



Yakima Health District

News Release

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Sexually transmitted disease rates in Yakima County

The Department of Health recently released its 2016 STD data, and rising rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis have prompted health officials to encourage sexually active individuals to get tested and treated. Yakima County has the highest rate of gonorrhea with 443 cases; and the second-highest rate for chlamydia, with 1589 cases. The county was below the state average for syphilis with 11 cases reported. The Yakima Health District has not identified a reason for the high rates of STD's in Yakima County but continues to investigate by identifying and providing treatment to those infected as well as partners to help reduce the steady climb of STD's.

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection and is the most commonly reported STD. Symptoms can include abnormal discharge, burning sensation when urinating or no symptoms at all. Treatment is a single dose of antibiotic.

Gonorrhea is a bacterial infection with symptoms that include a burning sensation while urinating, penile discharge or increased vaginal discharge. Surveillance is currently being done for antimicrobial resistance in gonorrhea in the United States. Gonorrhea has developed resistance to nearly all the antibiotics used for treatment. In 2015, CDC treatment guidelines recommend only one regimen for gonorrhea which includes an injection of ceftriaxone plus oral azithromycin. CDC has not received any reports of verified failed treatment using this regimen in the United States.

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men are disproportionately impacted by STD's.

The Yakima Health District stresses the importance of anyone who is sexually active to get tested at least yearly or when symptoms start. If you are at high risk which includes people who have multiple sex partners or men who have sex with men, the recommendation is at least every six months or when symptoms start.

The Yakima Health District offers free testing for HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia, to those that are high risk, every Wednesday from 8:30AM to 12:00PM and 1:30PM to 4:00PM. No appointment is necessary.