

Texas STD Surveillance Report 2020 Annual Report

HIV/STD/HCV Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

The Texas STD Surveillance Report is an annual report generated by:

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Important notes on the data:

The STD surveillance program collects demographic, clinical, and lab-related information on people diagnosed with STDs in Texas. This information informs STD prevention, program planning, policymakers, and stakeholders about STD epidemiology in Texas. STD cases are reported to the Texas STD Surveillance Program from a variety of sources, including hospitals, private physicians, clinics, counseling and testing sites, laboratories, and other case registries.

This report describes sexually transmitted infections reported to the Texas Department of State Health Services STD Surveillance Program from 2011 through 2020. The STD Surveillance Report presents data by date of diagnosis and provides state- and county-level case counts and rates. The report also describes demographic factors such as age, sex, race, and ethnicity among reported sexually transmitted infections.

Population numbers used to calculate rates for 2011–2020 data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, which include estimates of the resident population of the United States from January 1, 2010, to December 1, 2020, by year, county, single year of age (0, 1, 2,..., 85 years and over), bridged race, Hispanic origin, and sex.

Population numbers used to calculate 2011–2020 congenital syphilis rates are from the vital event-birth data disseminated by the Center for Health Statistics at the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Data on gender identity is self-reported and not standardized in the Texas STD surveillance system.

A delay in updating the race/ethnicity field in the chlamydia and gonorrhea data resulted in a large number of cases with race/ethnicity as unknown. Ongoing data quality improvements will address this for future reporting.

For more information, please contact TBHIVSTDdata@dshs.texas.gov.

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Terms and Resources

Surveillance Case Definitions

A surveillance case definition consists of a uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. These definitions allow public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended for use by healthcare providers making clinical judgments. For more information on surveillance case definitions, visit:

[Surveillance Case Definitions for Current and Historical Conditions](#)

Reporting Rules, Surveillance Reports, and Dashboards

The Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 97, Part 1 Chapter 97, Subchapter F adopted the rules and regulations for reporting sexually transmitted diseases (STD). For a copy of the rules, visit:

[Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter F](#)

To get information on how to report HIV/AIDS and STD cases, contact your local or regional health department or visit:

[HIV/STD Reporting: Information for Texas Health Care Providers and Laboratories](#)

Access the *Texas STD Surveillance Report* at:

[HIV/STD Program Reports](#)

Please visit the Centers for Health Statistics—Texas Health Data dashboard for state and county level STD data by age, race/ethnicity, and sex

[Texas Health Data - STD Dashboard](#)

CHLAMYDIA: Overview and Brief Facts

Description and Background

Chlamydia trachomatis causes the STD infection Chlamydia. It can cause cervicitis and urethritis in women, and urethritis and proctitis in men. Chlamydial infections in women can lead to serious negative outcomes, including pelvic inflammatory disease, tubal factor infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain.¹

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted infection in the United States. In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 1,579,885 cases of chlamydia from 50 states and the District of Columbia.² Underreporting of cases occurs due to many individuals with asymptomatic chlamydia who do not pursue testing.¹

Impact and Risk

Nearly two-thirds of new chlamydia infections in the U.S. occur in young people ages 15–24.³ The CDC estimates one in 20 sexually active females aged 15–24 has chlamydia.⁴

Substantial racial and ethnic disparities exist nationally, with prevalence among non-Hispanic Black persons being six times of non-Hispanic White persons.² Men who have sex with men (MSM) are also at risk for chlamydial infection since oral and anal sex can transmit chlamydia. Among MSM screened for rectal chlamydia infection, the positivity ranges from 3.0 percent to 10.5 percent.^{5,6} Among MSM screened for pharyngeal chlamydia infection, the positivity rate ranges from 0.5 percent to 2.3 percent.^{6,7}

Chlamydia Screening, Treatment, and Prevention

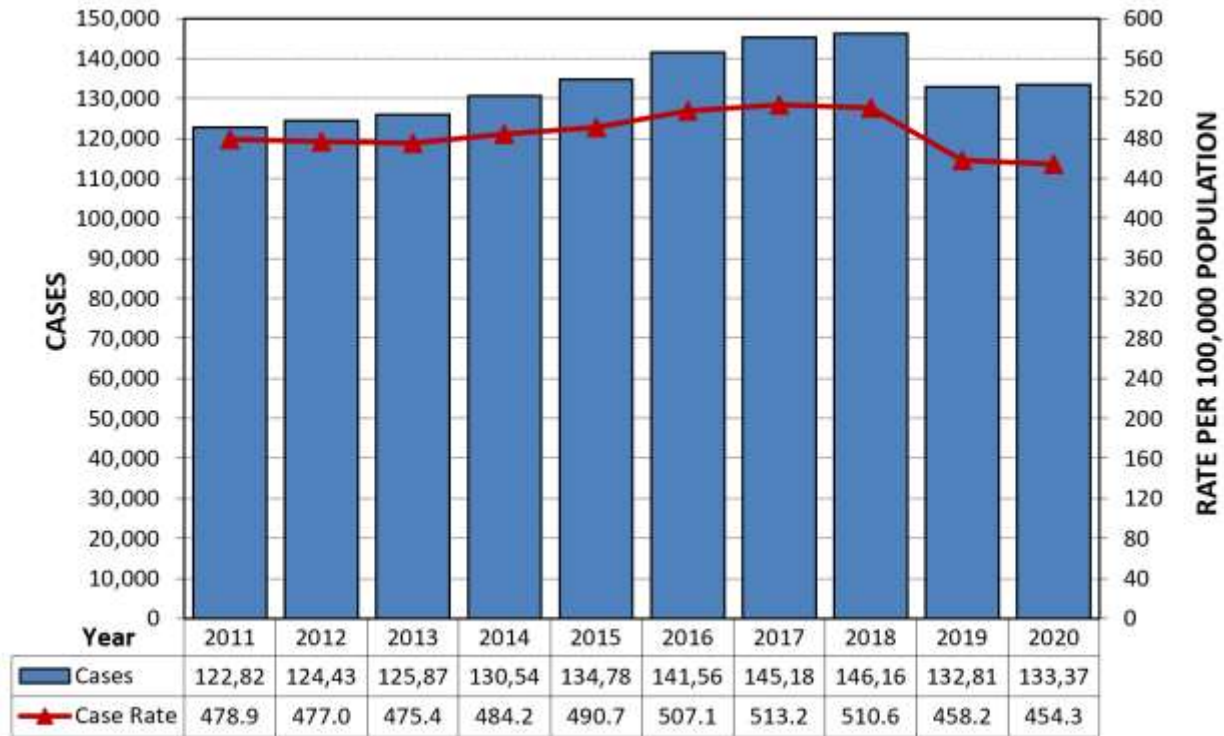
CDC recommends yearly chlamydia screening of sexually active women aged 25 or younger and older women with risk factors for infection (e.g., women who have a new or more than one sex partner).^{1,8} Providers must screen pregnant women during their first prenatal visit, third trimester visit, and at birth.

Routine screening is not required for men. When resources permit and do not hinder screening efforts for women, providers should consider screening sexually active young men in clinical settings with a high prevalence of chlamydia (e.g., correctional facilities and STD clinics).⁸ MSM who have receptive anal sex should get screened each year.¹ Latex male condoms, used consistently and correctly, can reduce the risk of acquiring or giving chlamydia.⁹ The surest way to avoid chlamydia is to abstain from vaginal, anal, and oral sex or to be in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested for chlamydia and knows they are uninfected.¹

2020 State of Texas Chlamydia Quick Facts

Number of reported Chlamydia cases:	133,374
Chlamydia rate per 100,000 Texas residents:	454.3
Percent change in Chlamydia rate from 2016:	-10.4%

Chlamydia Cases and Case Rates by Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020



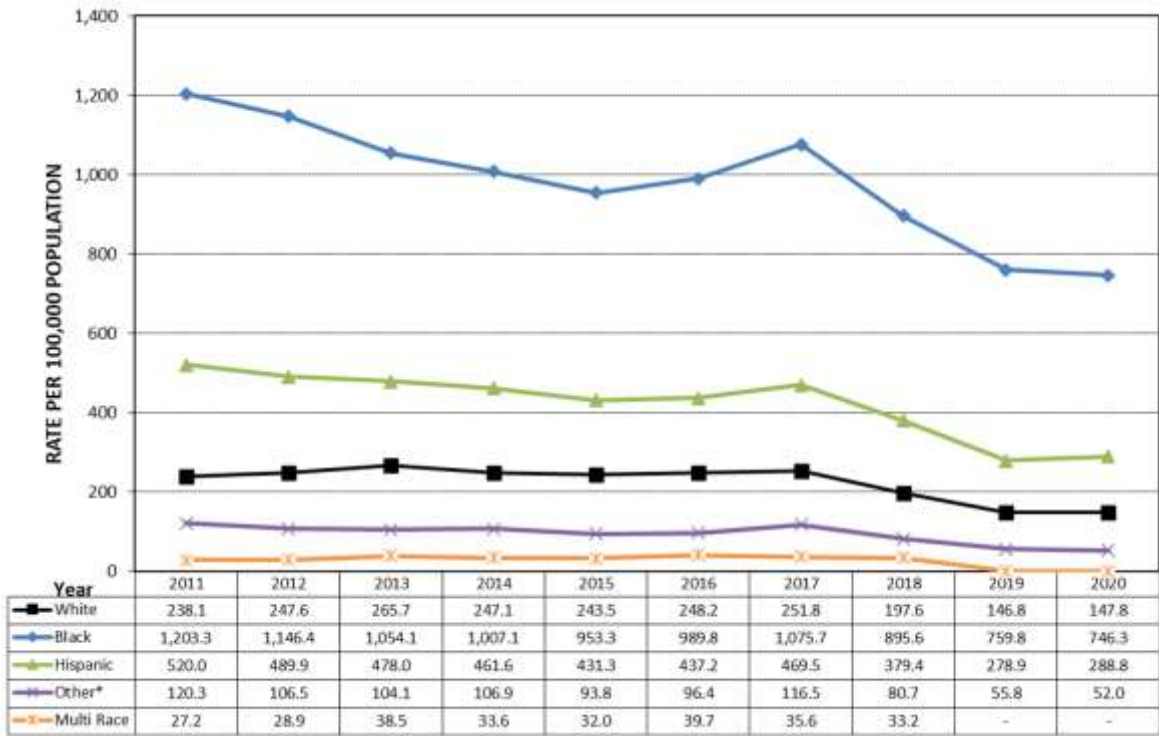
Chlamydia Cases and Rates by Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Age Group, 2011-2020

