



Bureau of Public Health Laboratories Jacksonville - Miami - Tampa

Sexually Transmitted Disease

According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the number of reported sexually transmitted disease (STD) cases increased by more than 5.5% from 2017- 2021 to a high of 2.5M. The three most commonly reported STDs were Chlamydia 1.6M cases, Gonorrhea 696,764 cases and Syphilis (all stages) 173,751 cases. STDs continue to be a substantial health challenge facing the United States, and the epidemic disproportionately affects certain populations. Based on 2021 national figures, Chlamydia is still the most commonly reported STD, affecting 61% of young women ages 15-24 and if undiagnosed causes infertility in women of child-bearing age. Gonorrhea rates have increased 111% since 2009. Since 2013, rates have been higher among men. The national congenital syphilis rate of 57.3 cases per 100,000 live births in 2020 represents a 15% increase relative to 2019 and 254% increase relative to 2016. During 2019-2020 the rate of primary & secondary syphilis (P&S) increased by 24% among women aged 15– 44 years. Although rates of P&S syphilis are lower among women, rates have increased substantially in recent years, increasing 21% from 2019 - 2020 and 147% in years 2016- 2020, suggesting that the heterosexual syphilis epidemic continues to rapidly increase in the United States.
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/2020/overview.htm>



Diagnosing and treating patients infected with STDs is crucial to controlling the spread of these communicable diseases. As such a core function of state public health laboratories is disease prevention, control, and surveillance. To fulfill this mission, the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) performs a variety of screening tests for STDs.

Highlights/specialties:

The Bureau of Public Health Laboratories conducts screening tests for the following STDs:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhea
- Hepatitis A, B, and C
- Herpes
- HIV
- Syphilis



Positive STD results are reported electronically to the STD Section for contact investigation and follow up. Results for most tests are sent electronically to the provider and STD section the same day the samples are received in the laboratory.

In 2021 the BPHL performed over 340,000 tests for STDs and in 2022, the BPHL performed over 420,000 tests for STDs.

Most of the STD tests offered at the BPHL can be performed on non-genital samples, which means that many more people can be screened because samples can be collected in non-clinical settings, such as outreach clinics or community-based health centers.

**Contributing to a
Healthier Florida One Test
at a Time**