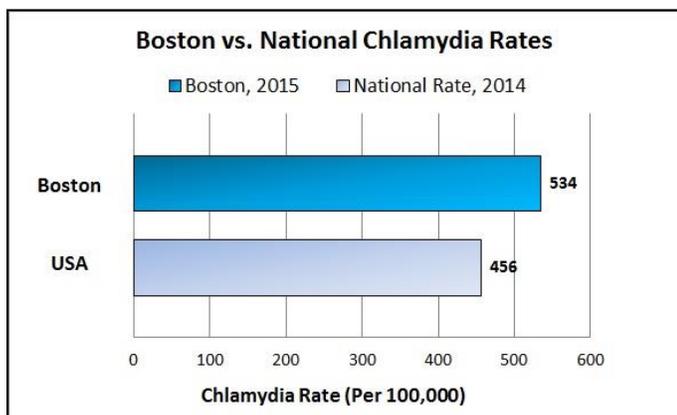
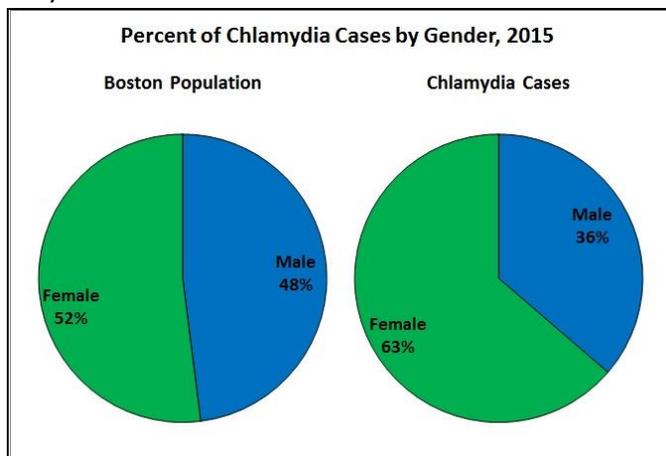


STIs in Boston: Chlamydia Brief | 2015

In 2015, chlamydia was both the most commonly reported sexually transmitted infection (STI) and the most commonly reported communicable disease overall in Boston residents. Chlamydia rates are high nationally with over 1.4 million cases reported in the US in 2014 (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, CDC). To reduce the chlamydia rate and the disparate rates by race and ethnicity, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) has intensified chlamydia outreach efforts.

account for an even larger majority of cases 15-24 years old at 73%.



However the chlamydia rate in women decreased 9% from 2014 to 2015, similar to the overall rate.

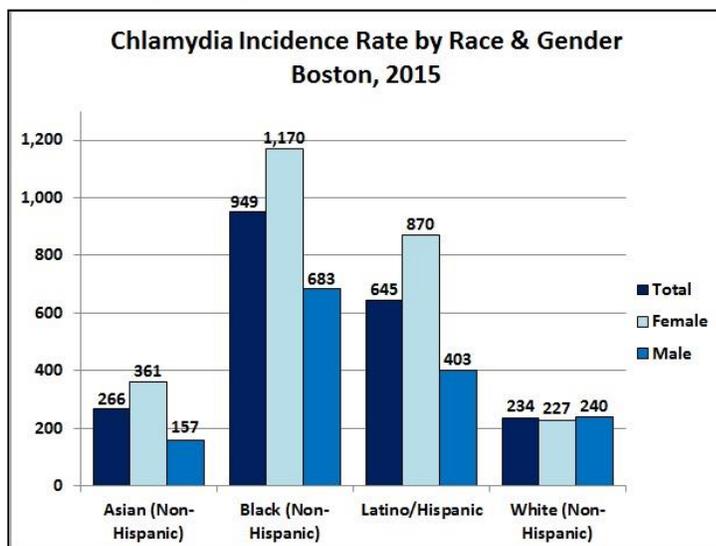
For race/ethnicity analyses, Latino ethnicity is considered alongside Asian, Black, and White racial groups. In spite of a 19% decrease in chlamydia cases since 2014, Black residents still had the highest chlamydia rate at 949 cases per 100,000 in 2015. This case rate was 4 times as high as that in White residents (234 cases per 100,000). Latino residents had the second highest rate at 645 cases per 100,000, almost 3 times as high as White residents. Asian residents had a rate of 266 cases per 100,000, only slightly higher than White residents.

