



# Chlamydia

## Background Information:

Chlamydia is a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) caused by a bacteria. It can cause serious, permanent damage to a woman's reproductive system, making it difficult or impossible for her to get pregnant later on.

## Chlamydia Symptoms:

**In women:** vaginal discharge, a burning sensation when urinating.

**In men:** discharge from their penis, burning sensation when urinating, pain and swelling in one or both testicles.

Most often men and women do not have any symptoms, but may still have complications from the infection later on which is why it is important to get tested on a regular basis.

## Treatment:

Chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics.

## Who is at risk?:

- Anyone engaging in any kind of sexual intercourse including oral or anal sex
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- People with multiple sex partners
- People who do not use protection (condoms) during sex
- People who exchange sex for drugs or money
- HIV positive individuals
- IV drug users
- Pregnant women
- Women under the age of 25

## Recommendations:

**Individuals Can-** Limit your risks: use condoms every time you have sex, limit your number of sex partners, abstain from sex. Get tested. Once per year is recommended, if you are a woman under the age of 25 or a member of a high risk group.

**Providers Can-** Offer your patients Chlamydia screenings if they are in high risk groups.

**Parents Can-** Discuss safe sexual practices with your children.

## Definitions:

### Complications:

#### Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID):

In women infection can cause permanent damage to your reproductive system and lead to long-term pelvic pain.

#### Ectopic

#### Pregnancy:

Pregnancy outside of the uterus. This is a serious complication for pregnancy.

#### Epididymitis:

In men untreated infection can cause pain or swelling in the testicles, accompanied by a fever.

#### Infertility:

Although uncommon in untreated Chlamydia infection can prevent men and women from having children in the future.



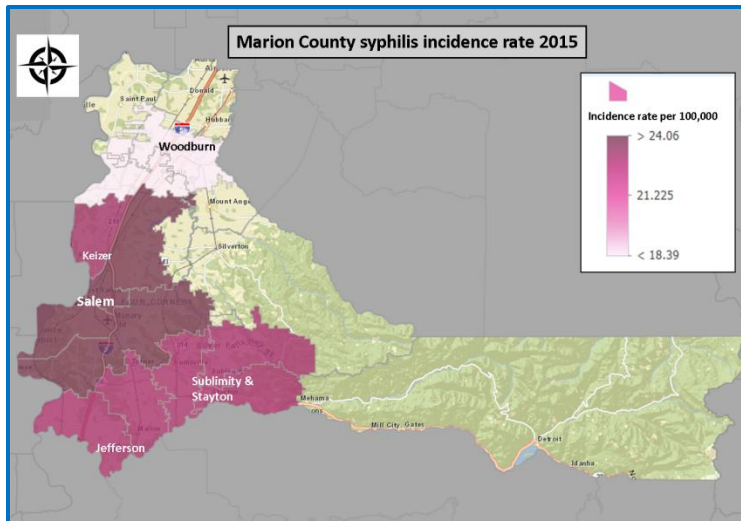
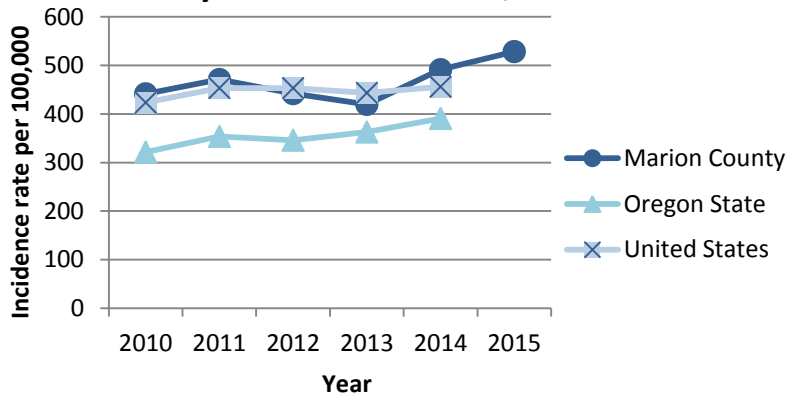


## Chlamydia In Marion County:

Marion County has experienced 7.8% increase in incidence of Chlamydia in the last 5 years. Marion County has surpassed Oregon State and United States incidence rates of Chlamydia reported in 2014. Most Marion County cases are under 25 years old and 80% of Marion County cases are female.

## Chlamydia incidence rate,

**Chlamydia incidence rates, 2010-2015**



## What is Marion County Public Health Doing?:

Each time a medical provider suspects or confirms that an individual has Chlamydia, the case must be reported to the Marion County Public Health Division communicable disease (CD) team. To make sure the providers in our county know the reporting requirements, our public health division staff are available to meet with community partners and healthcare providers.

## Resources/ Contact Info:

If you would like further information about the Marion County Public Health Division STI services please visit our website: <http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/PH/Pages/sti.aspx>

If you would like to reach the Marion County Public Health Department during office hours, please call: 503-588-5342

If you need to report a communicable disease or public health emergency please call: 503-588-5621

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