

Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County Annual STD/STI Report 2015

Overview

The Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County's (DOH-Charlotte) STD/STI department's goal is to prevent the spread of STI/STDs, including identifying and testing those at risk for contracting STI/STDs, in Charlotte County. DOH-Charlotte ensures treatment of those who have tested positive, as well as offering testing and treatment services for contacts to confirmed STD/STI positive cases. Reportable STD/STIs include Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HIV, and Syphilis. In 2015, 402 positive STI/STD results were reported to DOH-Charlotte. This indicates a 15% increase in total number positive STD/STI results from those reported in 2014. Reported totals of STD/STIs have increased 17% since 2013 (n₂₀₁₃=335). Chlamydia continued to be the most reported STD/STI in 2015 followed by Gonorrhea. Reports of Syphilis and HIV decreased from 2014 to 2015. (Figure 1)

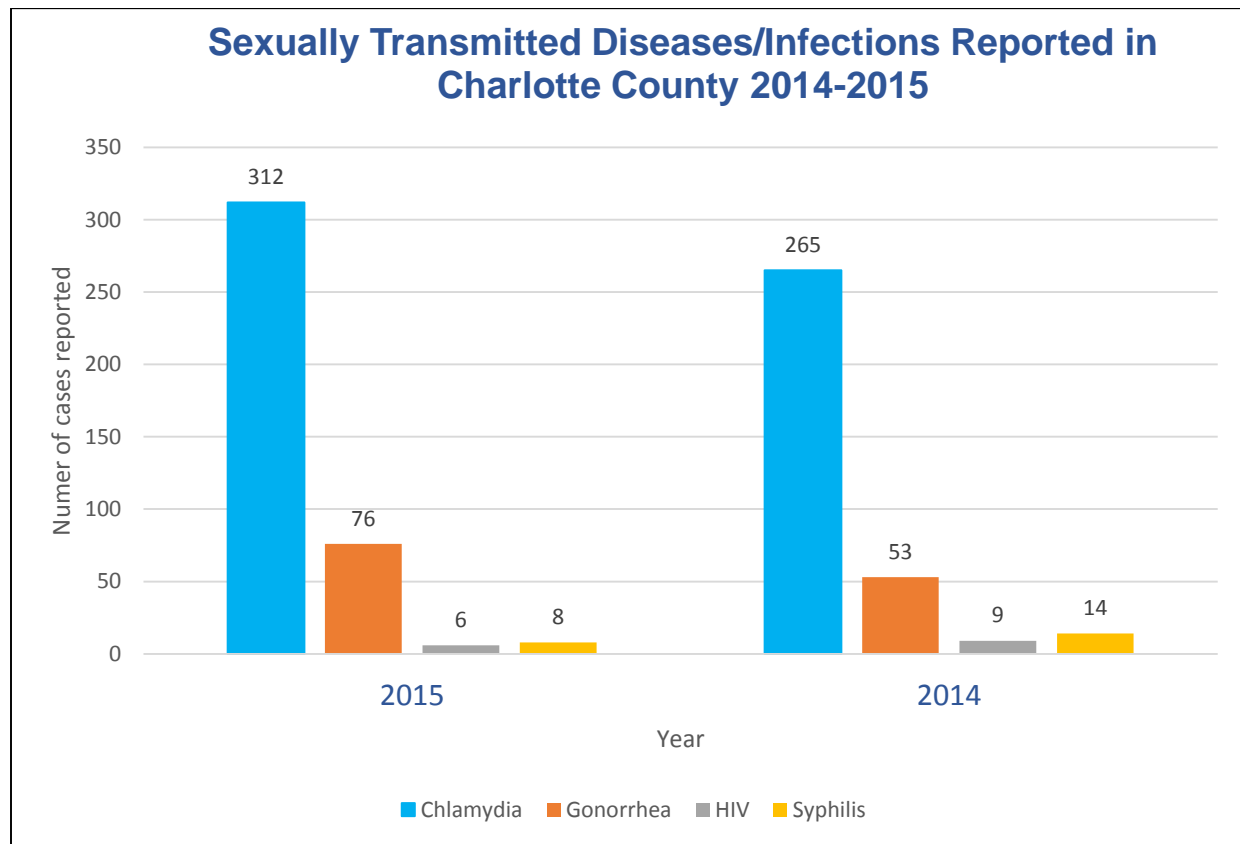


Figure 1. Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Infections reported in Charlotte County 2014-2015. In both 2014 and 2015, the most reported STD/STIs were Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.