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		
	Cases	Rate [†]	Cases	Rate [†]	Cases	Rate [†]	Cases	Rate [†]	Cases	Rate [†]	Cases	Rate [†]	Cases	Rate [†]	Cases	Rate [†]	Cases	Rate [†]	Cases	Rate [†]	
Sex																					
Male	29,162	229.3	29,972	231.6	31,273	238.0	33,916	253.4	37,144	272.3	40,938	295.3	43,389	308.8	45,313	318.8	43,342	301.1	42,671	292.6	
Female	93,688	724.8	94,455	718.7	93,804	703.3	96,509	710.8	97,265	703.5	100,418	714.8	101,497	712.9	100,237	695.6	88,891	609.2	89,698	606.9	
Unknown	21		72		830		163		441		319		343		617		585		1,005		
Race/Ethnicity																					
White	27,395	238.1	28,700	247.6	30,927	265.7	28,990	247.1	28,773	243.5	29,455	248.2	29,949	251.8	23,538	197.6	17,523	146.8	17,696	147.8	
Black	35,665	1,203.3	34,710	1,146.4	32,568	1,054.1	31,848	1,007.1	30,893	953.3	32,817	989.8	36,418	1,075.7	30,896	895.61	26,712	759.8	26,767	746.3	
Hispanic	50,670	520.0	48,828	489.9	48,649	478.0	48,047	461.6	45,961	431.3	47,618	437.2	52,104	469.5	42,835	379.4	32,052	278.9	33,764	288.8	
Asian + NHPI* + AIAN^	1,343	120.3	1,247	106.5	1,278	104.1	1,389	106.9	1,290	93.8	1,391	96.4	1,751	116.5	1,251	80.7	893	55.8	858	52.0	
Multi Race	85	27.2	95	28.9	132	38.5	121	33.6	121	32.0	157	39.7	146	35.6	141	33.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Unspecified + unknown**	7,714		10,919		12,353		20,194		27,812		30,237		24,861		47,506		55,638		54,289		
Age Group (Years)																					
0 - 14	1,472	25.4	1,496	25.5	1,272	21.5	1,247	20.9	1,134	18.7	1,030	16.9	1,014	16.5	1,034	16.8	946	15.3	1,004	16.3	
15 - 24	86,719	2,308.5	86,045	2,254.2	85,143	2,203.9	86,174	2,199.0	87,808	2,214.3	91,535	2,294.0	93,168	2,327.3	93,325	2,319.9	83,727	2,063.5	83,501	2,037.4	
25 - 34	27,524	743.5	29,104	770.6	30,857	801.8	33,230	843.0	35,293	874.9	37,217	903.5	38,451	919.0	38,999	922.6	35,924	839.5	36,726	850.4	
35 - 44	5,427	155.2	5,868	165.6	6,530	182.3	7,396	203.6	7,833	211.9	8,474	226.2	8,981	236.0	9,095	234.9	8,735	221.6	8,711	216.7	
45 - 54	1,317	38.2	1,502	43.5	1,616	46.9	1,939	56.0	2,087	59.8	2,505	71.2	2,633	74.5	2,606	73.6	2,523	71.1	2,436	68.1	
55 - 64	292	10.7	350	12.5	356	12.4	431	14.6	511	16.8	694	22.3	766	24.1	835	25.9	766	21.6	745	22.6	
65+	77	2.9	68	2.4	99	3.3	125	4.1	114	3.6	108	3.2	170	4.9	149	4.2	145	4.4	121	3.1	
Unknown	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		124		52		130		
Total	122,828	478.9	124,433	477.0	125,873	475.4	130,542	484.2	134,780	490.7	141,563	507.1	145,183	513.2	146,167	510.6	132,818	458.2	133,374	454.3	

*NHPI: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. ^AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native.

† Rates represent cases per 100,000 population.

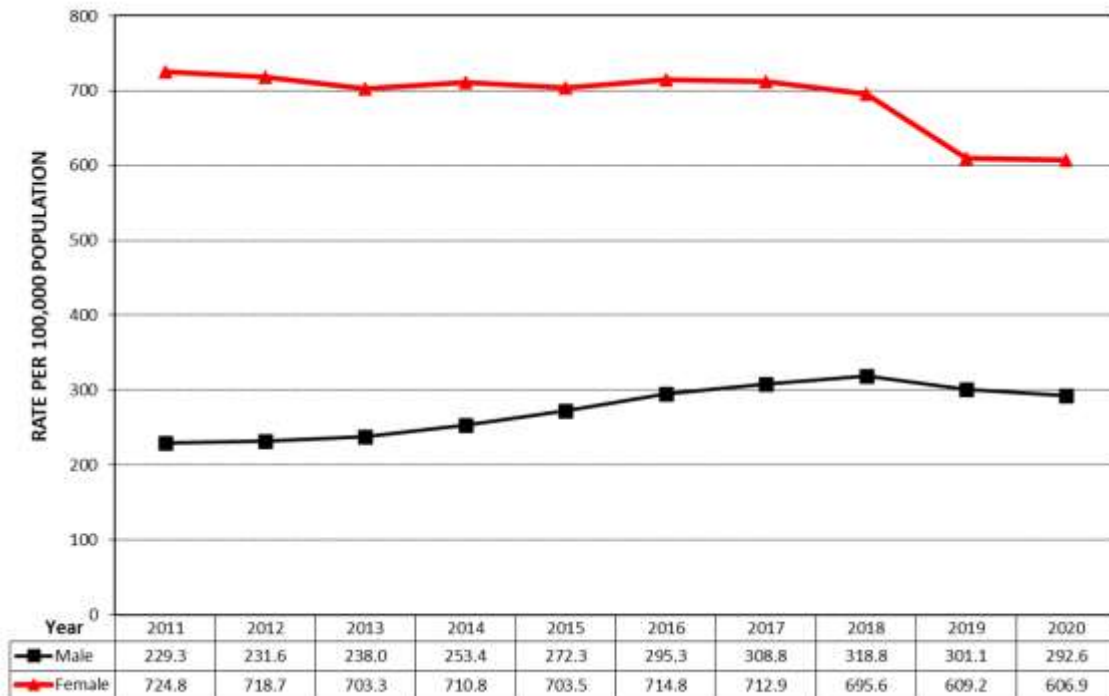
Chlamydia Case Rates by Race and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020[^]



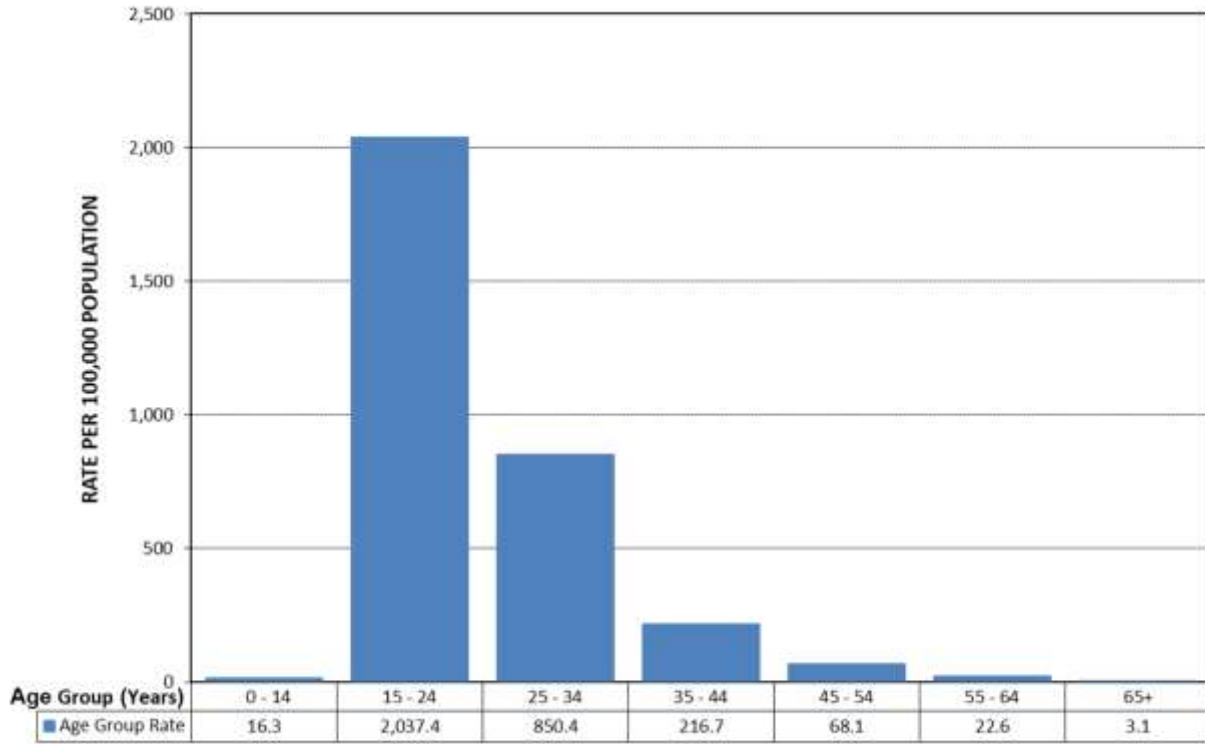
*Other includes Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian.

[^]For 2019 and 2020, multi-race is included in the Other category.

Chlamydia Case Rates by Sex and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020



Chlamydia Case Rates by Age Group and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2020



GONORRHEA: Overview and Brief Facts

Description and Background

The *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* bacterium causes the STD infection Gonorrhea. *N. gonorrhoeae* infects the mucous membranes of the reproductive tract, including the cervix, uterus and fallopian tubes in women and the urethra in women and men.¹⁰ *N. gonorrhoeae* can also infect the mucous membranes of the mouth, throat, eyes, and rectum.¹⁰

The CDC estimates 1.6 million people in the United States get new gonorrheal infections annually, only a fraction of these infections detected and reported.¹¹ CDC estimates that over half of the approximate 1.6 million cases were among young people aged 15–24.¹¹ In 2020, CDC identified a total of 677,769 reported cases of gonorrhea, making it the second most common notifiable sexually transmitted infection in the United States for that year.¹²

Impact and Risk

In the United States, the CDC reports sexually active teenagers, young adults and African Americans as having the highest reported rates of infection.¹² Data from the STD Surveillance Network (SSuN) suggest that about a third of gonorrhea cases occurred among MSM in 2020.¹² During 2019–2020, rates increased among both men and women, but women experienced greater increases were (15 percent) compared to men (6.6 percent), which may reflect differences in diagnosing and reporting cases among MSM in 2020.¹²

Gonorrhea Screening, Treatment, and Prevention

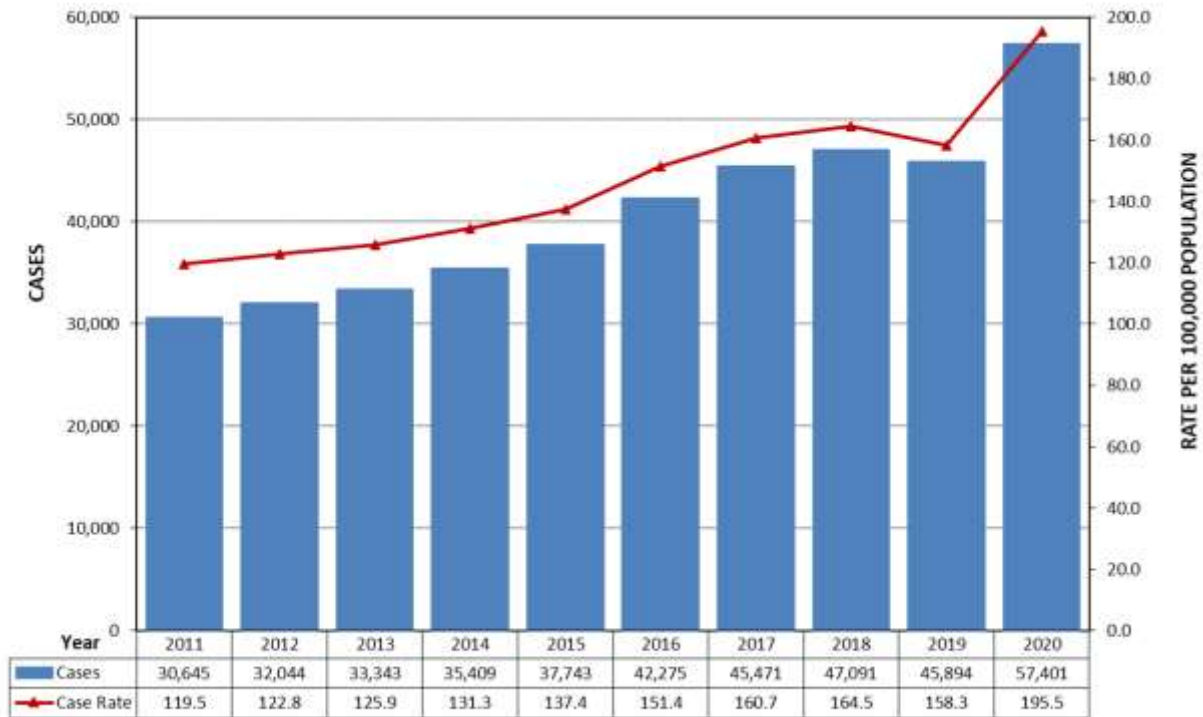
Individuals with genital symptoms such as discharge, burning during urination, unusual sores, or a rash should stop having sex and see a health care provider immediately.¹⁰ Also, anyone with an oral, anal, or vaginal sex partner recently diagnosed with an STD should see a health care provider for evaluation.¹⁰ Sexually active individuals should discuss their risk factors with a health care provider and ask whether they should get tested for gonorrhea or other STDs.¹⁰

CDC now recommends a single 500 mg intramuscular dose of ceftriaxone for treating gonorrhea.⁸ It is important to take the medication prescribed to cure gonorrhea. Although medication will stop the infection, it will not repair any permanent damage done by the disease. Antimicrobial resistance is of increasing concern, and successful treatment is becoming more difficult. If a person's symptoms continue for more than a few days after receiving treatment, he or she should return to a health care provider for reevaluation. Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, can reduce the risk of transmission of gonorrhea.⁹ The surest way to avoid transmission of gonorrhea or other STDs is to abstain from sexual intercourse or to be in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and is known to be uninfected.

