

Syphilis in Monterey County

QUICK FACTS

April 2016

Did you know...

Anyone who is sexually active can get syphilis.

Pregnant women with syphilis can pass the infection on to their unborn child.

Syphilis can cause sores on the penis, vagina, anus, inside the rectum, on the lips, or inside the mouth.

Over 55,000 people are estimated to be newly infected with syphilis each year.

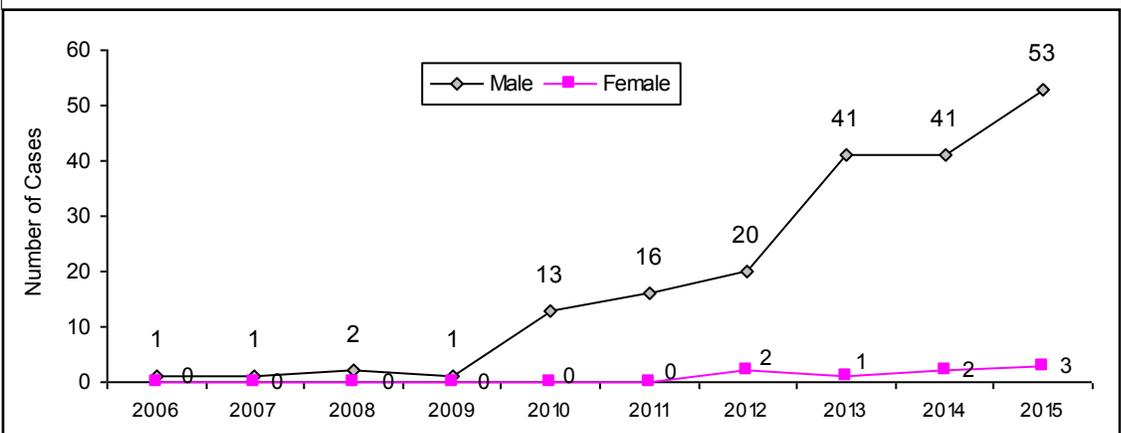
Untreated syphilis can lead to permanent health problems. It can also increase a person's risk for getting or transmitting HIV.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

TRENDS

- There were 104 new cases of syphilis reported among Monterey County residents in 2015, compared to 83 new cases reported in 2014 and 17 in 2010.
- Over half (54%) of the reported cases of syphilis in 2015 were early syphilis. Early syphilis includes primary, secondary, and early latent stages, which are the infectious stages of syphilis.
- Incidence of early syphilis among males in Monterey County started to rise in 2010 and has continued to dramatically increase through 2015. Unfortunately, beginning in 2014 there were signs of increasing incidence among females as well.

Number of Early Syphilis Cases Among Monterey County Residents by Year and Gender: 2006-2015

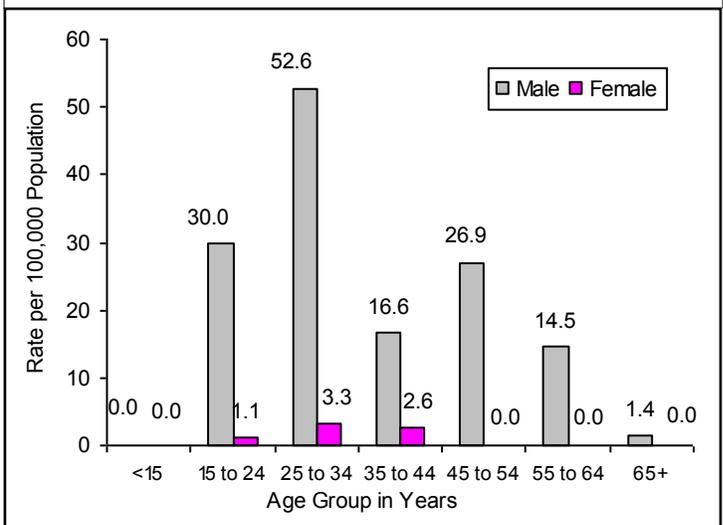


Note: Counts do not include transgender individuals or individuals for whom current gender was unknown.

RISK GROUPS

- Males had a significantly higher early syphilis incidence rate than females (20.5 per 100,000 for males and 1.0 per 100,000 for females) from 2013 to 2015.
- Among male cases, 74% (105 out of 141 with partner data) reported at least one male sex partner.
- Males had higher rates of early syphilis at every age group compared to females. Males age 25 to 34 years had the highest rates.
- Females ages 25 to 34 years of age had the highest rates among females (3.3 cases per 100,000). Infections in this age group may be more frequently detected due to routine prenatal screenings.

Early Syphilis Incidence Rate Among Monterey County Residents by Age Group and Gender: 2013-2015



Note: Rates among males 34 to 44, males 65+, and all female age groups are based on small numbers and should be interpreted with caution.



