Teens and Sexual Health In Anne Arundel County

ANNE
ARUNDEL
COUNTY
MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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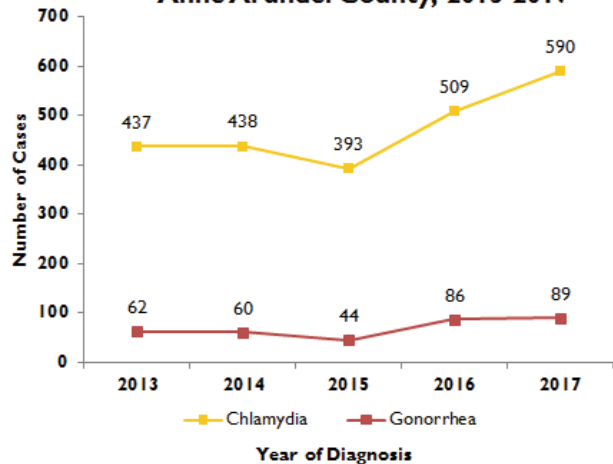
Sexually Transmitted Infections

What are STIs?

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are infections that are transmitted through all types of sexual contact (vaginal, anal or oral). Common STIs include chlamydia, gonorrhea, human papillomavirus (HPV), genital herpes, syphilis and HIV.

STIs are typically viral (HIV, HPV, genital herpes) or bacterial (chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis), but may also be parasitic (trichomoniasis) in nature.
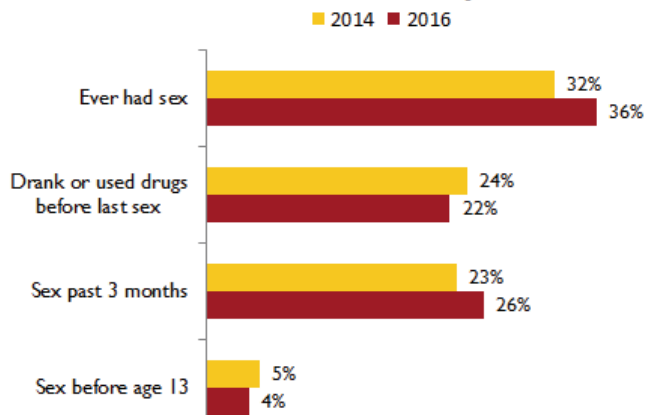
**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Cases, Ages 10-19
Anne Arundel County, 2013-2017**

Chlamydia: 2013: 437, 2014: 438, 2015: 393, 2016: 509, 2017: 590
Gonorrhea: 2013: 62, 2014: 60, 2015: 44, 2016: 86, 2017: 89

Sexually active teens and young adults are at an increased risk for STIs compared to older populations. In 2017, the 15-24 age-group represented only 13% of Anne Arundel County's population, however they accounted for nearly two-thirds of chlamydia cases and almost half of gonorrhea cases. Chlamydia and gonorrhea are the most common reportable STIs diagnosed in teens in Anne Arundel County.

Although not as prevalent as chlamydia and gonorrhea, HIV and syphilis also impact teens in our community. In 2017, almost half of new HIV diagnoses were in youth and young adults ages 13-29. Between 2013-2017, youth and young adults ages 10-29 accounted for approximately one-third of syphilis cases in Anne Arundel County.

Sexual Behaviors Reported by Anne Arundel County High School Students, Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2014 vs 2016

2014 / 2016
Ever had sex: 32% / 36%
Drank or used drugs before last sex: 24% / 22%
Sex past 3 months: 23% / 26%
Sex before age 13: 5% / 4%

Protection is KEY!

Just remember the ABCs:

Abstinence: The only 100% successful method of preventing STIs.
Being Faithful/Known Status: If sexually active, practice monogamy (having only one sexual partner) and get regular STI testing.
Condom Usage: Use latex or non-latex condoms (or other barrier methods) correctly and consistently. to prevent STI transmission.

For more information or to order a safe sex kit: www.aahealth.org/adolescents-and-sexual-health

Source: Bureau of Disease Prevention and Management, Anne Arundel County Department of Health; Center for Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention, Maryland Department of Health