2020 State of Texas Gonorrhea Quick Facts

Number of reported gonorrhea cases:	57,401
Gonorrhea rate per 100,000 Texas residents:	195.5
Percent change in gonorrhea rate from 2016:	+29.2%

Gonorrhea Cases and Case Rates by Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020

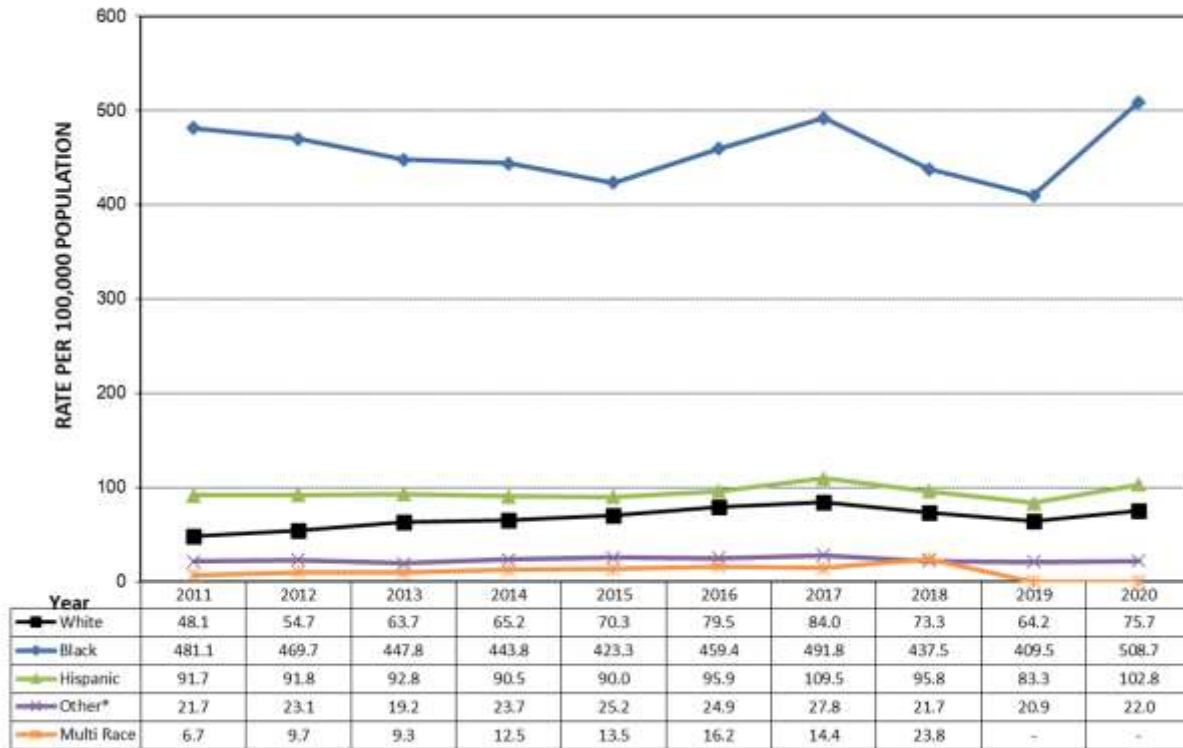


Gonorrhea Cases and Rates by Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Age Group, 2011-2020

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		
	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	
Sex																					
Male	14,374	113.0	15,042	116.2	16,239	123.5	18,077	135.0	20,785	152.4	23,728	171.1	25,186	179.2	27,048	190.3	26,626	185.0	32,458	222.6	
Female	16,264	125.8	16,993	129.3	16,932	126.9	17,300	127.4	16,880	122.1	18,490	131.6	20,187	141.8	19,914	138.2	18,972	130.0	24,569	166.2	
Unknown	7		9		172		32		78		57		98		129		296		374		
Race/Ethnicity																					
White	5,536	48.1	6,334	54.7	7,412	63.7	7,645	65.2	8,307	70.3	9,437	79.5	9,991	84.0	8,727	73.3	7,666	64.2	9,061	75.7	
Black	14,259	481.1	14,222	469.7	13,834	447.8	14,034	443.8	13,717	423.3	15,230	459.4	16,651	491.8	15,093	437.5	14,397	409.5	18,248	508.7	
Hispanic	8,939	91.7	9,154	91.8	9,449	92.8	9,421	90.5	9,594	90.0	10,444	95.9	12,151	109.5	10,815	95.8	9,576	83.3	12,017	102.8	
Asian + NHPI* + AIAN^	242	21.7	270	23.1	236	19.2	308	23.7	347	25.2	359	24.9	418	27.8	337	21.7	334	20.9	362	22.0	
Multi Race	21	6.7	32	9.7	32	9.3	45	12.5	51	13.5	64	16.2	59	14.4	101	23.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Unspecified + unknown**	1,648		2,032		2,380		3,956		5,727		6,741		6,201		12,018		13,921		17,713		
Age Group (Years)																					
0 - 14	362	6.2	383	6.5	299	5.1	322	5.4	296	4.9	272	4.5	249	4.1	250	4.1	257	4.2	369	6.0	
15 - 24	19,789	526.8	20,215	529.6	20,014	518.1	20,072	512.2	20,639	520.5	22,279	558.3	23,203	579.6	23,467	583.3	22,151	545.9	27,717	676.3	
25 - 34	7,372	199.1	8,156	215.9	9,181	238.6	10,404	263.9	11,491	284.9	13,410	325.5	14,852	355.0	15,744	372.5	15,399	359.9	19,149	443.4	
35 - 44	2,033	58.1	2,156	60.9	2,559	71.5	3,033	83.5	3,312	89.6	4,055	108.3	4,605	121.0	4,984	128.7	5,209	132.1	6,819	169.7	
45 - 54	793	23.0	836	24.2	959	27.8	1,142	33.0	1,432	41.1	1,660	47.2	1,819	51.5	1,804	51.0	1,914	53.9	2,223	62.1	
55 - 64	237	8.7	228	8.1	258	9.0	342	11.6	448	14.8	474	15.2	625	19.7	680	21.1	698	21.4	835	25.3	
65+	45	1.7	53	1.9	56	1.9	81	2.6	106	3.3	102	3.1	106	3.1	124	3.5	140	3.8	173	4.5	
Unknown	14		17		17		13		19		23		12		38		126		116		
Total	30,645	119.5	32,044	122.8	33,343	125.9	35,409	131.3	37,743	137.4	42,275	151.4	45,471	160.7	47,091	164.5	45,894	158.3	57,401	195.5	

*NHPI: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. ^AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native.
 † Rates represent cases per 100,000 population.

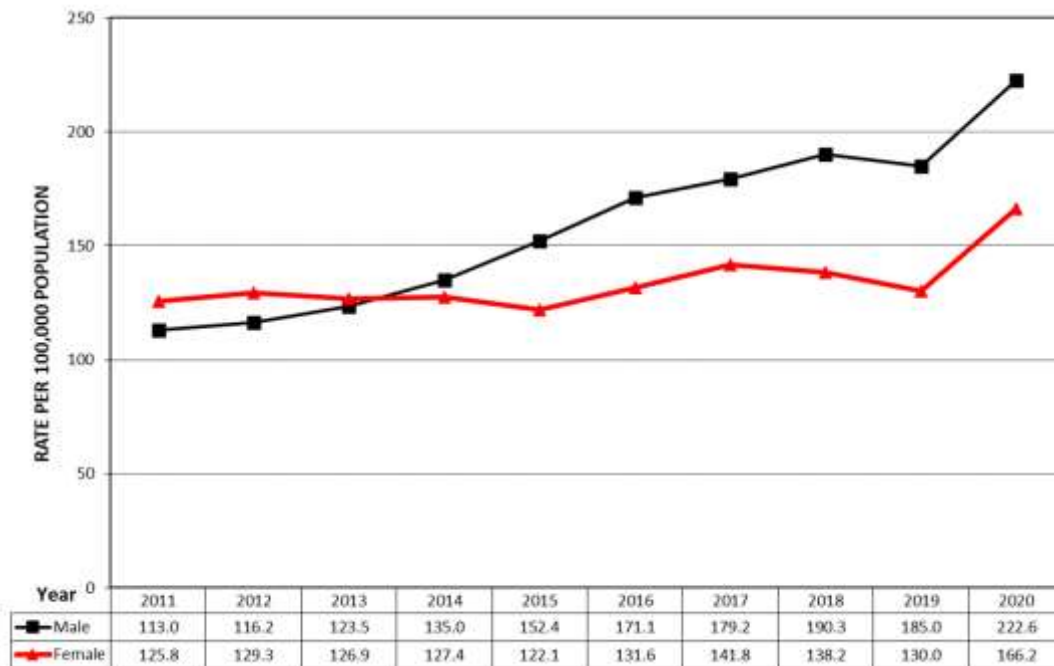
Gonorrhea Case Rates by Race and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020[^]



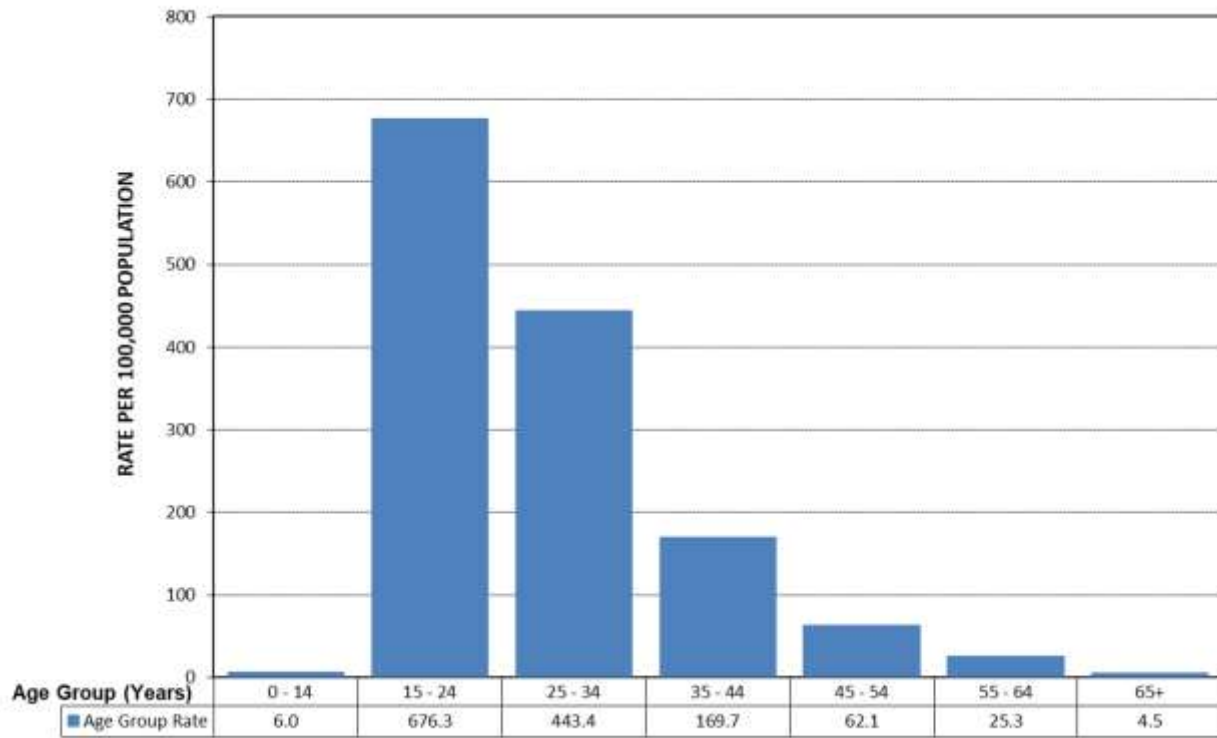
*Other includes Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian.

[^]For 2019 and 2020, multi-race is included in the Other category.