Additional Resources

California STD Screening Guidelines
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/std/Documents/STD-Screening-Recs.pdf>

California STD Treatment Guidelines:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/std/Documents/STD-Treatment-Guidelines-Color.pdf>

Clinicians' Guide to Sexual History Taking: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/Guidelines/Documents/CA-STD-Clinician-Guide-Sexual-History-Taking.pdf>

Follow us on:

Facebook: MCHD STD & HIV Prevention
 (www.facebook.com/mchdprevention)

Twitter: @WashCoverStay

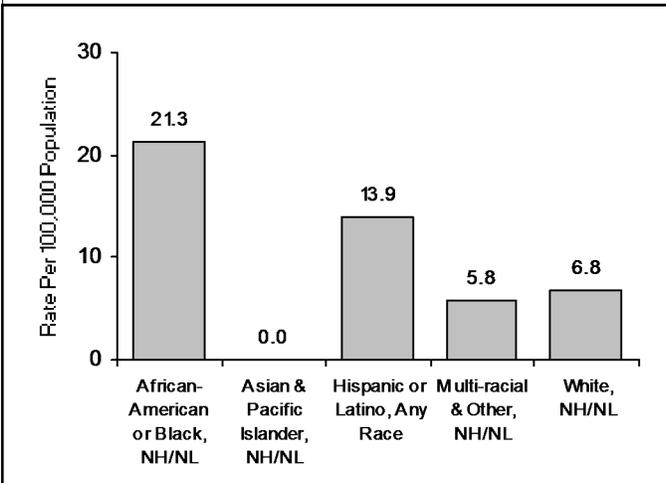
Website: www.mtyhd.org

For more information about STD services including Partner Services, contact:
 Amanda Mihalko
 Programs Coordinator
 831-755-4626
 MihalkoA@co.monterey.ca.us

For more information about provider reporting or for additional Monterey County STD data, visit:
www.mtyhd.org
 or contact:
 Kristy Michie, Epidemiologist & Program Manager, at
 831-755-4503
 MichieKJ@co.monterey.ca.us



Early Syphilis Incidence Rates Among Monterey County Residents by Race/Ethnicity, 2013-2015



Note: Rates for African-Americans and Multi-racial/Others are based on small numbers and should be interpreted with caution. "NH/NL" = Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino.

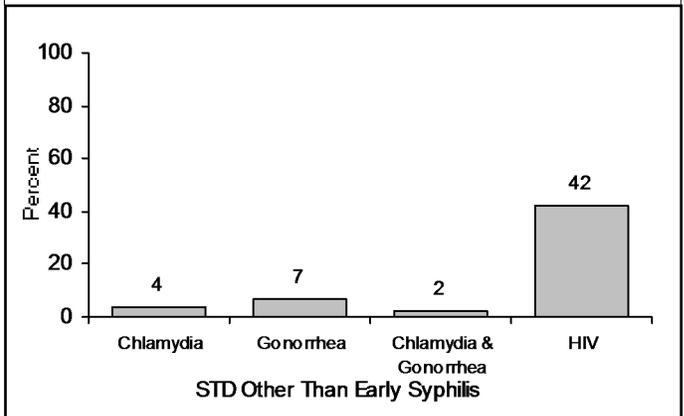
RACIAL/ETHNIC DISPARITIES

- African-Americans experienced the highest early syphilis incidence rates among Monterey County residents. The difference in rates between African-Americans and other racial/ethnic groups was not statistically significant.
- Hispanics and Latinos had the second highest incidence rates. Rates among Hispanics and Latinos were significantly higher than rates among non-Hispanic/non-Latino Whites.
- Differences in rates between racial/ethnic groups may represent cultural and socioeconomic factors that create barriers to testing opportunities, including limited access to STD prevention information and to high quality health care.

CO-INFECTIONS

- Among individuals for whom HIV co-infection information was available, 42% of early syphilis cases were also HIV positive. These data underscore the importance of HIV screening for all individuals diagnosed with early syphilis.
- Among individuals for whom other STD co-infection information was available, 9% reported infection with gonorrhea at the time of syphilis diagnosis either alone or with chlamydia.

Percent of Monterey County Residents Diagnosed with Early Syphilis and a Selected Co-Infection*, 2013-2015



*Includes only individuals for whom co-infection data were available.

CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

- California has seen a concerning increase in congenital syphilis cases since 2012. Incidence is highest in the Central Valley and Los Angeles. Most women who gave birth to babies with congenital syphilis received prenatal care late in pregnancy or not at all. In 2015, Monterey County reported its first congenital syphilis case in over 15 years.
- All pregnant women should receive syphilis screening at their first prenatal visit. Syphilis testing should be repeated during the third trimester and at delivery for women who are at high risk for syphilis. Infants should not be discharged from the hospital until the syphilis serologic status of the mother has been determined at least once during pregnancy and, for women at high risk, again at delivery.
- California law requires that all syphilis infections be reported to the local health department within 24 hours of diagnosis (Monterey County CD Unit: phone 831-755-4521; fax 831-754-6682).
- For more information about the increase in congenital syphilis in California and guidelines for providers, please visit the California Department of Public Health's website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/>

