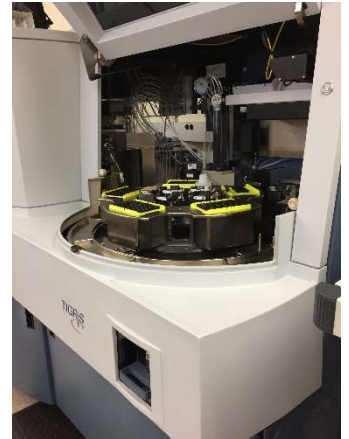




Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) Jacksonville - Miami - Tampa

Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing

According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the number of reported STD cases increased by nearly 30% from 2015-2019 to a record high of 2.6M. The three most commonly reported STDs were Chlamydia 1.8M cases, Gonorrhea 616,392 cases and Syphilis (all stages) 130,000 cases. STDs continue to be a substantial health challenge facing the United States, and the epidemic disproportionately affects certain populations. Based on 2019 national figures, Chlamydia, the most commonly reported STD, affects 43% of young women ages 15-24 and if undiagnosed cause infertility in women of child-bearing age. Gonorrhea disproportionately affects gay and bisexual men as much as 42 times higher than heterosexual men. Syphilis among newborns almost quadrupled from 2015-2019 to 49 cases per 100,000 live births, reflecting an annual infectious rate increase of 30% among women overall. In 2019, 83% of all primary and secondary syphilis cases were men; gay, bisexual and MSM accounted for almost half of these infectious cases.¹



There are significant costs associated with STDs, including direct medical costs, which are estimated to be over \$16 billion a year². But the costs of STDs are not only financial. When left untreated, STDs can lead to long term complications including pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, and cancer¹. Diagnosing and treating patients infected with STDs are crucial to controlling the spread of these communicable diseases. A core function of state public health laboratories is disease prevention, control, and surveillance³. 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 Program Office for contact investigation and follow up. Results for most tests are sent electronically to the provider and STD program office the same day the samples are received in the laboratory.

In 2020 the BPHL performed over 394,000 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.

1. CDC FACT SHEET: Reported STDs in the United States, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/docs/factsheets/STD-Trends-508.pdf> 4/20/21

2. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/prevalence-incidence-cost-2020.htm>

3. Core Functions and Capabilities of State Public Health Laboratories. MMWR Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report 2002 Sep 20; 51 (RR14):1-8

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