SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES IN VOLUSIA COUNTY

The incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is on the rise nationally as well as in Florida. Volusia County is not immune to this trend as we have seen the number of cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea rise by 17 percent and 29 percent, respectively in 2017 over 2016. While syphilis case numbers decreased in 2017 from 2016, the number of cases is a 70 percent increase over 2015.

These three bacterial STDs are treatable with antibiotics, but left untreated they can have long-term consequences. Many times the diseases are asymptomatic, especially in females, and so go untreated. Treatment also prevents the spread to others thereby decreasing the risk to sexual partners.

- The number of cases of both chlamydia and gonorrhea has gone up steadily beginning in 2014.
- Syphilis cases remained steady until 2016. While the number has gone down this year, it’s still well above 2013-15.
- Syphilis is most contagious in the primary and secondary stages. The rate for those cases has gone up from 2.1 per 100,000 population in 2013 to 5.1 per 100,000 population in 2017.
- Congenital syphilis occurs in newborns when the pregnant mother has the disease and is not treated. We have had a case of congenital syphilis in each of the last two years.

- The incidence rate for chlamydia in Volusia County was less than that for the state as a whole.
- The rate for gonorrhea was slightly higher than the state rate.
- The rate for syphilis was half that of the state.
STD Demographics in Volusia County

- STDs are not evenly distributed in the population.
- The 20-29 age group accounts for around half of the cases for each of the three diseases.
- The 10-29 age group accounts for 84 percent of the chlamydia cases compared to 66 percent for gonorrhea and 54 percent for syphilis.
- Females make up around 2/3 of the chlamydia cases and males make up just under 3/4 of the syphilis cases.
- Gonorrhea cases are seen more in males but the ratio is lower: 55 percent to 45 percent.
- Blacks are significantly over-represented in STD numbers for all three diseases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Chlamydia</th>
<th>Gonorrhea</th>
<th>Syphilis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>1182</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the Zip Code map, all three diseases were combined and the total rate per 10,000 population was used.

- Three zip codes had a rate of over 100 per 10,000.
- Zip code 32114 had a rate of 245, more than double all but one other zip code.

Sexually transmitted diseases continue to be a problem in Volusia County as well as throughout the state and the nation.

Health care providers should place an emphasis on routine testing for all sexually active persons at risk especially teenagers and those in their 20s. Routine testing will uncover asymptomatic cases so treatment can be given to stop the progression of disease as well as the potential for further spread.

All sexually active people are at risk of acquiring an STD. However your risk can be significantly reduced by:

- Practicing abstinence
- Reducing number of sexual partners
- Using Condoms
- Getting tested/treated
- Getting vaccinated for HPV
- Talking to your partner

For more information on prevention:

https://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/

Data Source: Florida Department of Health

For more information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County
Division of Disease Control at (386) 274-0634, or visit our website www.volusiahealth.com/stats