Boston Epidemiology: In 2015, there were 3,300 cases of chlamydia reported in Boston residents, or 534 cases per 100,000. This rate marked a 9% decrease from 2014, but was 17% higher than the 2014 national rate (the most recent CDC data available). Due to persistently high rates, chlamydia has been the focus of targeted education and outreach campaigns by BPHC and other community organizations.

High Risk Groups:

Rates were particularly high in young women of color living in Mattapan, South Dorchester, and North Dorchester.

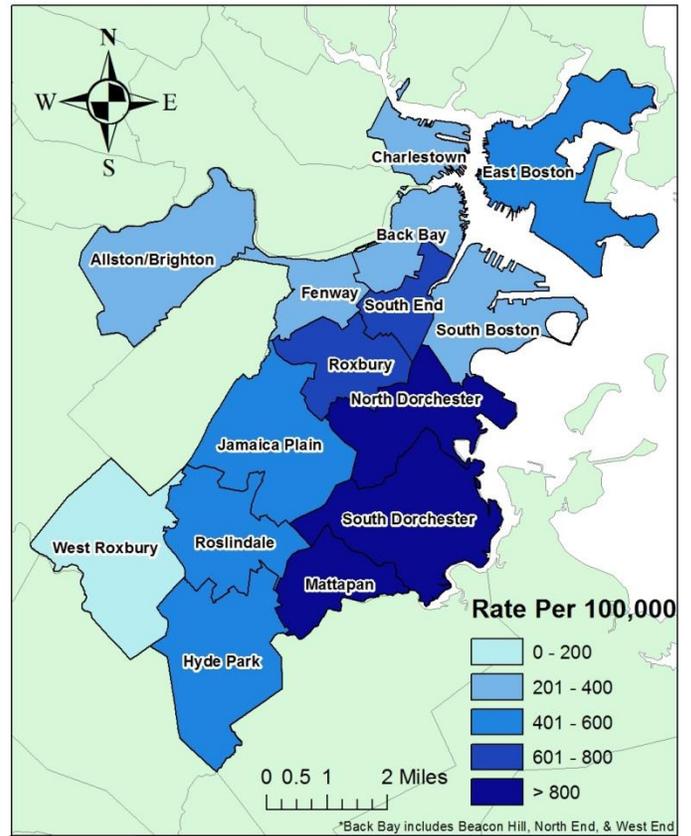
Females accounted for 63% of reported cases, although they comprise only 52% of the total Boston population (2010 US Census). Females



There were rate decreases across all racial/ethnic groups analyzed from 2014 to 2015. Women had higher chlamydia rates than men across all racial/ethnic groups except White residents where rates were nearly equal between men and women.

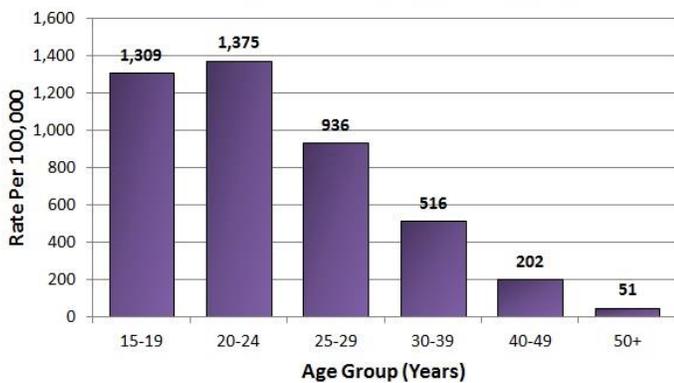
Boston residents 15-24 years old accounted for 56% (1,864) of total cases, down from 60% in 2014. The median age at diagnosis in women was 22 years while the median in men was 26. Residents 20-24 years old had a chlamydia rate higher than any other age group, though rates for women were slightly higher in the 15-19 age range.