Gonorrhea Case Rates by Sex and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020



Gonorrhea Case Rates by Age Group and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2020



SYPHILIS: Overview and Brief Facts

Description and Background

The bacterium *Treponema pallidum* causes the STD Syphilis and can lead long-term complications if not adequately treated.¹³ The total number of syphilis cases reported in the U.S. has increased 55 percent from 2016, with 133,945 total syphilis cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 2020.¹³ Of the reported cases, 41,655 were primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis, the earliest and most transmissible stages of syphilis.¹⁴ Syphilis is transmitted from person to person by direct contact with a syphilitic sore, known as a chancre.¹³ Chancres occur on the external genitals, vagina, anus, or in the rectum, as well as on the lips and in the mouth.¹³ Transmission of syphilis occurs during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Pregnant women with syphilis can transmit it to their unborn child.

Impact and Risk

Between 2019 and 2020, the rates of P&S syphilis increased 6.8 percent, with increases among both men and women as well as in the Midwest, Northeast, and South regions of the U.S.¹⁴ The rates of P&S syphilis increased in most racial with Hispanic men 20–34 years old experiencing the highest increase. Although increased rates among MSM has slowed in recent years, MSM continue to be disproportionately impacted, with 53 percent of 2020 male P&S syphilis cases occurring among MSM.¹⁴ Rates of P&S syphilis among women increased by 21 percent from 2019 to 2020 and by 147 percent during 2016–2020.⁴ Black, Hispanic, and other racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by P&S syphilis in the United States.¹⁵ The highest rate of reported P&S syphilis cases occurred among Black persons.¹⁵

Syphilis Screening, Treatment and Prevention

Providers should routinely test persons who:

1. Have partner(s) who tested positive for syphilis;
2. Are pregnant;
3. Are sexually active MSM;
4. Are living with HIV and are sexually active; and
5. Are taking PrEP for HIV prevention.

Nontreponemal and treponemal blood tests are commonly used to make Syphilis diagnoses. Treponemal antibodies appear earlier than nontreponemal antibodies and typically remain detectable for life, even after successful treatment.¹³ If using a treponemal test (FTA-ABS, TP-PA, various EIAs, and chemiluminescence immunoassays) for screening purposes and the results are positive, perform a nontreponemal test (VDRL and RPR) with titer.¹³ This will confirm the diagnosis and guide clinical decisions.

SYPHILIS: Overview and Brief Facts – Continued

Syphilis Screening, Treatment and Prevention–Continued

Surveillance staging uses a combination of clinical descriptions and laboratory criteria to make a determination. It is not used to clinically diagnose a person but to determine if a person has been adequately treated. The CDC’s STI Treatment Guidelines for 2020 provide adequate treatment recommendations.¹⁶ Surveillance staging is also used to uniformly define syphilis for public health surveillance activities such as accurate staging and consistent case count reporting.¹⁶

A single intramuscular injection of long-acting benzathine penicillin G cures a person who has primary, secondary, or early latent syphilis.⁸ For individuals with unknown duration or late syphilis, CDC recommends three doses of long-acting benzathine penicillin at weekly intervals.⁸ Treatment kills the syphilis bacterium and prevent further damage, but it will not repair the damage already done.

Correct and consistent use of latex condoms can reduce the risk of syphilis only if the condom protects the infected area or site of potential exposure.⁹ However, a syphilis sore outside of the area covered by a latex condom can still allow transmission, so exercise caution when using a condom.¹³ The surest way to avoid transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including syphilis, is to abstain from sexual contact or to be in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested for syphilis and is known to be uninfected.

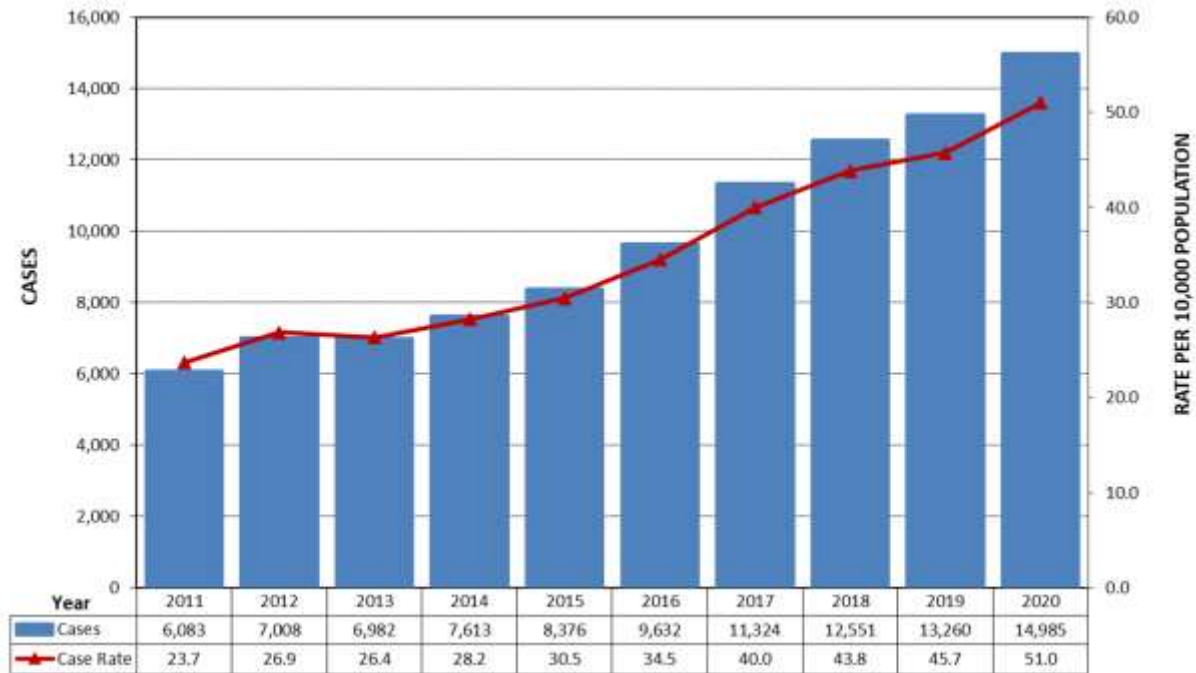
2020 State of Texas Total Syphilis Quick Facts

Number of reported total syphilis cases:	14,985
Total syphilis rate per 100,000 Texas residents:	51.0
Percent change in total syphilis rate from 2016:	+47.8%

2020 State of Texas Primary and Secondary Syphilis Quick Facts

Number of reported primary and secondary syphilis cases:	2,716
Primary and secondary syphilis rate per 100,000 Texas residents:	9.3
Percent change in primary and secondary syphilis rate from 2016:	+32.9%

Total Syphilis Cases and Case Rates by Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020



Total Syphilis Cases and Rates by Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Age Group, 2011-2020

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		
	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	
Sex																					
Male	4,337	34.1	5,270	40.7	5,353	40.7	5,866	43.8	6,579	48.2	7,752	55.9	9,081	64.6	9,801	68.9	9,576	66.5	10,814	74.2	
Female	1,746	13.5	1,738	13.2	1,629	12.2	1,747	12.9	1,795	13.0	1,880	13.4	2,242	15.7	2,745	19.1	3,489	23.9	4,080	27.6	
Unknown	0		0		0		0		2		0		1		5		195		91		
Race/Ethnicity																					
White	1,240	10.8	1,654	14.3	1,605	13.8	1,742	14.8	1,962	16.6	2,257	19.0	2,503	21.0	2,676	22.5	2,569	21.5	3,061	25.6	
Black	2,659	89.7	2,578	85.1	2,415	78.2	2,700	85.4	2,652	81.8	3,071	92.6	3,592	106.1	4,013	116.3	4,096	116.50	4,862	135.6	
Hispanic	2,069	21.2	2,613	26.2	2,770	27.2	2,906	27.9	3,422	32.1	3,999	36.7	4,728	42.6	5,066	44.9	5,491	47.8	5,860	50.1	
Asian + NHPI* + AIAN^	70	6.3	72	6.2	86	7.0	123	9.5	136	9.9	154	10.7	178	11.8	184	11.9	212	13.3	241	14.6	
Multi Race	6	1.9	7	2.1	14	4.1	18	5.0	20	5.3	23	5.8	31	7.6	50	11.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Unspecified + unknown**	39		84		92		124		184		128		292		562		892		961		
Age Group (Years)																					
0 - 14	10	0.2	10	0.2	5	0.1	8	0.1	9	0.1	8	0.1	6	0.1	10	0.2	17	0.3	9	0.1	
15 - 24	1,843	49.1	1,910	50.0	1,830	47.4	2,070	52.8	2,177	54.9	2,467	61.8	2,733	68.3	2,979	74.1	3,122	76.9	3,250	79.3	
25 - 34	1,914	51.7	2,183	57.8	2,311	60.0	2,675	67.9	3,030	75.1	3,591	87.2	4,500	107.6	4,876	115.4	5,319	124.3	6,117	141.6	
35 - 44	1,177	33.7	1,436	40.5	1,375	38.4	1,439	39.6	1,594	43.1	1,786	47.7	2,097	55.1	2,400	62.0	2,531	64.2	3,018	75.1	
45 - 54	771	22.3	1,041	30.2	993	28.8	937	27.1	1,037	29.7	1,198	34.1	1,350	38.2	1,453	41.0	1,385	39.0	1,607	44.9	
55 - 64	267	9.8	307	11.0	324	11.3	357	12.1	403	13.3	440	14.1	508	16.0	643	19.9	710	21.7	775	23.5	
65+	101	3.7	121	4.3	144	4.9	127	4.1	126	3.9	142	4.3	129	3.7	188	5.2	175	4.7	208	5.4	
Unknown	0		0		0		0		0		0		1		2		1		1		
Total	6,083	23.7	7,008	26.9	6,982	26.4	7,613	28.2	8,376	30.5	9,632	34.5	11,324	40.0	12,551	43.8	13,260	45.7	14,985	51.0	

*NHPI: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. ^AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native.

† Rates represent cases per 100,000 population.

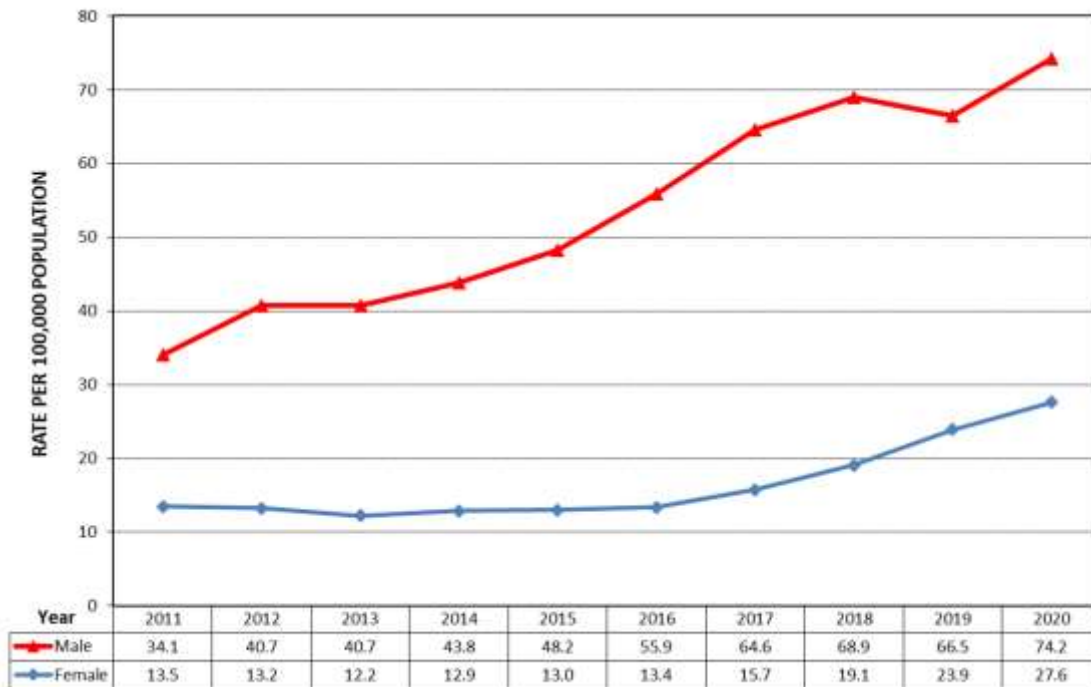
Total Syphilis Case Rates by Race and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020[^]



