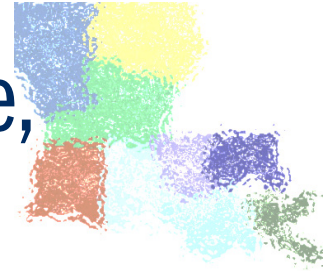


STD statistics, costs, barriers to care, and successes in Louisiana



STATISTICS—Louisiana continues to lead the nation in case rates for HIV, Primary and Secondary Syphilis, Congenital Syphilis, and Gonorrhea. Louisiana is second in the nation for Chlamydia case rates. The number of STDs in Louisiana has consistently increased over the years.

- ▶ **In 2016, 1,225 persons were diagnosed with HIV** (26.2 per 100,000). Of these, 72% were black (increased from 71% in 2014), 22% were white (increased from 21% in 2014), and 6% were Hispanic (also 6% in 2014). The capital region ranks second in the state for newly diagnosed cases.
- ▶ **In 2016, 750 persons were diagnosed with Primary or Secondary Syphilis** (16.1 per 100,000), which is a 30% increase from 2014. Of these, 74% were black (decreased from 76% in 2014), 25% were white (increased from 22% in 2014), and 2% were Hispanic (also 2% in 2014). The capital region ranks third in the state for new diagnoses.
- ▶ **In 2016, 10,783 persons were diagnosed with gonorrhea** (230.9 per 100,000), which is a 20% increase from 2014. The capital region ranks second in the state for new diagnoses.
- ▶ **In 2016, 31,727 persons were diagnosed with chlamydia** (679.3 per 100,000), which is a 10% increase from 2014.
- ▶ **In 2016, there 48 presumed cases of congenital syphilis**, a 9% decrease from 2015. The capital region ranked first in the state for presumed cases.

HEALTHCARE COSTS

- ▶ Each year, the United States spends almost \$15 billion on STD prevention, treatment, and education (ASHA, 2014).
- ▶ Louisiana cut \$2.6 million from STD spending from 2011 to 2014, which has caused a continual rise in STD diagnoses across the state (Shreveport Times, 2014).

- ▶ Federal contributions increased almost \$1 million between 2011 and 2014 (Shreveport Times, 2014).
- ▶ Disease prevention is vital to reducing health care costs and maintaining healthy communities (CDC, 2013).

BARRIERS TO PREVENTION

- ▶ Budget cuts
- ▶ Limited staff related to lay-offs and closures (clinicians and support staff, including Disease Intervention Specialists who play a vital role in partner notification)
- ▶ Limited resources, such as inability to order Bicillin due to national shortage
- ▶ Poor reimbursement for Bicillin, which is the recommended treatment for syphilis, within the private sector
- ▶ No policy for Expedited Partner Treatment of syphilis contacts. Currently, partners are required to present to a clinic for treatment/testing.

SUCCESSES and NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Regional STD Task Forces are meeting statewide to increase awareness of the STD epidemic and develop regional action plan.
- ▶ Louisiana Department of Health is partnering with community-based organizations to better serve residents and at-risk populations.
- ▶ Public Health Units employ STD-trained Registered Nurses to evaluate and treat based on syndromic assessments. Nurses can provide same day treatment and refer to on-site DIS staff for confidential partner notification services.
- ▶ OPH and community partners are dedicated to Louisiana and eager to improve STD rates.