlamydia and its consequences in the United States is more than \$2 billion. The CDC estimates screening and treatment programs can be conducted at an annual cost of \$175 million. Every dollar spent on screening and treatment saves \$12 in complications that result from untreated chlamydia.

What is being done to address the problem? CDC has developed recommendations for the prevention and management of chlamydia for all health-care providers. These recommendations call for screening all sexually active females under 20 years of age at least annually, and annual screening of women ages 20 and older with one or more risk factors for chlamydia (i.e., new or multiple sex partners and lack of barrier contraception). All women with infection of the cervix and all pregnant women should be tested.

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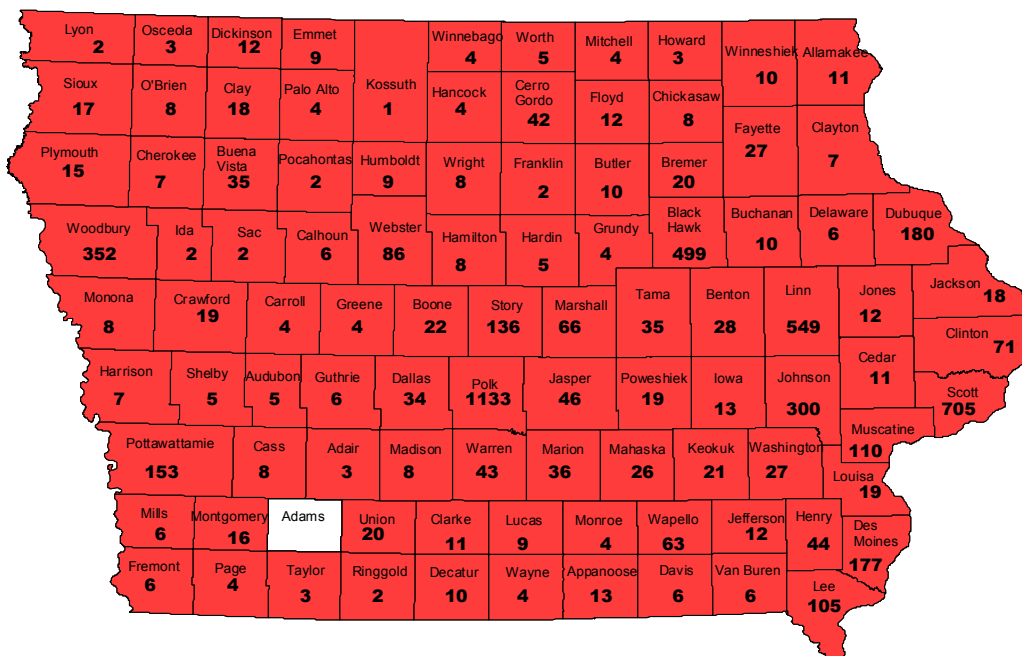
Reported Cases of Chlamydia by Year 1992 - 2001



Source: Iowa Department of Public Health STD Prevention Program

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Reported Cases of Chlamydia by County 2001



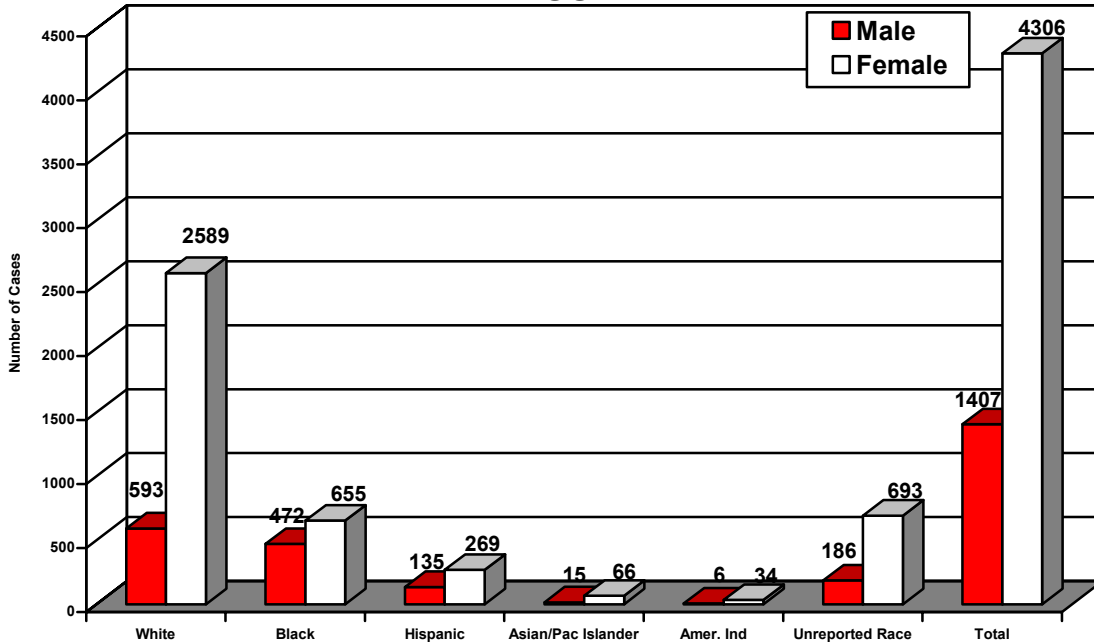
Total Cases = 5716 (includes 6 cases in unknown counties)

