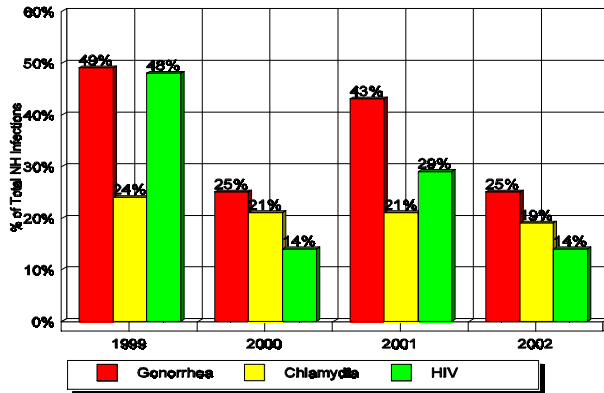




City of Manchester Department of Health SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE REPORT CARD

Percent of All Reported New Hampshire Cases of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and HIV Infections Which Were Manchester Residents, 1999-2002



HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010 OBJECTIVE: Reduce *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections in adolescents and adults, reduce *Neisseria gonorrhoea* infections in adolescents and adults, and reduce HIV infections in adolescents and adults.

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are common, and cause considerable preventable illness and death. More than 25 infectious organisms may be transmitted through sexual activity, and more than 15 million new infections occur annually in the United States.^{1,2} STDs are consistently the infections most frequently reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.³ These infections include *Chlamydia trachomatis* (chlamydia), *Neisseria gonorrhoea* (gonorrhea), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The City of Manchester over-represents the State of New Hampshire when it comes to the burden of sexually transmitted diseases. Nine percent of the State's population lives in Manchester.⁵ Yet, Manchester residents accounted for 19-24 percent the total known burden of chlamydia infection in New Hampshire during the time period 1999-2002. For gonorrhea, Manchester residents accounted for 25-49 percent of the State's total known burden during 1999-2002. For newly diagnosed HIV, Manchester residents accounted for 14-48 percent of the State's total known burden. The majority of new HIV cases were among white men who have sex with men or who use intravenous drugs.

From 1999-2002, the rate of chlamydia infection among Manchester residents was more than 2 ½ times greater than the rate for the rest of New Hampshire. The rate of gonorrhea and HIV infections among Manchester residents was approximately 1½ times and 3 times greater, respectively, than the rate of these infections for the rest of New Hampshire.

Burden of STDs in Manchester Compared with All Other New Hampshire, 1999-2002

Disease	City of Manchester Disease Rate*	All Other NH Disease Rate*	City of Manchester Total Infections	All Other NH Total Infections
Chlamydia	248.0	88.6	1061	4002
Gonorrhea	44.6	29.6	191	334
HIV	6.8	2.3	29	102

*Per 100,000 Population

WHO PAYS? STDs and their consequences extend enormous physical, psychological, and financial costs to individuals and to society. STDs have been characterized as "hidden epidemics of tremendous health and economic consequence in the United States...and a growing threat to the Nation's health."⁶ Financial costs of the major STDs, including sexually transmitted HIV infection, and their complications have been conservatively estimated to be 17 billion dollars annually in the U.S.⁶ Because some STD infections have no symptoms, infected persons may remain unaware, not seeking medical attention, and, therefore, not being diagnosed and treated. Screening and treatment of STDs is cost-effective, because treatment is likely to avert many complications of infections and secondary spread to vulnerable others.⁴



WHAT WORKS? RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY:

- Expand Screening, Counseling, and Treatment of STDs** for at-risk adolescents and adults (males and females).
- Educate the Community.** Ensure that age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, comprehensive information regarding STD prevention is available to individuals. This information should address risk elimination, through abstinence, and risk reduction, through practicing safer sex (i.e., condom use) for individuals who are sexually active.
- Ensure the Availability of STD Counseling and Referral Systems** for sex partners of individuals who are at high risk for STD infection.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL:

- Reduce Risks Associated with STDs.** Adopt behaviors conducive to reducing the risk of acquiring and/or transmitting a sexually transmitted disease, if you are sexually active. These behaviors include being monogamous, or, if you are not monogamous, using condoms consistently and correctly.
- Discuss STD Screening** with your health care provider, if you are sexually active.
- Know the Symptoms of STDs.** Seek prompt treatment if symptoms develop and refer sex partners for testing and treatment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO REDUCE SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES IN THE MANCHESTER COMMUNITY, PLEASE CONTACT:

- ✓ Manchester Health Department, STD Program: (603) 624-6466