Chlamydia among Women in North Carolina 2016

The reported number of chlamydia infections is increasing


Chlamydia infection rates among women have been increasing since 2014.

North Carolina 2016:
- 41,128 cases reported among women
- 788.8 cases per 100,000 women

United States, 2016:
- 1,072,719 cases reported among women
- 657.3 cases per women
- The NC rate is higher than national rate, but similar to many Southeast states (CDC 2017).

The rate of chlamydia in screening settings has not increased

Pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility caused by chlamydia can be prevented by testing women less than 25 years of age, whether or not they have symptoms.

This screening detects disease in women without symptoms.

Screening data from settings shown in the chart show no increase in chlamydia, suggesting that increases are due to the increased testing in other settings.
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What is North Carolina doing to decrease chlamydia?

- In September 2014, the SLPH increased the age cut off for routine chlamydia screening in women from ≤24 years of age to ≤25 years of age.
- North Carolina provides funds for chlamydia screening for all women who are seen in a publicly funded health care facility, such as local health departments and family planning settings.
- North Carolina supports expedited partner therapy for chlamydia; this therapy can help ensure that partners are treated, preventing reinfection. Resources and protocols can be found here: http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/std/treatment/Expedited_Partner_Therapy.pdf.

Most women receive correct treatment for chlamydia

- In 2016, 93% of women received the correct treatment for chlamydia.
- Untreated or mistreated chlamydia can lead to severe health outcomes, including increased risk for HIV, PID, and infertility.
- Infants born to mothers with active chlamydia are also at risk for infection. In 2016, 14 babies were born to chlamydia-infected mothers and developed conjunctivitis.

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What CLINICIANS can do

- Routinely ask patients about their sexual activity and test those that are sexually active.
- Treat all pregnant women diagnosed with chlamydia promptly and correctly, by adhering to the CDC’s STD Treatment Guidelines (link in side bar).
- Refer partners for treatment and consider implementing Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT).
- Both patient and partner must be treated to cure and prevent infection.

What YOU can do

If you have a chlamydia, ensure that you and your partners get treatment.

Data Source:
North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS) (data as of June 1, 2016), and North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health testing data (data as of June 16, 2017).

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