

Ledge Light Health District: STD/Births Report

Terms and Definitions

Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) and **Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)** refer to any of 25 disease-causing organisms that can be transmitted through sexual contact (the two terms are used interchangeably).

Reportable STDs in CT include chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and chancroid. Health care providers and laboratories are required by CT General Statute to report all cases of these diseases to the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) and the local health department of the individual.

Not Reportable STDs can be more common and as, if not more, dangerous than those that are reportable.

Confirmed STDs are laboratory confirmed infections that serve as the basis for STD statistics. Provider reports of STDs that are not laboratory confirmed are not used to calculate STD statistics.

Reportable STDs

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection that can be treated with antibiotics, but it is usually asymptomatic, often goes undiagnosed, and can lead to serious complications (CDC, 2007).

Gonorrhea is the second most commonly reported infectious disease in the U.S., and it is estimated that only 50 percent of gonorrhea infections are reported (Weinstock, 2004). Left untreated, gonorrhea can lead to serious health problems.

Syphilis is a genital ulcerative disease that, if untreated, progresses from a chancre (sore), to a rash, and eventually to internal organ damage.

Not Reportable STDs

Human Papilloma Virus is the main cause of cervical cancer and genital warts. This disease is not reportable.

Trichomoniasis is a bacterial infection associated with premature birth and low birth weight, and herpes simplex virus. This disease is not reportable.

Teen Birth statistics available from CT DPH make up the data related to teen pregnancy among New London teens. No data exist on New London teen pregnancies, abortions, or fetal losses.

Prevalence is the measure of the number of individuals infected with a disease at certain point in time (i.e., a “snapshot in time” --- *the prevalence of diarrhea in the camp on July 13 was 33 percent*).

Incidence is the rate of development of new diseases in a group over a period of time (i.e., *at the height of the epidemic, the incidence of chickenpox in first-grade children was 10 percent per day.*)

Infection Rates are the measure of frequency of an event per population unit. The numerator is the number of events in a specified population and the denominator is the number of people in the specified population. Using simple math, the number of people in a denominator can be set to a specified number, usually 100,000 for STDs and 1,000 for teen births. When this is done, it is as if there are an equal number of people in each group.

Three Year Rolling Averages smooth the variations in data and makes trends more apparent. The average is calculated by adding the number of events (STDs or teen births) in the specified year to the calculated number of events in the previous two years, then dividing by three --- and repeating for a series of years.

Health Disparities “include difference (in the incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality, and/or burden of disease) that occur by gender, race or ethnicity, education, income, disability, geographic location, or sexual orientation” (DHHS, 2000).