STD/STI Trends

In 2015, 402 positive STI/STD results were reported to DOH-Charlotte. This indicates a 15% increase in total number positive STD/STI results from those reported in 2014 ($n_{2014}=343$). A total increase in STD/STIs reported from 2014 to 2015 leads to further review of the data to determine trends in specific STI/STD rate changes. Reported Chlamydia rates increased by 16% between 2014 and 2015 ($n_{2014}=265$; $n_{2015}=312$), this is due to expansion of STD/STI surveillance and outreach services. Reported Gonorrhea rates increased by 30% from 2014 to 2015 ($n_{2015}=376$; $n_{2014}=53$). The increase in Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cases may be attributed to the department's effort in conducting outreach events to test those high-risk individuals in addition to the increased investigation, testing, and treatment of reported contacts. Reports of Syphilis decreased by 43% ($n_{2015}=8$; $n_{2014}=14$), and reports of HIV decreased by 33% ($n_{2015}=6$; $n_{2014}=9$) from 2014 to 2015. The department hired an STD/STI educator in August 2015, which led to increased outreach testing and education efforts to prevent transmission of STD/STIs. (Figure 1)

Treating Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cases within 14 days is one of the Florida Department of Health's State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) objectives. In 2015, 90% of STD/STIs were treated within 14 days in Charlotte County; this meets the standards in place by the Florida Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This met objective is likely due to the adherence of the department to best-practice protocols. The department provides field epidemiology treatment to symptomatic and/or positive clients and the department initiated the pilot STD-HIV-Hepatitis C Intervention Program (SHHIP) where clients can be tested and treated without an appointment.

State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

The Florida Department of Health's State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) outlined specific objectives to be met by county Departments in 2015 in order to enhance the overall health and well-being of the state of Florida. The SHIP objectives that were to be met in 2015 were:

- 1) *Health Protection 1.2.1.* By December 31, 2015, Reduce the bacterial STD case rate among females 15-34 years of age from 2,627 per 100,000 (2010) to 2,605;
- 2) *Health Protection 1.2.2.* By December 31, 2015, Increase the percentage of cases diagnosed and treated for Gonorrhea within 14 days from 70% (2012) to 85%.

State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Objectives Progress

Charlotte County has met each of the above Florida DOH SHIP objectives as of December 2015. The bacterial STD/STI rate for females between the ages of 15 and 34 years of age (Health Protection 1.2.1) increased from 2014 (1,894 per 100,000) to 2015 (2,123 per 100,000). However, at this reported rate of 2,123 per 100,000, Charlotte County continues to exceed the State expectation of 2,627 per 100,000. Although within state expectations, a 7% increase in reported

bacterial STD/STI cases in females aged 15 to 34 years of age was observed in 2015. This is due to expanded STD/STI services, mainly implementing the SHHIP. Treatment for Gonorrhea improved from 2014 to 2015. *Health Protection 1.2.2* advises an 85% treatment rate within 14 days. DOH-Charlotte exceeded this goal, and in 2015 100% of reported Gonorrhea cases were treated within 14 days.

There was an overall decrease in total reported STD/STIs treated within 14 days from 2014 (93%) to 2015 (90%) and an increase in those who had reported STD/STIs and received no treatment in over 30 days from testing (2014: 3%, 2015: 7%).

STD/STIs Reported in 2015 by Demographic

STD/STI by Zip Code

The zip code 33952 had the most reported STD/STIs (n=95) in 2015, and 33948 had the second most reported STD/STIs (n=58). Both zip code 33952 and 33948 had the two highest reported STD/STIs in 2014. The total STD/STI increase reported from 2014 to 2015 was consistent in these zip codes, as well. Zip code 33952 had a reported STD/STI increase rate of 14% from 2014 to 2015, and zip code 33948 had an increase rate of reported STD/STIs of 26%. Efforts to increase outreach to the populations in high-risk zip codes identified in 2014 were strengthened in 2015. **(Figures 2 & 3)**

