Prevalence of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis Antibody Among High-risk Adolescents in Los Angeles and New Orleans

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Youth Are at High Risk for STIs

Youth bear disproportionate share of STIs

Consequences are particularly severe for young women

Undiagnosed STIs cause 24,000 women to become infertile each year

Young people account for a substantial proportion of new STIs

70% Gonorrhea
63% Chlamydia
49% HPV
45% Genital Herpes
26% HIV
20% Syphilis

CDC Facts about the youth and STDs April 2013

Ages 15-24
Ages 25+

Total Infections (all ages)
820,000
2.9 million
14.1 million
776,000
47,500
* Ages 13-24
55,400
Study Objectives

* Evaluate frequency of STIs among high-risk LGBT and homeless youth in the Los Angeles and New Orleans areas
  * *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) infection
  * *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) infection
  * Syphilis treponemal antibody positivity

* Compare prevalence by age and birth sex
Recruitment
STI Testing

Cepheid GeneXpert IV - On-Demand Molecular Diagnostic System

Types of self-collection swabs used

Diagnostic Direct Syphilis Health Check Test Kit
STI Prevalence by Sex and Age Group

Males
N= 288

Females
N= 197
Comparison of Extragenital to Genital Prevalence by Sex and Age Group

- **Males 15-19 Years**
  - Extragenital: 23
  - Genital: 27

- **Males 20-24 Years**
  - Extragenital: 77
  - Genital: 73

- **Females 15-19 Years**
  - Extragenital: 44
  - Genital: 50

- **Females 20-24 Years**
  - Extragenital: 55
  - Genital: 50
* Genital and extragenital screening are both necessary to detect infections
  * Higher prevalence of rectal and vaginal chlamydia in females 15-19 years
  * Higher prevalence of syphilis antibody in males 20-24 years
Future Directions

* More research on benefits of screening
* Implementation of more screening options, based on benefits
Limitations

* Convenience sample
* Syphilis antibody positivity – past or active infection
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