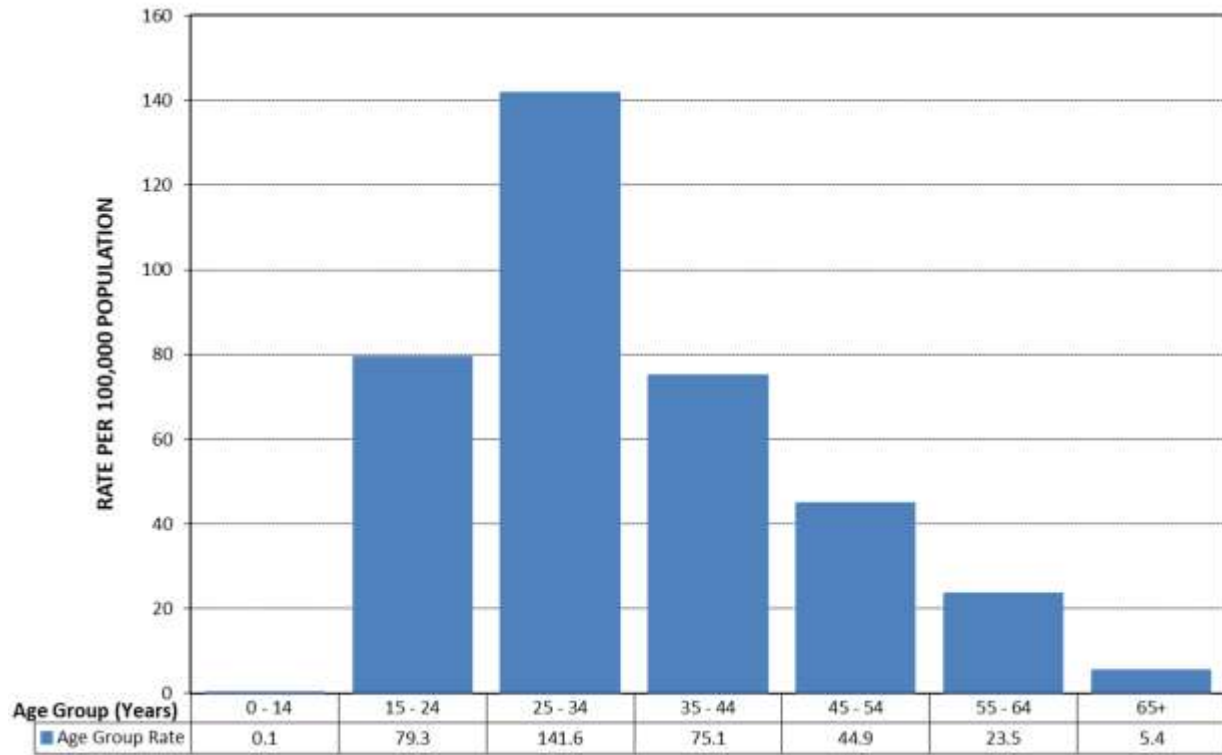
*Other includes Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian.

[^]For 2019 and 2020, multi-race is included in the Other category.

Total Syphilis Case Rates by Sex and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020



Total Syphilis Case Rates by Age Group and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2020



Total Primary and Secondary Syphilis Cases and Case Rates by Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020



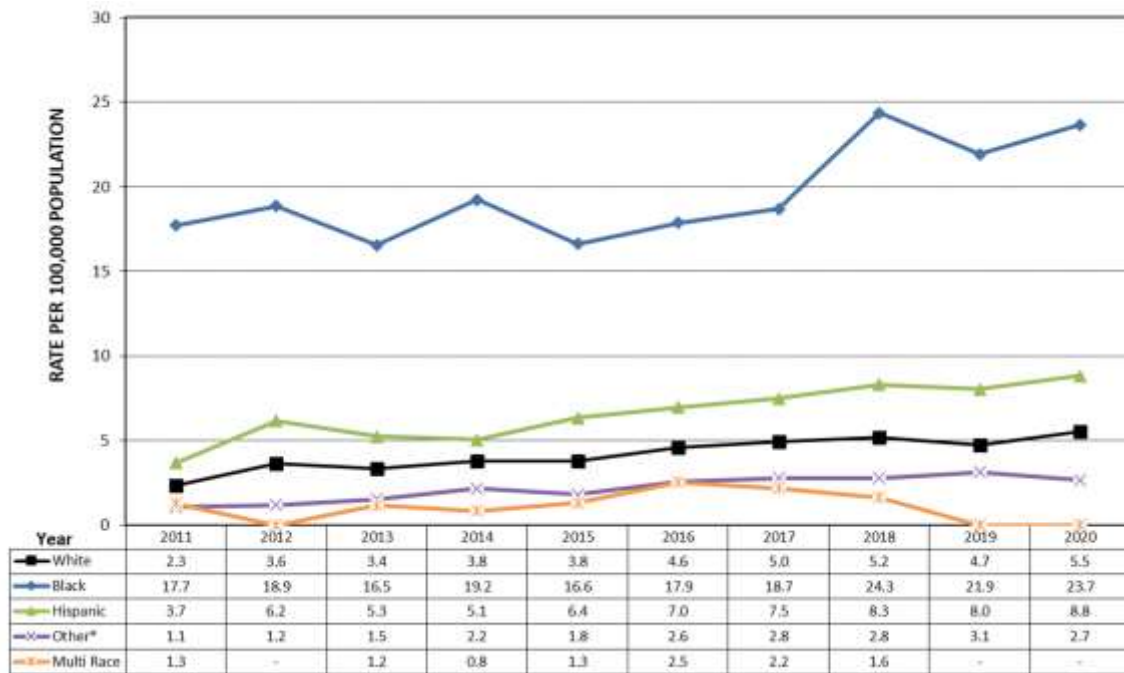
Total Primary and Secondary Syphilis Cases and Rates by Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Age Group, 2011-2020

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		
	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	Cases	Rate†	
Sex																					
Male	922	7.2	1,363	10.5	1,285	9.8	1,379	10.3	1,485	10.9	1,726	12.4	1,845	13.1	2,110	14.8	1,968	13.7	2,127	14.6	
Female	253	2.0	275	2.1	186	1.4	244	1.8	235	1.7	233	1.7	304	2.1	421	2.9	445	3.0	586	4.0	
Unknown	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		22		3		
Race/Ethnicity																					
White	269	2.3	422	3.6	391	3.4	444	3.8	450	3.8	546	4.6	590	5.0	615	5.2	567	4.7	662	5.5	
Black	525	17.7	571	18.9	511	16.5	608	19.2	539	16.6	592	17.9	633	18.7	840	24.3	771	21.9	849	23.7	
Hispanic	358	3.7	615	6.2	535	5.3	526	5.1	677	6.4	760	7.0	832	7.5	937	8.3	923	8.0	1,033	8.8	
Asian + NHPI* + AIAN^	12	1.1	14	1.2	19	1.5	28	2.2	25	1.8	37	2.6	42	2.8	43	2.8	50	3.1	44	2.7	
Multi Race	4	1.3	0	0.0	4	1.2	3	0.8	5	1.3	10	2.5	9	2.2	7	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Unspecified + unknown**	7		16		11		14		24		14		43		89		124		128		
Age Group (Years)																					
0 - 14	2	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0	3	0.0	
15 - 24	453	12.1	528	13.8	438	11.3	531	13.6	564	14.2	595	14.9	590	14.7	713	17.7	652	16.1	686	16.7	
25 - 34	363	9.8	530	14.0	515	13.4	590	15.0	645	16.0	752	18.3	882	21.1	1,006	23.8	1,012	23.6	1,124	26.0	
35 - 44	196	5.6	302	8.5	269	7.5	269	7.4	264	7.1	314	8.4	355	9.3	413	10.7	381	9.7	482	12.0	
45 - 54	121	3.5	225	6.5	177	5.1	169	4.9	162	4.6	211	6.0	227	6.4	254	7.2	247	7.0	284	7.9	
55 - 64	36	1.3	39	1.4	55	1.9	54	1.8	67	2.2	67	2.2	78	2.5	114	3.5	116	3.5	121	3.7	
65+	4	0.1	13	0.5	17	0.6	7	0.2	18	0.6	19	0.6	16	0.5	27	0.8	24	0.6	16	0.4	
Unknown	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		2		0		0		
Total	1,175	4.6	1,638	6.3	1,471	5.6	1,623	6.0	1,720	6.3	1,959	7.0	2,149	7.6	2,531	8.8	2,435	8.4	2,716	9.3	

*NHPI: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. ^AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native.

† Rates represent cases per 100,000 population.

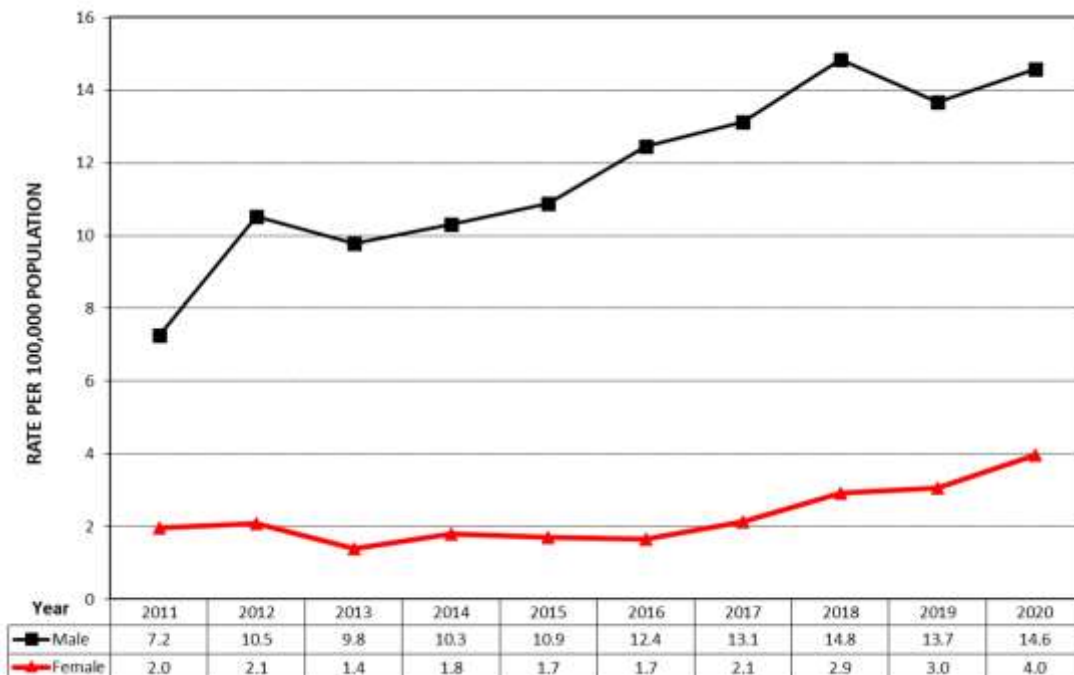
Total Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case Rates by Race and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020[^]



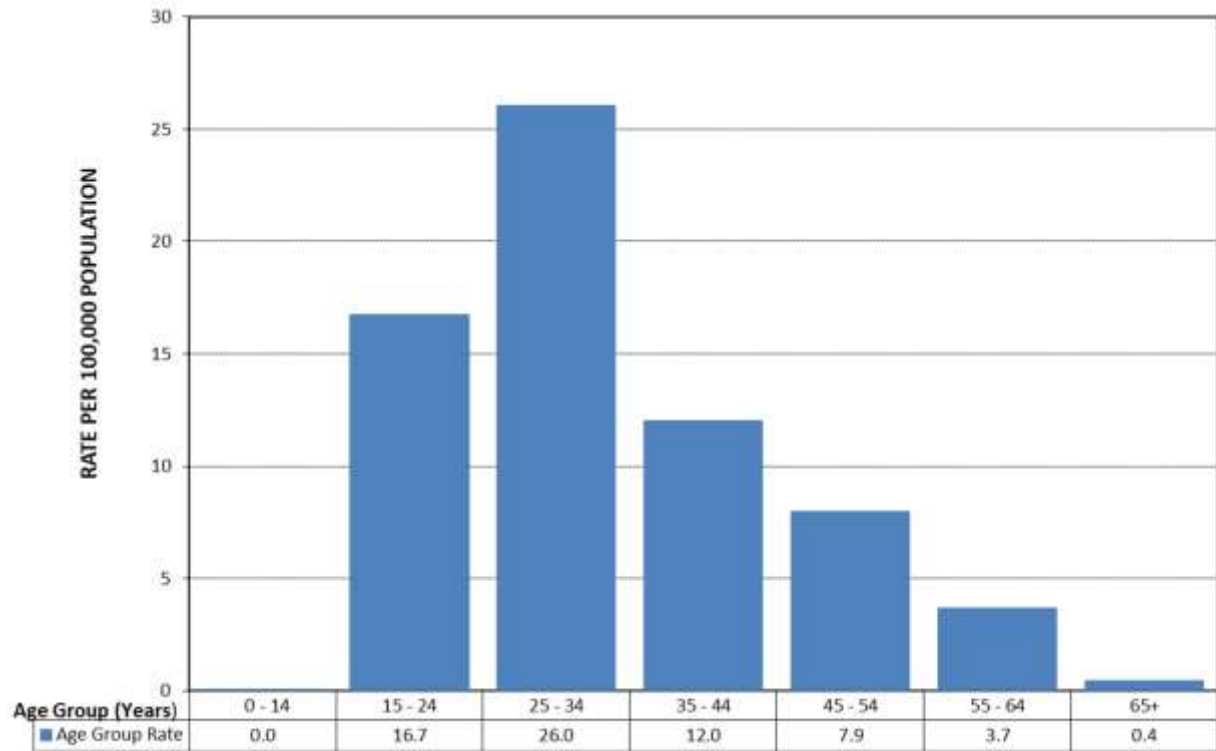
*Other includes Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian.