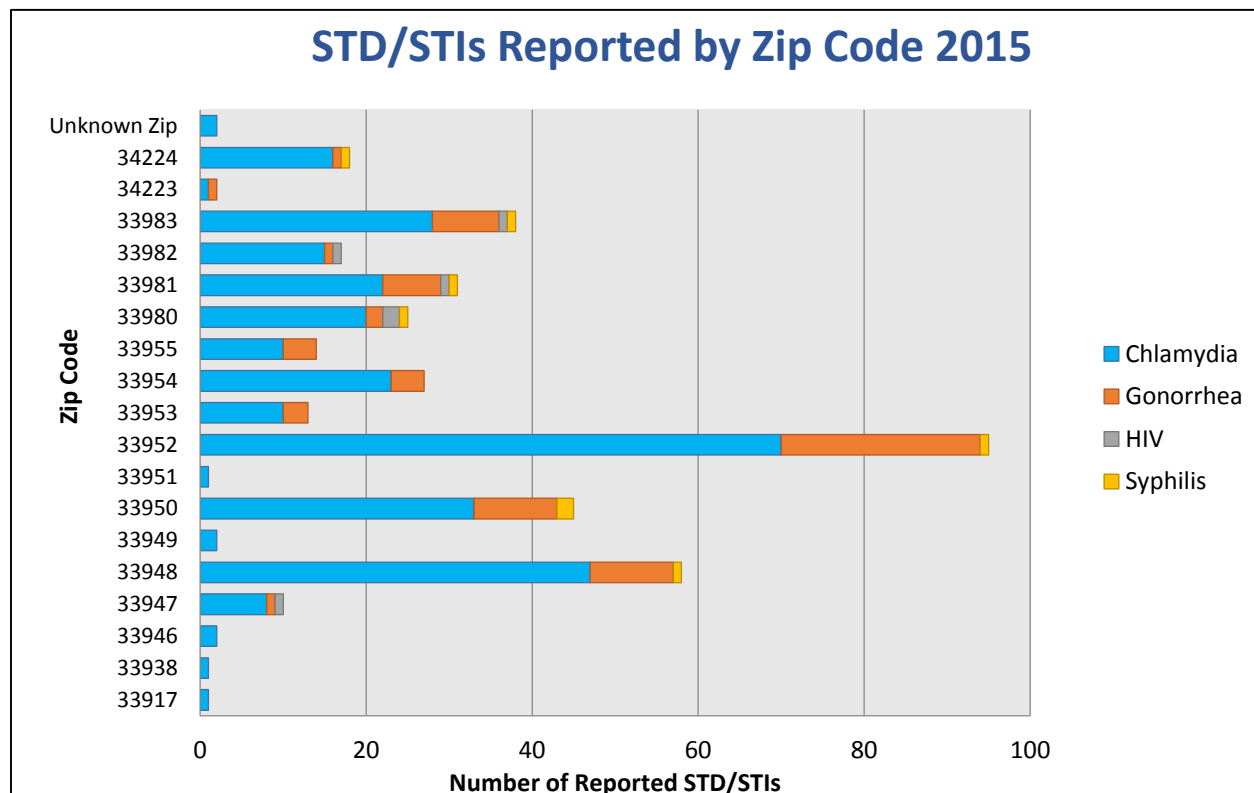


Figure 2. STD/STIs reported by zip code in 2015. Zip codes 33952 and 33948 had the highest total of STD/STIs reported in 2014 and 2015.