Chlamydia Rates by Boston Neighborhood, 2015



Map 1

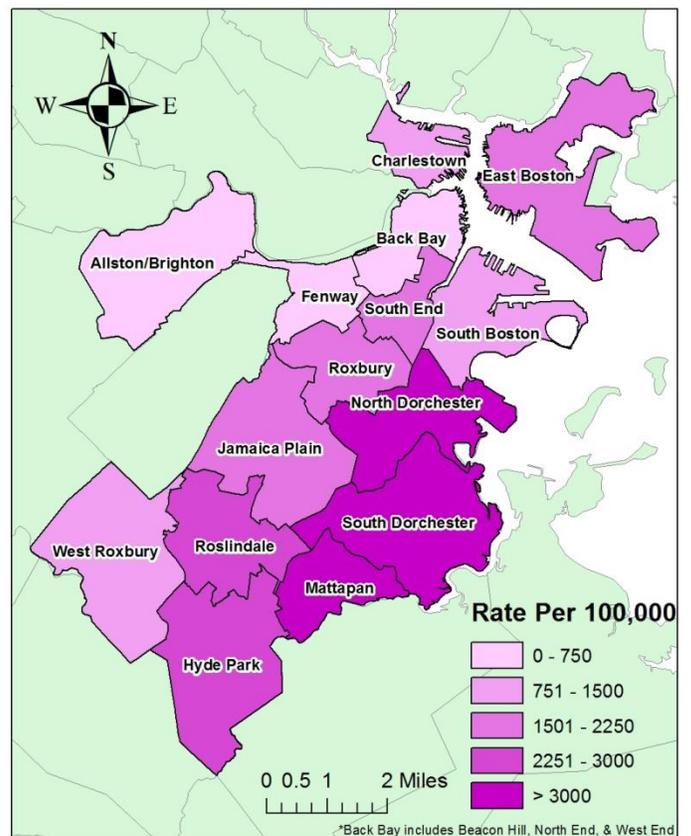
Boston Chlamydia Rates by Age Group, 2015



North Dorchester, South Dorchester, and Mattapan had the highest overall chlamydia rates in 2015 with rates over 800 cases per 100,000. The rate was highest in North Dorchester at 960 cases per 100,000, nearly twice the overall Boston rate, though this marked a 15% decrease in this neighborhood since 2014. Map 1 shows rates by neighborhood.

In the high risk age group of 15-24 year olds, Mattapan had the highest rate in 2015 (3,197 cases per 100,000), though this marked a 25% decrease in this neighborhood since 2014. North & South Dorchester also had rates above

Chlamydia Rates in 15-24 Year Olds, Boston 2015



Map 2

3,000 cases per 100,000 in this age group (Map 2). Rates in this age group decreased in 12 of 15 Boston neighborhoods from 2014 to 2015.

Repeat infections are a common problem with chlamydia, and 19% of all people diagnosed in 2015 have history of prior infection since March 2013, when chlamydia became directly reportable to BPHC. Six percent were diagnosed multiple times in 2015. Additionally, 6% were diagnosed with both chlamydia and gonorrhea in 2015.

BPHC Initiatives:

BPHC is working with community-based organizations to provide neighborhood focused education and outreach about chlamydia and other infections to residents. The BPHC Infectious Disease Bureau hosts sexual health workshops and provided sexual health education and resources at health fairs and other community events in high risk areas. In 2014, BPHC launched a media campaign (It Could Be Hiding in You) for youth and young adults with input from residents across the city in the target age group of 15-24 years old.



Chlamydia is an invisible sexually transmitted infection with no obvious symptoms. If left untreated, it may lead to serious consequences. If you have sex, play it safe. Use a condom and get tested.

CHLAMYDIA
IT COULD BE HIDING IN YOU

@HealthyBoston#ItCouldBeHiding
facebook/BostonSexED

For more information on testing locations visit bphc.org/itcouldbehiding or call the Mayor's Healthline at 877.534.5050

Social media campaigns have focused on connecting teens and young adults to sexual health education and low-barrier STI testing resources.

BPHC Infectious Disease Bureau nurses are providing education and Directly Observed Treatment for 15-24 year old untreated chlamydia cases in Boston. They can also provide medication and information for the case's partners through Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT). BPHC regulations effective in 2013 require reporting of chlamydia and other STIs directly to the BPHC Infectious Disease Bureau at (617) 534-5905 (Fax).

Data :

Data for this report were collected and analyzed by BPHC.

Chlamydia data from 2008 to 2015 are available online at <http://bphc.org/healthdata/other-reports/Pages/Other-Reports.aspx>. **Please note: Due to a change in the chlamydia data source in 2014, BPHC cautions against drawing comparisons of data analyzed prior to the change (2013 and prior) to data analyzed after the change (2014 to present).**

Additional information about chlamydia in Boston can be obtained by emailing infectiousdisease@bphc.org or by calling the BPHC Infectious Disease Bureau at (617) 534-5611.



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