[^]For 2019 and 2020, multi-race is included in the Other category.

Total Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case Rates by Sex and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2011-2020



Total Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case Rates by Age Group and Year of Diagnosis in Texas, 2020



CONGENITAL SYPHILIS: Overview and Brief Facts

Description and Background

The bacterium *Treponema pallidum* causes congenital syphilis (CS). CS is syphilis in babies transmitted during pregnancy or at delivery by an untreated or inadequately treated woman with syphilis. CS can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm delivery, birth defects, and even perinatal death. Some infants with CS can be asymptomatic and healthy at birth but develop life-altering complications later in life.¹⁷ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), up to 40 percent of babies born to women with untreated syphilis may be stillborn or die as newborns.¹⁸

CS is classified as early when the child exhibits symptoms from birth up to their second birthday and late when symptoms start after age two. Early CS may cause vision or hearing loss, non-viral hepatitis causing jaundice of the skin and eyes, long bone abnormalities, developmental delays, inflammation of the liver and/or spleen, snuffles (a physical symptom of CS consisting of large amounts of mucous around the eyes, nose, and mouth), rash, wart-like lesions on the genitals, and additional symptoms. Infants with snuffles are highly contagious to those caring for them. Clinical manifestations of late CS include problems with bone and tooth development, hearing, and vision, as well as the central nervous and cardiovascular systems. With timely prenatal care, testing, and treatment, potentially devastating health outcomes for children can be averted.¹⁹

Impact and Risk

Since 2013, national CS rates have continued to increase. In 2020, 2,148 CS cases were reported in the U.S., including 149 CS-related stillbirths and infant deaths. Four states (Texas (561), California (481), Florida (154), and Arizona (120)) reported more than half of the U.S.'s CS cases.²⁰

In 2020, Texas reported 561 cases at a rate of 149.8 per 100,000 live births, resulting in over a six percent increase relative to 2019, when Texas reported 528 cases, equating to a rate of 136.7 cases per 100,000 live births. Seventy-four counties in Texas reported at least one CS case in 2020, and only 66 Texas counties reported at least one CS case in 2019. The 561 reported cases for 2020 represent more than a 700 percent increase in CS cases since 2016, when Texas reported 70 cases, at a rate of 17.4 cases per 100,000 live births. Additionally, in 2020, rates were highest among people who identify as Black (466.5 cases per 100,000 live births), followed by Hispanics (147.9 cases per 100,000 live births), Whites (69.5 cases per 100,000 live births), and others (24.6 per 100,000 live births).

Syphilis Screening and Treatment Among Women of Childbearing Age

The Texas Health and Safety Code §81.090 mandates syphilis screening during pregnancy:

- At the first prenatal care examination,
- During the third trimester (no earlier than 28 weeks of gestation), and
- At delivery.

CONGENITAL SYPHILIS: Overview and Brief Facts - Continued

CDC recommends that women who experience a stillbirth after 20 weeks of gestation get tested for syphilis.

A penicillin-based regimen is the only effective treatment during pregnancy to treat syphilis and prevent transmission to the infant. Treatment with penicillin has a success rate of 98 percent in preventing *in utero* transmission. Pregnant women who report a penicillin allergy should be referred to a specialist for desensitization and treated with penicillin.⁸

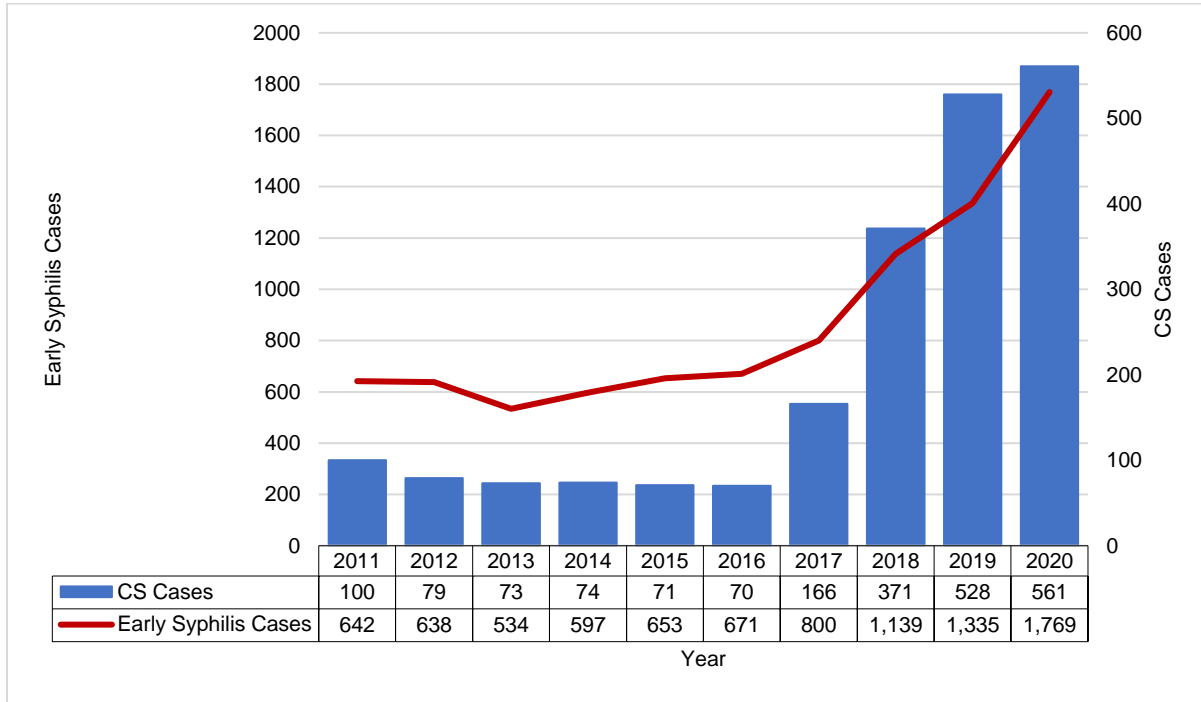
CS Screening and Treatment

At the time of delivery, an infected infant born with CS may not have signs or symptoms. If not treated immediately, the infant may develop serious health problems a few weeks or years after delivery. Untreated infants may become developmentally delayed, experience seizures, or die from the infection. All infants born to women who test positive for syphilis during pregnancy should get screened and examined thoroughly for evidence of CS.¹⁷

2020 State of Texas CS Quick Facts

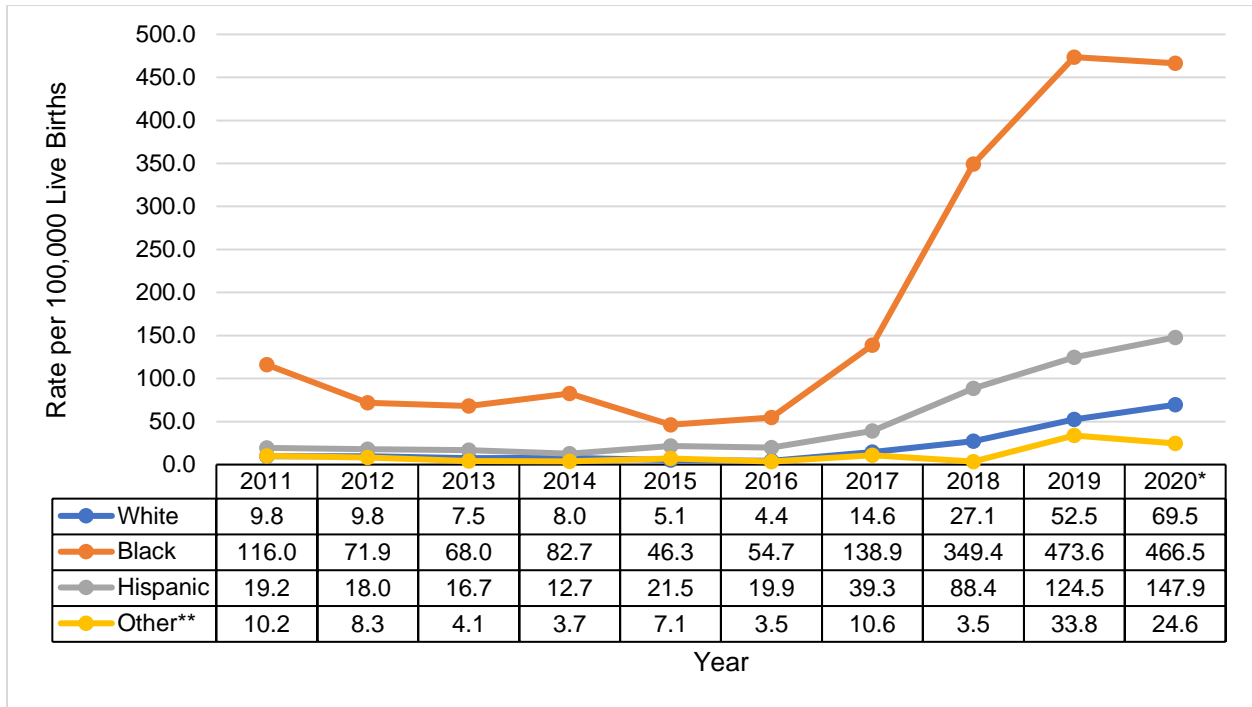
Number of reported CS cases:	561
CS rate per 100,000 Texas live births:	149.8
Percent change in CS rate from 2016:	+704.4%

Congenital Syphilis Cases and Early Syphilis Cases Among Women of Childbearing Age by Diagnosis Year in Texas, 2011-2020



Early Syphilis cases include primary, secondary, and early non-primary non-secondary cases.

Congenital Syphilis Rates by Race/Ethnicity in Texas, 2011-2020*



*2020 rates are based on provisional 2020 birth data.

