



Sexually Transmitted Infections

Health Outcome

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Communicable diseases are infections, usually viral or bacterial, that are spread from person to person (see [Appendix E](#) and [Appendix G](#) for more data).⁶² Between 2002 and 2016, the incidence of some communicable diseases has increased in the quad-county region, including STIs.⁶³ Rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea have been increasing in the region, as shown below (Figure 27).

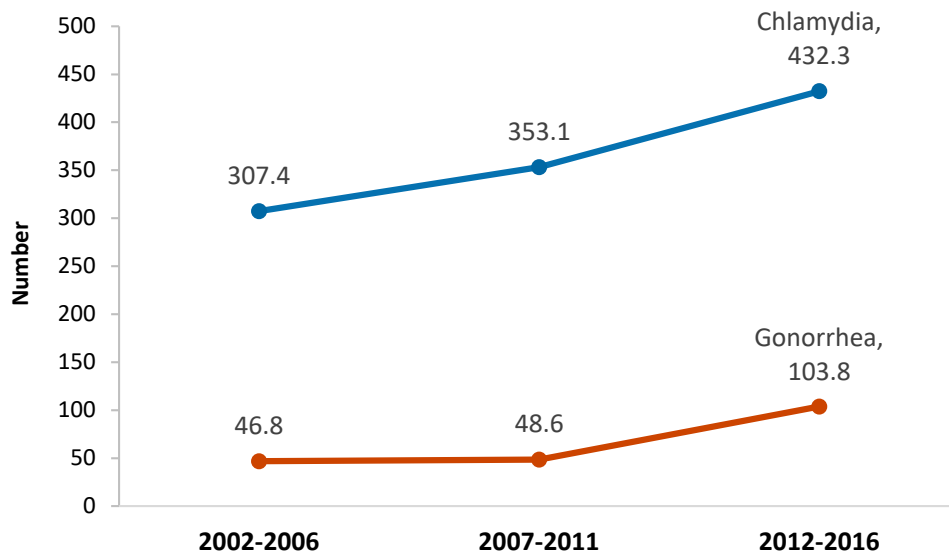
What's Being Done

HCWC members are addressing this core issue through:

- STI prevention, case investigations, contact tracing, treatment and partner therapy
- Sexual and reproductive health coalitions

While data on racial and ethnic differences in rates are available, they are not always reliable. Public health partners are working on improving the ability to collect and share more accurate data. Understanding the differences in racial and ethnic rates of STIs is key to developing and implementing targeted strategies for outreach and interventions.

Figure 27. Crude Incidence Rates* of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in the Region.



*Crude incidence rates reflect the total number of cases diagnosed in a given time frame divided by the total population for that year and are expressed as a rate per 100,000.

Source: Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT), Oregon Public Health Assessment Tool (OPHAT).

Chlamydia

Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted disease that can be easily cured. If left untreated, chlamydia can make it difficult for a woman to get pregnant.⁶⁴

Gonorrhea

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection that can affect both men and women and cause infections in the genitals, rectum, and throat. It is a very common infection, especially among young people ages 15–24 years.⁶⁵ In the youth listening sessions, participants requested more comprehensive sex education and access to sexual health resources which shows this is a concern, even if the specific conditions were not mentioned.