CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES • OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

CWHS

Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

CHLAMYDIA TESTING AMONG CALIFORNIA WOMEN 1998, 1999, AND 2000

Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch, California Department of Health Services

Public Health Message:

Fewer than half of women for whom chlamydia screening was recommended actually reported having had a chlamydia test in the past year. Increased public and provider awareness about chlamydia is needed to improve screening rates.

Chlamydia trachomatis, a sexually transmitted infection, is the most commonly reported communicable disease in California.[1] Untreated infections in women are associated with an increased risk of adverse reproductive health outcomes such as pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility.

In 1998, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that ***all*** sexually active girls under 20 and women ages 20-24 with multiple sex partners or new sex partners should be tested for chlamydia.

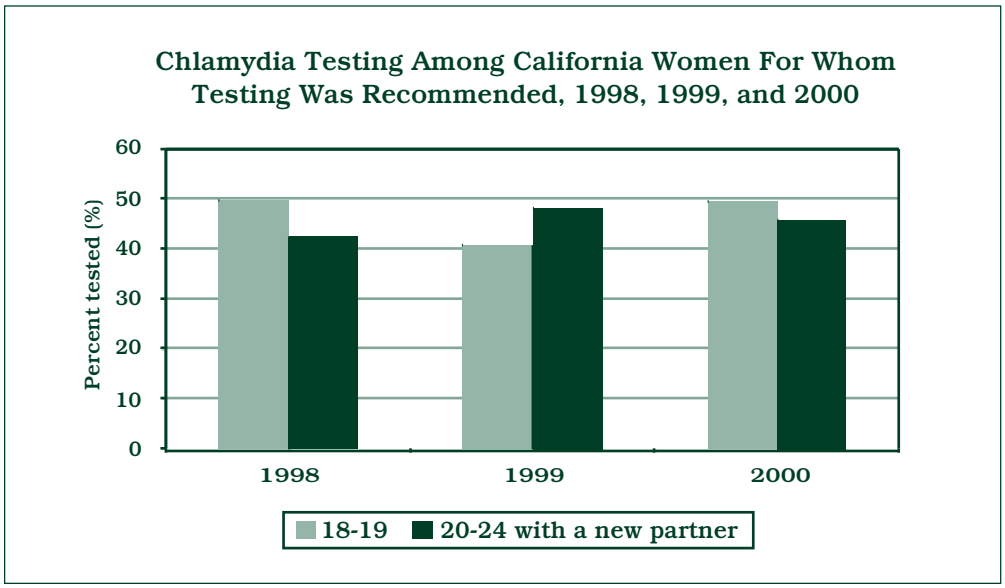
Because most women with chlamydia have no symptoms or noticeable signs of infection, testing is necessary to identify these infections for timely treatment.

From 1998 through 2000, California Women's Health survey participants were asked, ***"Have you been tested for chlamydia during the past 12 months?"*** Women who had had at least one male sexual partner were also asked, ***"During the past 12 months, did you have a new male sexual partner?"***

- In 1998, 50% of sexually active 18 to 19 year olds reported a chlamydia test in the past year. In 1999 and 2000, the percentage of 18 to 19 year olds tested was 41% and 50% respectively.
- In 1998, 22% of women ages 20 to 24 reported having had a new sex partner; in 1999, 20% of 20 to 24 year olds reported a new sex partner; and, in 2000, 28% of 20 to 24 year olds reported a new sex partner.
- In 1998, 42% of women ages 20 to 24 with new sex partners reported having been tested. In 1999 and 2000, these percentages were 48% and 46%, respectively.

The California Department of Health Services Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch has initiated the Chlamydia Awareness and Prevention Program and the Get Tested Program. These two programs are designed to increase awareness of chlamydia and to increase testing among those who may have been exposed.

1. Sexually Transmitted Disease in California, 1999. California Department of Health Services, STD Control Branch, July 2001.



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