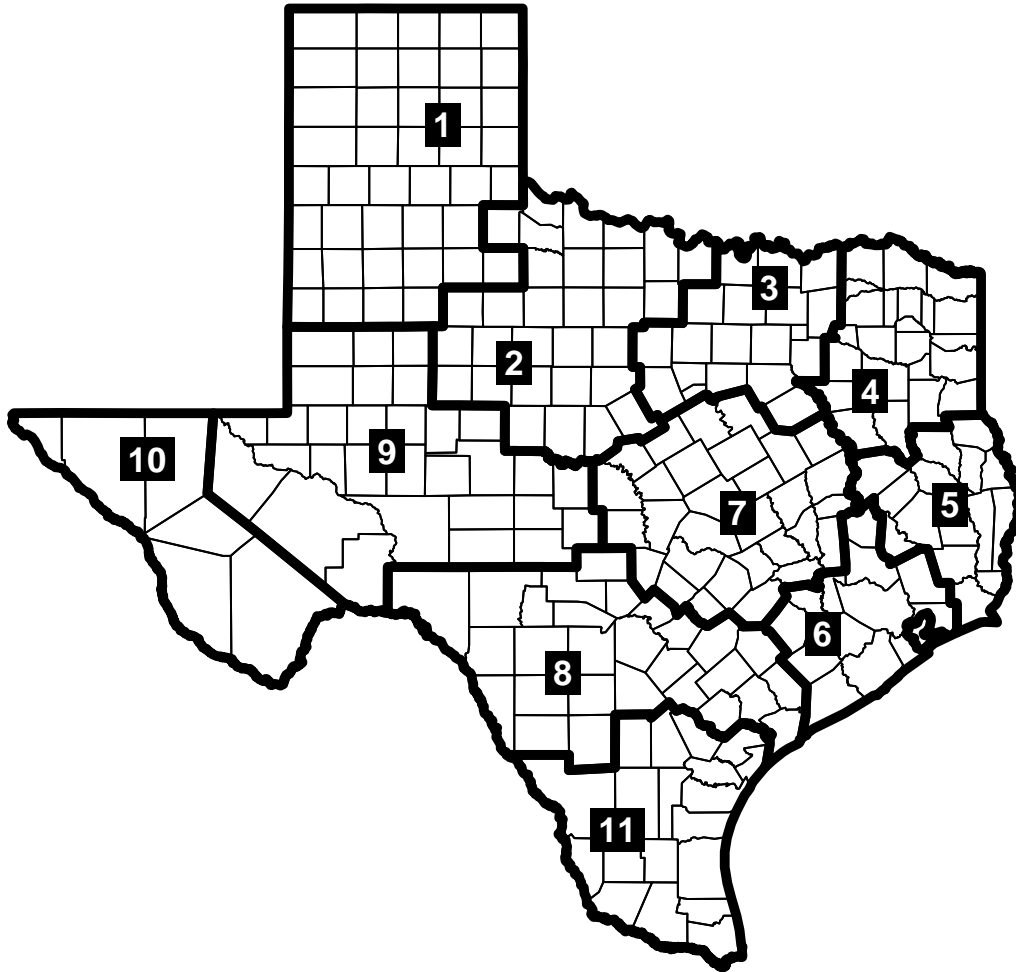
**Other includes Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian race/ethnic groups.

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Appendix A
Geographic Breakdowns
And Rankings



STD Cases and Rates by Public Health Region, 2020

Public Health Region	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		P&S Syphilis		Congenital Syph.	Total Syphilis	
	Cases	Rate*	Cases	Rate*	Cases	Rate*	Cases	Cases	Rate*
Region 1	4,759	545.1	2,572	294.6	118	13.5	11	382	43.8
Region 2	1,894	342.7	817	147.8	23	4.2	5	111	20.1
Region 3	34,863	430.1	16,713	206.2	596	7.4	157	4,488	55.4
Region 4	4,092	351.6	1,911	164.2	55	4.7	8	362	31.1
Region 5	3,158	406.5	1,372	176.6	65	8.4	15	243	31.3
Region 6	32,480	443.3	13,944	190.3	773	10.6	163	4,294	58.6
Region 7	19,825	539.3	9,021	245.4	445	12.1	29	1,594	43.4
Region 8	15,283	496.9	6,300	204.8	369	12.0	95	1,902	61.8
Region 9	2,797	419.7	1,099	164.9	52	7.8	6	314	47.1
Region 10	4,417	509.9	1,192	137.6	45	5.2	1	266	30.7
Region 11	9,806	430.6	2,460	108.0	175	7.7	71	1,029	45.2
State Total	133,374	454.3	57,401	195.5	2,716	9.3	561	14,985	51.0

* Rates represent cases per 100,000 population.

25 Counties with the Highest STD Case Numbers, 2020

Rank	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		P&S Syphilis		Total Syphilis	
	County	Cases	County	Cases	County	Cases	County	Cases
1	Harris	24,779	Harris	11,199	Harris	640	Harris	3,720
2	Dallas	18,483	Dallas	9,649	Bexar	337	Dallas	2,951
3	Bexar	11,826	Bexar	5,151	Travis	271	Bexar	1,628
4	Tarrant	8,341	Travis	4,056	Tarrant	271	Travis	936
5	Travis	7,932	Tarrant	3,993	Dallas	215	Tarrant	875
6	El Paso	4,370	Bell	1,611	Nueces	100	Nueces	363
7	Bell	3,278	Lubbock	1,293	Lubbock	76	Hidalgo	305
8	Hidalgo	3,102	El Paso	1,166	El Paso	45	El Paso	266
9	Nueces	2,680	McLennan	1,029	Williamson	38	Lubbock	210
10	Collin	2,291	Nueces	1,019	Fort Bend	37	Collin	189
11	Lubbock	2,221	Denton	815	Denton	37	Denton	176
12	Fort Bend	2,063	Collin	787	Jefferson	36	Fort Bend	150
13	Denton	2,058	Fort Bend	769	Hidalgo	33	Cameron	140
14	McLennan	2,003	Potter	668	McLennan	30	Jefferson	131
15	Williamson	1,764	Hidalgo	617	Bell	29	Montgomery	122
16	Cameron	1,544	Jefferson	606	Montgomery	28	Williamson	121
17	Jefferson	1,471	Galveston	593	Tom Green	26	Bell	118
18	Galveston	1,436	Williamson	574	Potter	24	Tom Green	115
19	Brazos	1,425	Brazoria	495	Galveston	24	McLennan	112
20	Brazoria	1,383	Brazos	487	Gregg	23	Galveston	97
21	Montgomery	1,339	Smith	443	Collin	23	Gregg	85
22	Potter	1,090	Montgomery	383	Hays	17	Potter	83
23	Hays	1,062	Hays	359	Brazoria	15	Brazoria	81
24	Webb	1,026	Taylor	328	Brazos	13	Webb	76
25	Smith	919	Midland	301	Ector	12	Ector	72

25 Counties with the Highest STD Case Rates, 2020

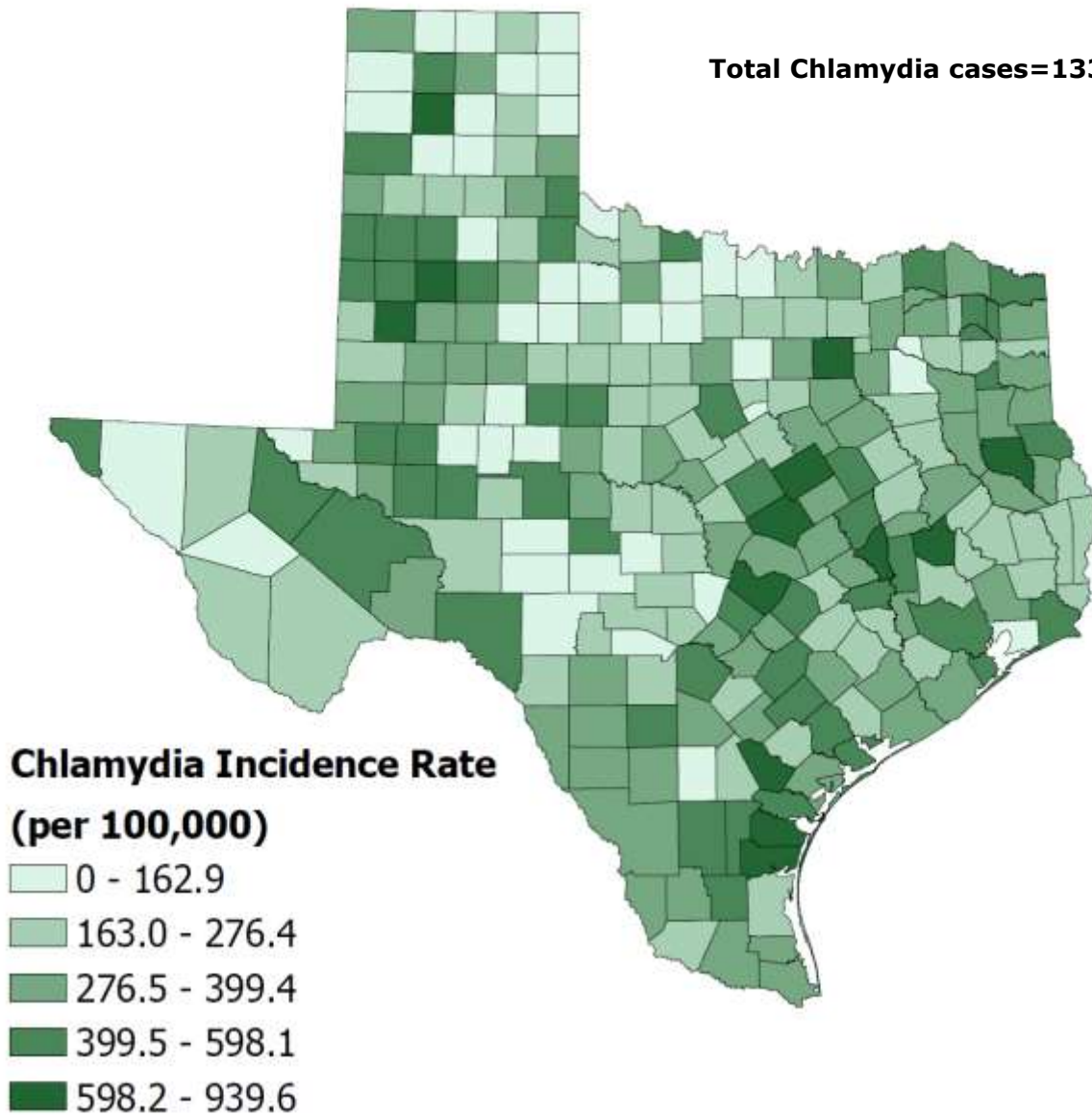
Rank	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		P&S Syphilis		Total Syphilis	
	County	Rate*	County	Rate*	County	Rate*	County	Rate*
1	Potter	939.6	Potter	575.8	Hockley	34.9	Terrell	142.5
2	Bell	886.1	Bell	435.5	Milam	32.4	Bee	135.3
3	McLennan	771.2	Culberson	418.8	Falls	28.9	Hockley	126.5
4	Nueces	738.0	Lubbock	410.8	Nueces	27.5	Dallas	112.0
5	Kleberg	728.5	McLennan	396.2	Kleberg	26.4	Reeves	106.6
6	Terry	722.3	Dallas	366.1	Goliad	26.2	Nueces	100.0
7	Lubbock	705.6	Lamar	360.7	Freestone	25.2	Tom Green	95.8
8	Dallas	701.2	Terry	336.5	Mitchell	24.4	Rusk	84.7
9	Nacogdoches	664.1	Childress	322.0	Lubbock	24.1	Falls	81.0
10	Bee	642.8	Travis	311.9	Tom Green	21.7	Nolan	80.9
11	Walker	637.4	Nacogdoches	310.4	Travis	20.8	Garza	80.4
12	Brazos	612.8	Pecos	299.0	Potter	20.7	Bexar	80.3
13	Travis	609.9	Camp	298.6	Marion	20.1	Harris	78.5
14	Gregg	598.1	Limestone	291.3	Runnels	19.2	Karnes	77.1
15	Hockley	589.0	Nueces	280.6	Gregg	18.5	Stephens	75.0
16	Jefferson	588.1	Bowie	270.6	Crosby	18.0	Duval	72.3
17	Cottle	586.9	Bee	264.5	Floyd	17.6	Travis	72.0
18	Bexar	583.5	Nolan	262.9	Wharton	16.8	Coryell	71.7
19	Lamar	575.1	Bexar	254.1	Bexar	16.6	Potter	71.5
20	Titus	555.8	Titus	252.1	Lynn	16.6	Cochran	69.0
21	Tom Green	555.8	Hale	247.3	Garza	16.1	Gregg	68.4
22	Frio	554.5	Tom Green	245.8	Jefferson	14.4	Lubbock	66.7
23	Erath	552.9	Hockley	244.3	Jasper	14.1	Terry	65.7
24	Deaf Smith	536.2	Jefferson	242.3	Nacogdoches	13.9	Irion	63.9
25	Camp	536.0	Harris	236.4	Matagorda	13.6	Bowie	63.1

* Rates represent cases per 100,000 population.

