

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Health**



**STD Control Program**

**This is a plea!**

**Please help the District of Columbia's STD Control Program collect more accurate and complete epidemiological data!**

Washington, D.C. has some of the highest rates of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in the United States. The District ranks 12<sup>th</sup> for gonorrhea, 13<sup>th</sup> for primary and secondary syphilis and 19<sup>th</sup> for chlamydia compared to other cities with populations greater than 200,000.<sup>i</sup>

Nationally, chlamydia is the most commonly reported STD, especially among African-American females between the ages of 15-24 years. Gonorrhea is the second most commonly reported STD, especially among African-American males between the ages of 15-24 years.

In the District, chlamydia accounted for 50% (6,624/13,212) of the STDs reported for 2001 and 2002, followed by gonorrhea at 42% (5,568/13,212), and infectious syphilis at 0.8% (100/13,212). Combined, chlamydia, gonorrhea, primary and secondary syphilis account for 93% (12,292/13,212) of the STDs reported in the District of Columbia for 2001 and 2002. See Table 1 below.

Diagnosis	Frequency	Percent
<b>Chlamydia</b>	<b>6,624</b>	<b>50.1%</b>
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	<b>5,568</b>	<b>42.1%</b>
<b>1° Syphilis</b>	20	0.2%
<b>2° Syphilis</b>	80	0.6%
<b>Early Latent Syphilis</b>	416	3.1%
<b>Latent Syphilis (Unknown Duration)</b>	216	1.6%
<b>Late Latent Syphilis</b>	149	1.1%
<b>Neurosyphilis</b>	10	0.1%
<b>Congenital Syphilis</b>	4	0%
<b>Herpes</b>	22	0.2%
<b>Other STDs</b>	103	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,212</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the chlamydia, gonorrhea and infectious syphilis cases reported in the District of Columbia for 2001 and 2002, 0.6% (71/12,290) were identified as "unknown" sex. See Table 2 below.

Sex	Chl	Gon	1° Syph	2° Syph	Total
<b>Male</b>	913	3,075	18	65	4,071
<b>Female</b>	5,662	2,469	2	15	8,148
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,623</b>	<b>5,567</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>12,290</b>

Of the chlamydia, gonorrhea and infectious syphilis cases reported in the District of Columbia for 2001-2002, 1.7% (213/12,292) were identified as "unknown" Age. See Table 3 below.

Age	Chl	Gon	1° Syph	2° Syph	Total
<b>0-9 years</b>	19	9	0	0	28
<b>10-19</b>	2,581	1,402	0	6	3,989
<b>20-29</b>	3,018	2,304	10	17	5,349
<b>30-39</b>	632	1,052	3	31	1,718
<b>40-49</b>	176	522	5	19	722
<b>50-59</b>	43	137	2	3	185
<b>60-69</b>	22	29	0	1	52
<b>70-79</b>	9	5	0	3	17
<b>&gt;=80</b>	11	6	0	0	17
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,624</b>	<b>5,568</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>12,292</b>

**STD SCREENING AND  
TREATMENT SERVICES  
*FREE and Confidential***

*Southeast STD Clinic*  
**D.C. General Health Campus  
 Building #8  
 19<sup>th</sup> & Massachusetts Ave., SE  
 Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
 Phone: (202) 698-4050**

**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**

Of the chlamydia, gonorrhea and infectious syphilis cases reported in the District of Columbia for 2001 – 2002, 22.5% (2,763/12,281) were identified as “unknown” Ward due to inadequate locating information. See Table 4 below.

Ward	Chl	Gon	1° Syph	2° Syph	Total
Ward 1	624	632	3	11	1,270
Ward 2	449	502	2	18	971
Ward 3	65	58	0	6	129
Ward 4	474	387	4	3	868
Ward 5	723	891	3	8	1,625
Ward 6	594	634	1	14	1,243
Ward 7	742	775	2	11	1,530
Ward 8	890	961	5	5	1,861
Non-DC	10	10	0	1	21
Unknown	2,045	715	0	3	2,763
<b>Total</b>	6,616	5,565	20	80	12,281

Of the chlamydia, gonorrhea and infectious syphilis cases reported in the District of Columbia for 2001 – 2002, 38.2% (4,690/12,290) were identified as “unknown” Race. See Table 5 below.

Race	Chl	Gon	1° Syph	2° Syph	Total
American Ind. /Ak. Native	2	9	0	0	11
Asian/ Pac. Isl.	19	15	1	1	37
Black	3,099	3,965	18	62	7,144
White	101	167	1	16	285
Other	80	43	0	0	123
Unknown	3,322	1,368	0	0	4,690
<b>Total</b>	6,623	5,567	20	80	12,290

Of the chlamydia, gonorrhea and infectious syphilis cases reported in the District of Columbia for 2001 – 2002, 38.6% (4,748/12,290) were identified as “unknown” Ethnicity. See Table 6 below.

Ethnicity	Chl	Gon	1° Syph	2° Syph	Total
Hispanic	97	54	0	1	162
Non-Hispanic	3,178	4,103	20	79	7,380
Unknown	3,348	1,400	0	0	4,748
<b>Total</b>	6,623	5,567	20	80	12,290

Incomplete disease reports and surveillance data increases bias, decreases validity and prevents effective intervention and control efforts, which hampers progress towards local STD elimination objectives. Hospital and clinic closures from a reduction of funds and a shift toward managed care have dramatically changed the public health care environment. Private providers in the District of Columbia account for 84% (12,290) of reported STDs. We are urging all providers to screen high risk patients for STDs! In addition, please collect and transmit all pertinent demographic information. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually transmitted disease surveillance 2001. Atlanta: US Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention, Division of STD prevention, 2002.

**D.C. Department of Health Website :**

[www.dchealth.dc.gov/services/special\\_programs/std/index.shtm](http://www.dchealth.dc.gov/services/special_programs/std/index.shtm)

☞ Look for the Division of **Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Program** under “Special Services”

📄 Download the **2002 CDC Treatment Guidelines:** [www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/default.htm)

☑ **Regional STD Training Website:** [www.stdpreventiontraining.org](http://www.stdpreventiontraining.org)

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