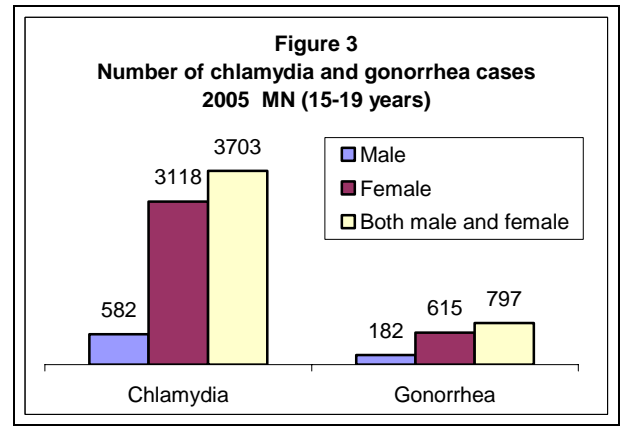
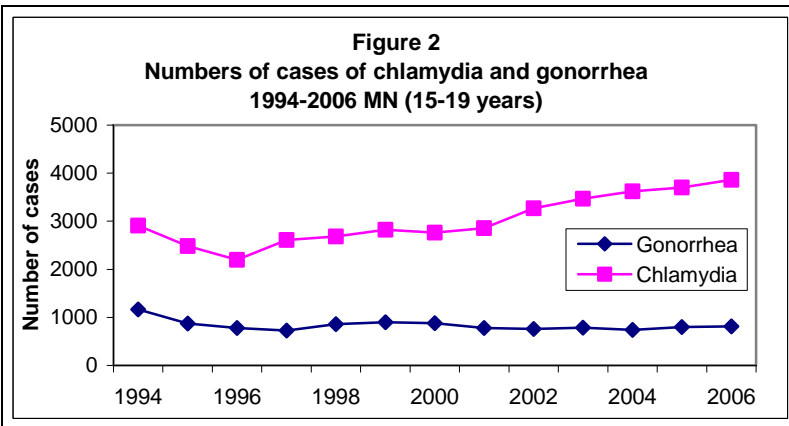
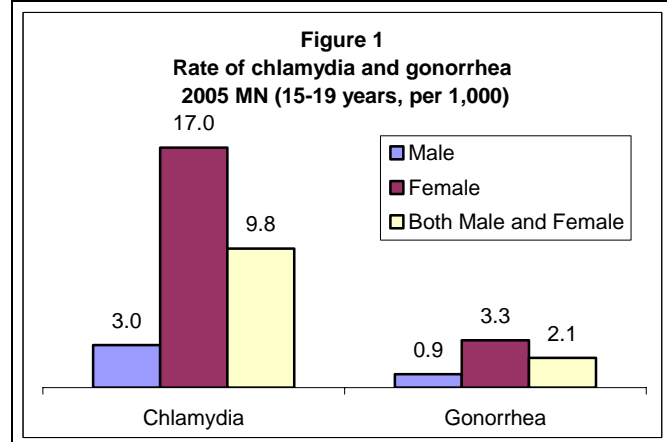
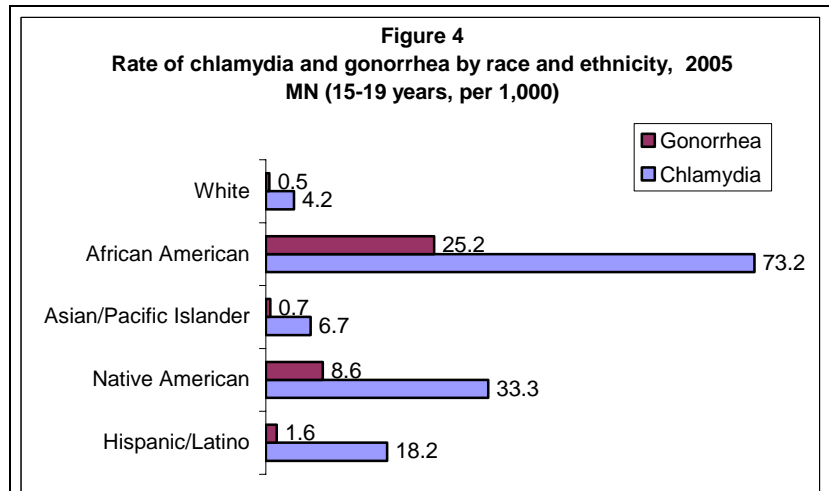


SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS IN MINNESOTA TEENS¹

Some 19 million new STIs occur each year, almost half of them among young people aged 15–24.² The United States has the highest STI rate of any industrialized country in the world.³ In the United States, women aged 15-19 have the highest age-specific chlamydia rates at 28.0 cases per 1,000 women in 2005. Although they have rates significantly lower than women, men aged 15-19 were still among the highest in the U.S. at 5.1 cases per 1,000 men in 2005.⁴ These trends hold true for Minnesota where teenagers have the highest rates of any age group. Females are disproportionately affected for both chlamydia and gonorrhea (Figures 1 and 3). Chlamydia and gonorrhea are shown here because they are the most prevalent STIs in Minnesota teens.



STIs affect some groups disproportionately. For example, in the U.S. in 2005, 15-19 year old African American women had a chlamydia rate over six times the rate of 15-19 year old white women (89.7 versus 14.2 cases per 1,000).⁴ 15-19 year old African American men had a chlamydia rate fourteen times higher than 15-19 year old white men (21.3 versus 1.5 cases per 1,000).⁴ Some studies indicate chlamydia infection in 18% of street youth and 15% of young women in juvenile detention facilities.⁵ Minnesota rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea by race and ethnicity are shown in Figure 4.



¹ Minnesota Department of Health, STD & HIV Section, 2007.

² Weinstock H, Berman S, Cates W, Jr., Sexually transmitted diseases among American youth: incidence and prevalence estimates, 2000. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2004, 36(1):6-10.

³ Eng TR, Butler WT, ed. *The Hidden Epidemic: Confronting Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1997

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2005. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, November 2006.

⁵ Alford, S. *Advocates for Youth*, January 2003