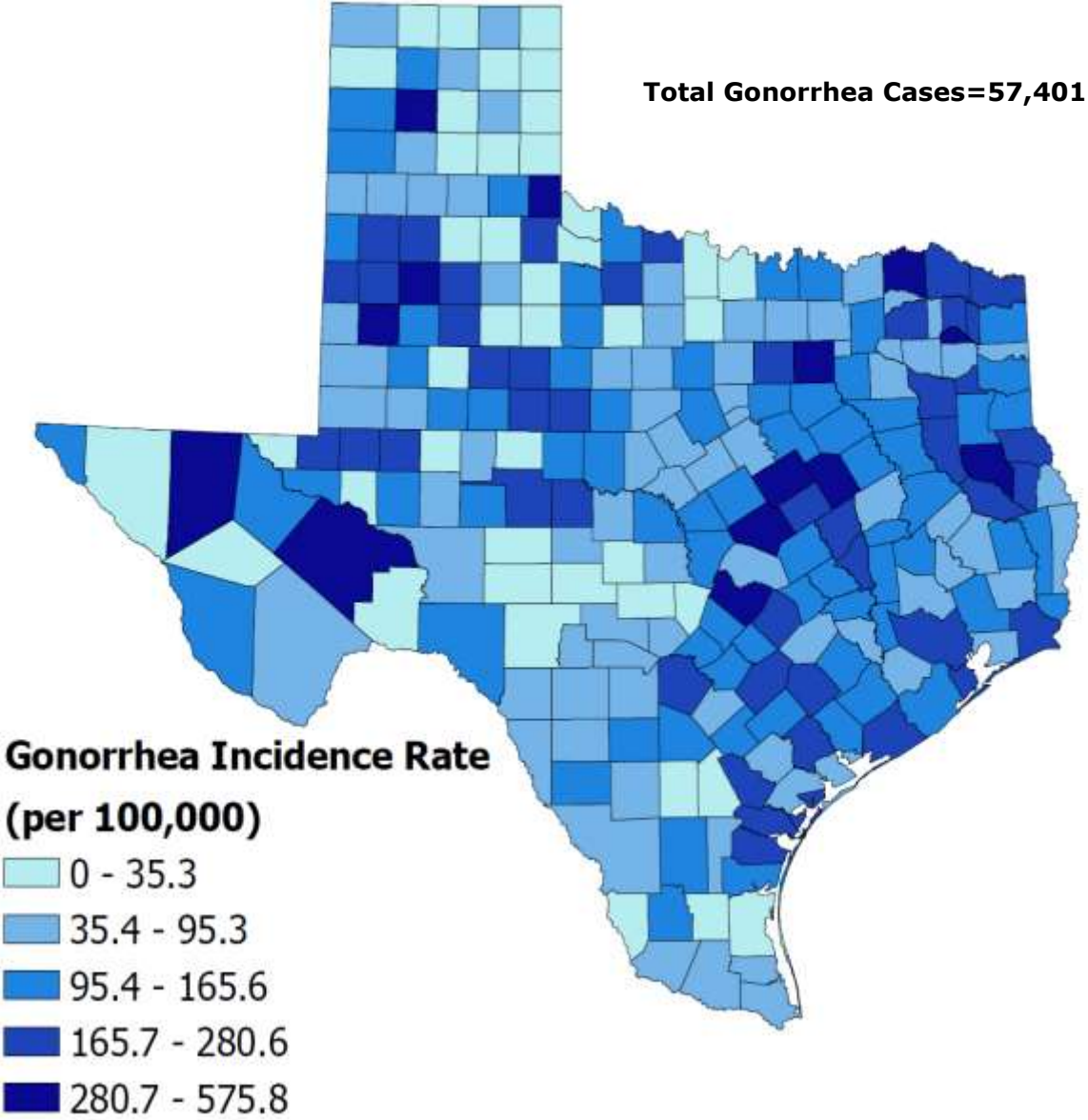
Appendix B
Maps for STD Incidence Rates in 2020

Chlamydia Incidence Rates per 100,000 population, by County, Texas, 2020

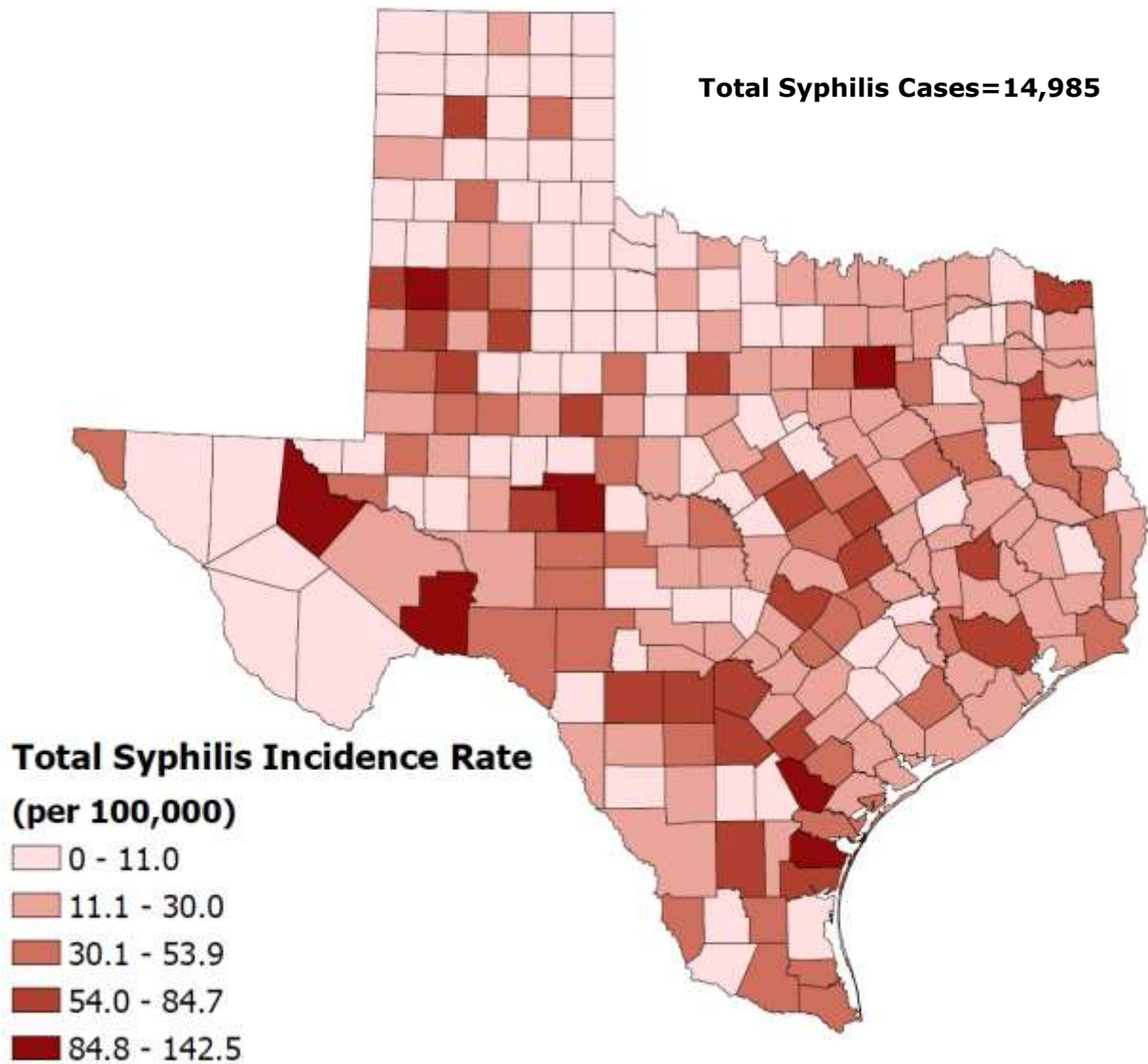
Total Chlamydia cases=133,374



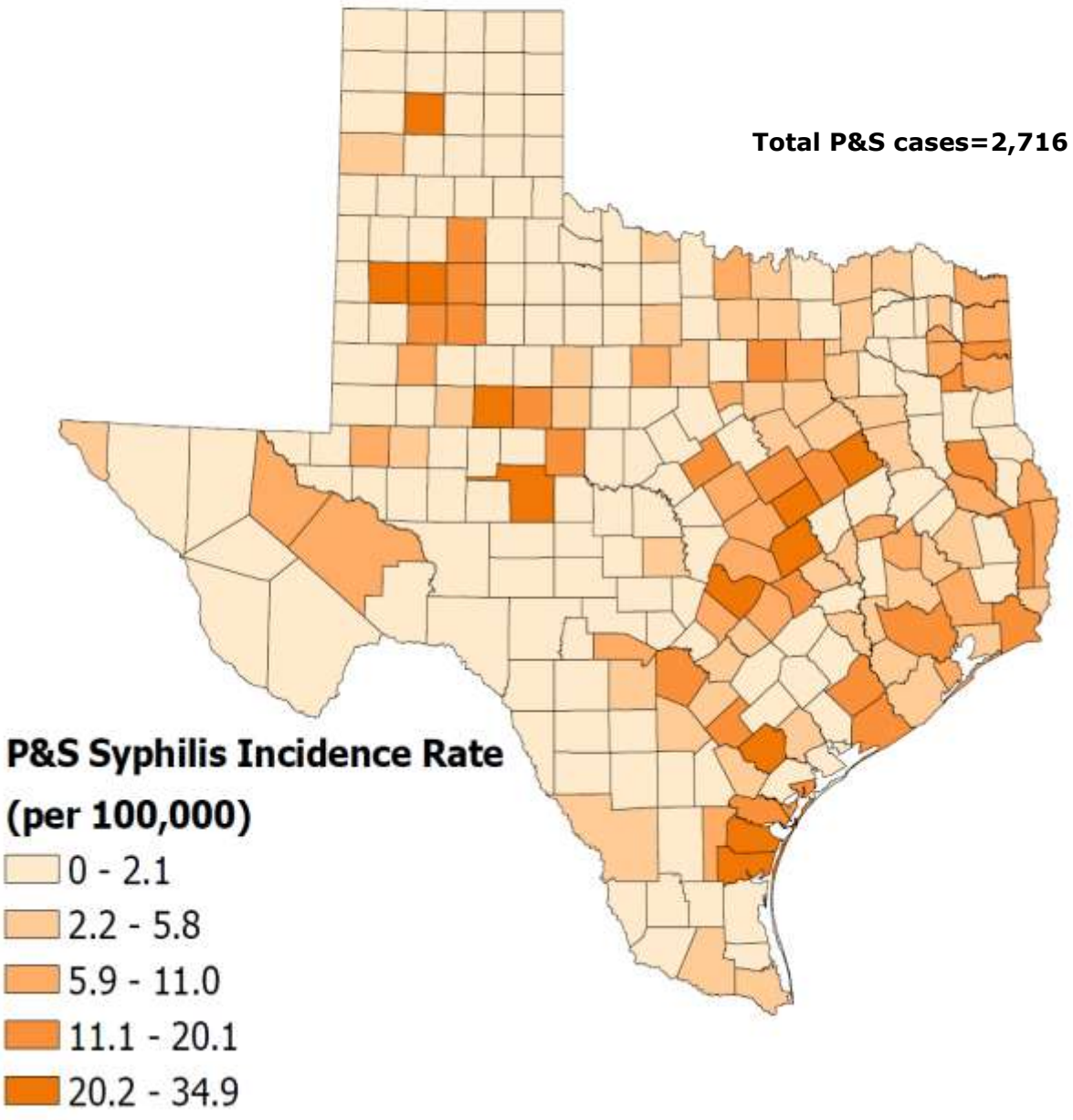
Gonorrhea Incidence Rates per 100,000 population, by County, Texas, 2020



Total Syphilis Incidence Rates per 100,000 population, by County, Texas, 2020



Primary and Secondary (P&S) Incidence Syphilis Rates per 100,000 population, by County, Texas, 2020



Congenital Syphilis Rates per 100,000 Live Births by County, Texas, 2020