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health STD Prevention Program

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Reported Cases of Chlamydia by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

2001



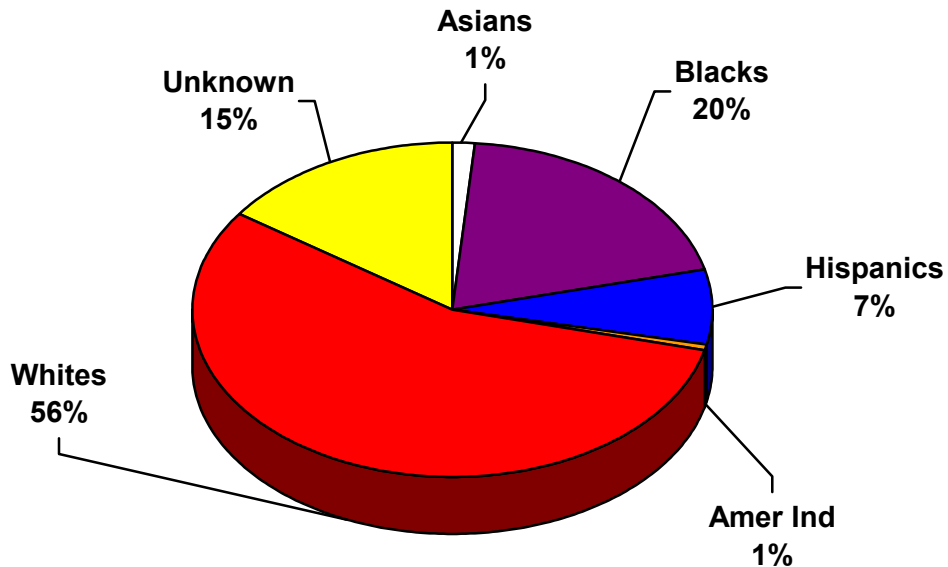
Total Cases = 5716 (includes 3 unreported gender)

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health STD Prevention Program

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Reported Cases of Chlamydia by Race/Ethnicity

2001



Source: Iowa Department of Public Health STD Prevention Program

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Reported Cases of Chlamydia by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender

2001

AgeGroup	Asian		Black		Hispanic		Amer. Indian		White		Unknown		Total		Unk Sex	All
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
0 - 4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	3	3	7	0	10
5 - 9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 - 14	0	1	0	24	0	1	0	2	0	26	1	14	1	68	0	69
15 - 19	2	22	109	266	28	92	3	7	112	1084	31	290	285	1761	1	2047
20 - 24	7	24	189	241	60	105	1	12	326	1104	76	242	659	1728	0	2387
25 - 29	3	15	99	77	26	42	1	11	88	243	37	97	254	485	0	739
30 - 34	1	2	39	26	12	13	0	2	32	67	16	26	100	136	1	237
35 - 39	2	0	17	11	4	10	0	0	14	35	14	8	51	64	1	116
40 - 44	0	2	15	3	2	3	0	0	7	11	6	6	30	25	0	55
45 - 54	0	0	2	5	1	0	1	0	6	7	2	3	12	15	0	27
55 - 64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	5	0	0	5
65+	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	4	2	0	6
UNK	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	6	1	4	3	15	0	18
Total	15	66	472	655	135	269	6	34	593	2589	186	693	1407	4306	3	5716

Total Asians =	82	1%
Total Blacks =	1128	20%
Total Hispanics =	404	7%
Total Amer. Ind =	40	1%
Total Whites =	3182	56%
Total Unknown =	880	15%

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, STD Prevention Program