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April-STD Awareness Month-“Talk.Test.Treat.”

Each year in April the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department recognizes Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STD) Awareness Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about local trends in STD infections and to elicit the support of our medical partners with public health prevention efforts. This year’s theme for STD Awareness Month is “Talk.Test.Treat”.

TALK - Providing the best medical care possible means talking to your patients about sexual health.

- Taking a sexual history should be a part of routine care.
- Create an environment that is open to an honest discussion around your patient’s sexual history—success in this area can garner important information that will allow you to provide the best care possible.
- Counsel your patients on safe sex, and ensure that they know about today’s many prevention options. With condoms, hepatitis B and HPV vaccines, and HIV PrEP – there have never been more ways for your patients to protect themselves.
- [California Dear Colleague Letter – HIV PrEP](#)

TEST - Test your patients for STDs as recommended.

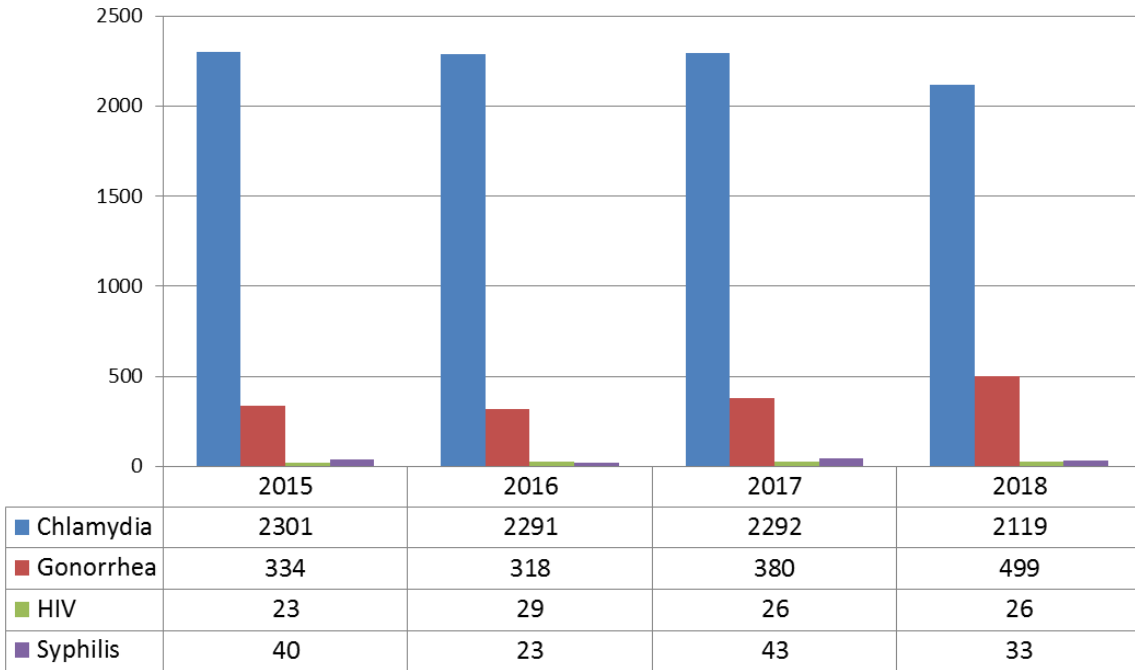
- [California STD Screening Recommendations](#)
- [California STD Screening Recommendations in Pregnancy, 2017](#)
- [California Dear Colleague Letter – Extragenital Testing](#)
- All adults and adolescents from age 13 to age 64 should be tested at least once for HIV
 - Repeat screening of high-risk individuals should be done annually, or every 3-6 months, as indicated by risk

TREAT- Follow California STD Treatment Guidelines to ensure appropriate treatment and care. The 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines are the most current recommendations for treating patients who have, or who are at risk for STDs.

- [California STD Treatment Guidelines for Adults & Adolescents, 2015](#)

In Santa Barbara County, the incidence of gonorrhea cases have continued to increase, while chlamydia has remained steady and syphilis has been slowly declining. Although HIV case counts have been stable, late HIV diagnosis (AIDS) increased from 8% to 35% in one year. For more information on local STD epidemiological data, please visit our website at: www.sbcphd.org/epi.

STD Cases in Santa Barbara County, 2015-2018.



- Source of confirmed cases: STD Control Branch/CalREDIE 3/22/2019.
- HIV data based on SBC residency at time of diagnosis as of 3/22/2019; EHARS database.
- Syphilis cases include Primary, Secondary and Early Latent syphilis

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department will be offering STD Clinical Updates in May. These clinical updates will focus on the practical aspects of syphilis, sexually transmitted infections and HIV preventative care. See attached flyer for additional information.

Thank you for your ongoing support to keep your patients and our community healthy. Please contact our Disease Control Office at (805) 681-5280 or visit our website at www.sbcpd.org/dcp for any questions regarding STD or communicable disease reporting or screening questions.

STD Clinical Update

This course will strengthen your delivery of STD care and prevention!

Topics include:

Local STD Epidemiology, Sexual History Taking, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, HIV/PrEP

Presenter:

Dr. Lynn N. Fitzgibbons, Infectious Disease Specialist, Santa Barbara County Public Health & Cottage Hospital

Dates and Locations:

**May 13th, Noon - 2 pm (Lunch will be provided)
Community Health Centers of the Central Coast
2050 Blosser Road - Conference Room A
Santa Maria**

**May 14th, Noon - 2pm (Lunch will be provided)
Lompoc Public Health Department
301 N. R Street
Lompoc**

**May 16th, Noon - 2 pm (Lunch will be provided)
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department
300 N. San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara**

**Medical Providers and Nurses can register for this course by emailing: aalmagu@sbcphd.org
Please include your name, title and location attending.**