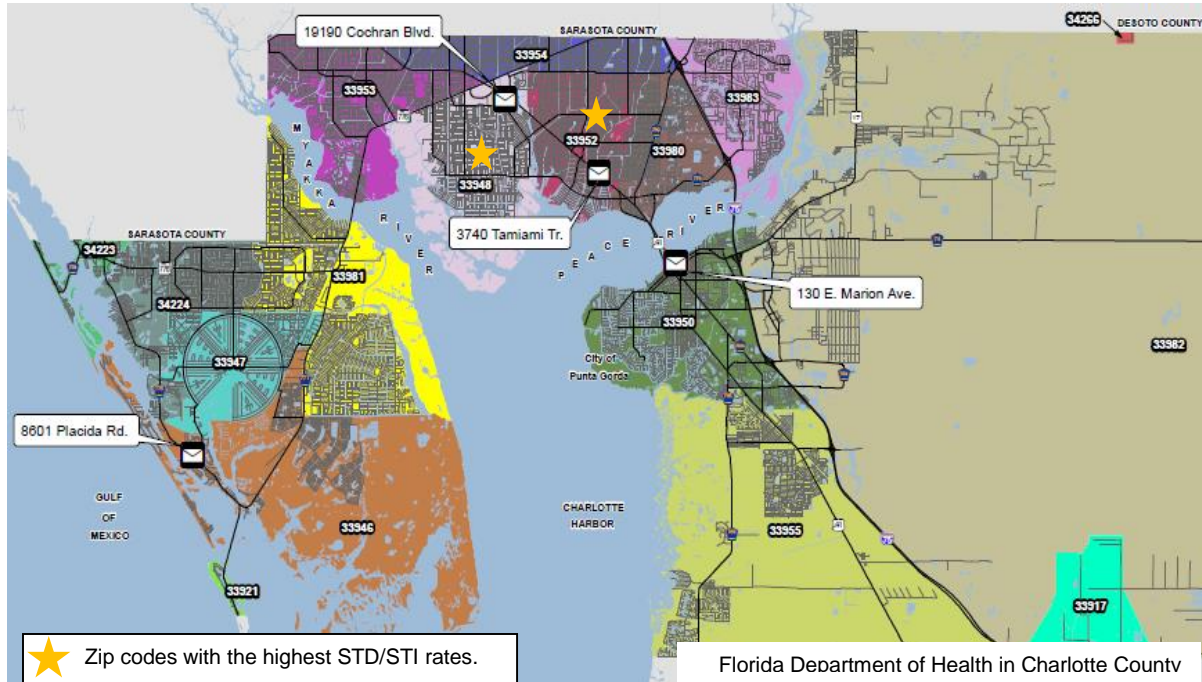


Figure 3. Charlotte County, Florida distribution of zip codes. Zip codes 33952 and 33948 had the highest total of STD/STIs reported in 2014 and 2015.

STD/STI by Gender and Age

Females made up 64% of all Charlotte County reported STD/STIs in 2014. In 2015, females accounted for 65% of all reported STD/STIs in Charlotte County. Females are tested annually at their OB/GYN appointments in Charlotte County, which might account for the higher number of reported STD/STIs in females than males. (**Figure 4**)

In 2014, persons aged 14-29 accounted for 81% of all reported STD/STIs. In 2015, this population accounted for 84% of all reported STD/STIs in Charlotte County, an increase from 2014. Although the STD-HIV-Hepatitis C Intervention Program is available to clients of all ages, the majority of clients are within the ages of 14-29. (**Figure 5**)

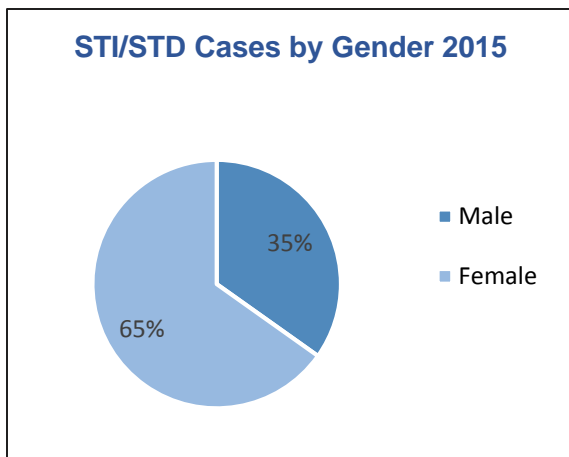


Figure 4. STD/STI cases reported by gender in 2015. More females than males reported positive for STD/STIs.

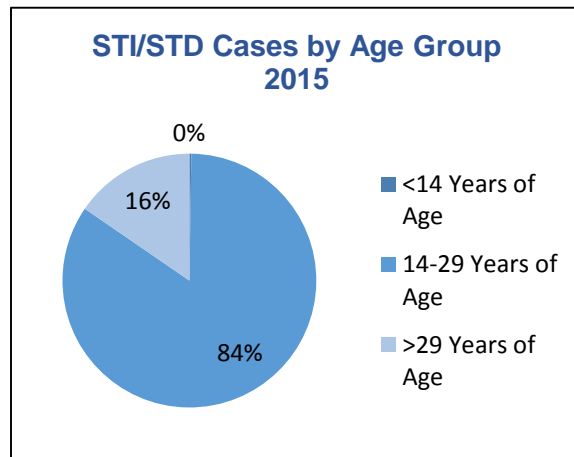


Figure 5. STD/STI cases reported by age group in 2015. Ages 14-29 reported the highest number of positive STD/STIs.

2016 STD/STI Future Action

Charlotte County will continue to target increased outreach and education to persons aged 14-29 years, female residents, and the residents of the 33952 zip code in 2016. Increased outreach efforts will include the evaluation of the condom distribution program; increased educational information sessions to the middle school, high school, and university; and staff will determine need for augmented outreach testing locations.

The STD-HIV-Hepatitis C Intervention pilot program will continue to accept walk-in clients for testing, evaluation, and treatment. In addition, DOH-Charlotte will participate in a State initiative to offer texting of results to clients, which seeks to decrease the time staff spend contacting positive clients and decrease the time between testing and the initiation of treatment.

A Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) has been added to the team in July 2016 to meet the need as a result of increased STD/STI positive results reported in 2015. The DIS will be responsible for testing, treatment, and investigation of clients who test positive for STD/STIs and their contacts. The DIS will also assist in community education efforts and the maintenance of surveillance data.