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Rising Chlamydia Rates Among Reproductive-Age Men in a High-Burden State: Implications for Male Factor Infertility

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BACKGROUND

- Sexually transmitted infections can affect male reproductive health.
- Chlamydial infection is associated with epididymitis and can contribute to obstructive azoospermia.
- Mississippi has a consistently high STI burden relative to national averages.
- We evaluated STI trends among reproductive-age men in this high-burden state.

METHODS

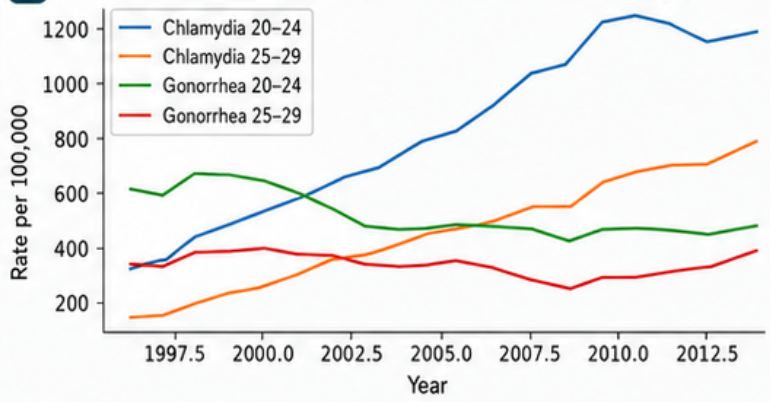
- State-level surveillance analysis using CDC WONDER / CDC sexually transmitted infection data.
- Population: males aged 20–24 and 25–29 in Mississippi.
- Outcomes: annual chlamydia and gonorrhea rates per 100,000 population.
- Temporal trends were assessed using linear regression.

KEY RESULTS

- Chlamydia rates increased significantly among males aged 20–24 (slope +55.3 cases per 100,000 per year; $p < 0.001$; $R^2 = 0.97$).
- Chlamydia rates increased significantly among males aged 25–29 (slope +35.7 per year; $p < 0.001$; $R^2 = 0.99$).
- Percent increases in chlamydia exceeded 250–350% over the study period.
- Gonorrhea decreased significantly among males aged 20–24 (slope −11.0; $p < 0.001$; $R^2 = 0.70$).
- Gonorrhea among males aged 25–29 showed no significant change ($p = 0.06$).

RESULTS

A



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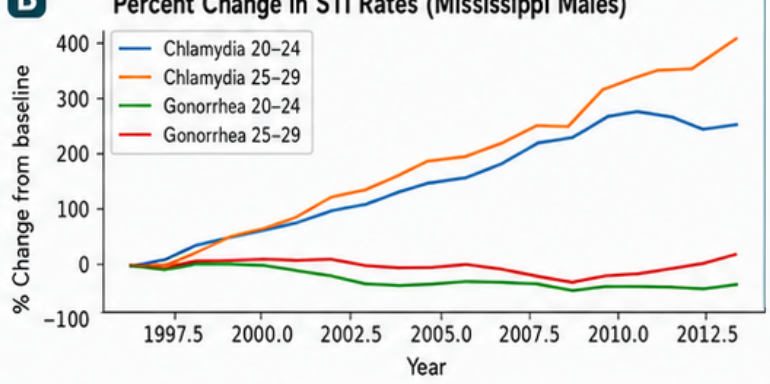

Trend summary

- Rising chlamydia in both male reproductive-age groups.
- Largest relative increases seen in ages 25–29.
- Gonorrhea declined in ages 20–24.
- Gonorrhea was relatively stable in ages 25–29.

In a high-burden state, chlamydia is rising among men at peak reproductive age, suggesting a growing and underrecognized contributor to male factor infertility.

CONCLUSION

In a high-burden state, chlamydia rates are rising significantly among men at peak reproductive age. Given the well-established association between chlamydial infection and epididymitis, which can lead to obstructive azoospermia, these findings suggest a growing and underrecognized contributor to male factor infertility. These results highlight the need for targeted prevention and fertility-focused counseling in high-risk populations.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Rising chlamydia rates among reproductive-age men may have important downstream implications for male fertility.

DATA SOURCE

- CDC WONDER / CDC surveillance data
- Mississippi, males aged 20–24 and 25–29
- Annual STI rates over the study period
- Data extracted: 2026