

The Story Behind STI Trends (2021–2023)

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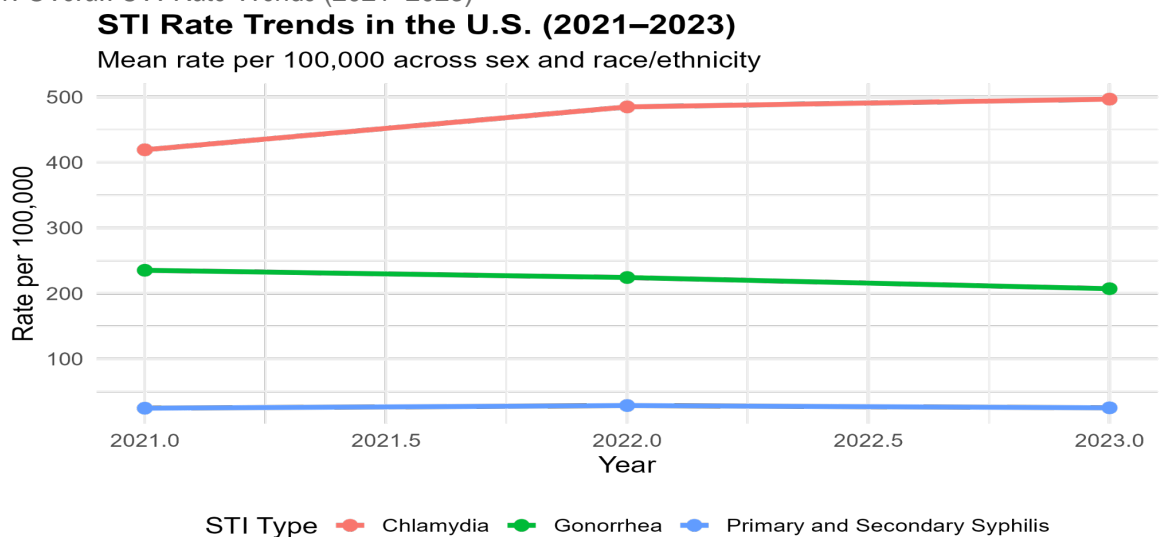
Background

As routine screening recovered after COVID-19, reported STI patterns shifted in notable ways. This brief walks through the story behind three infections: Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Primary & Secondary Syphilis.

What the Data Shows

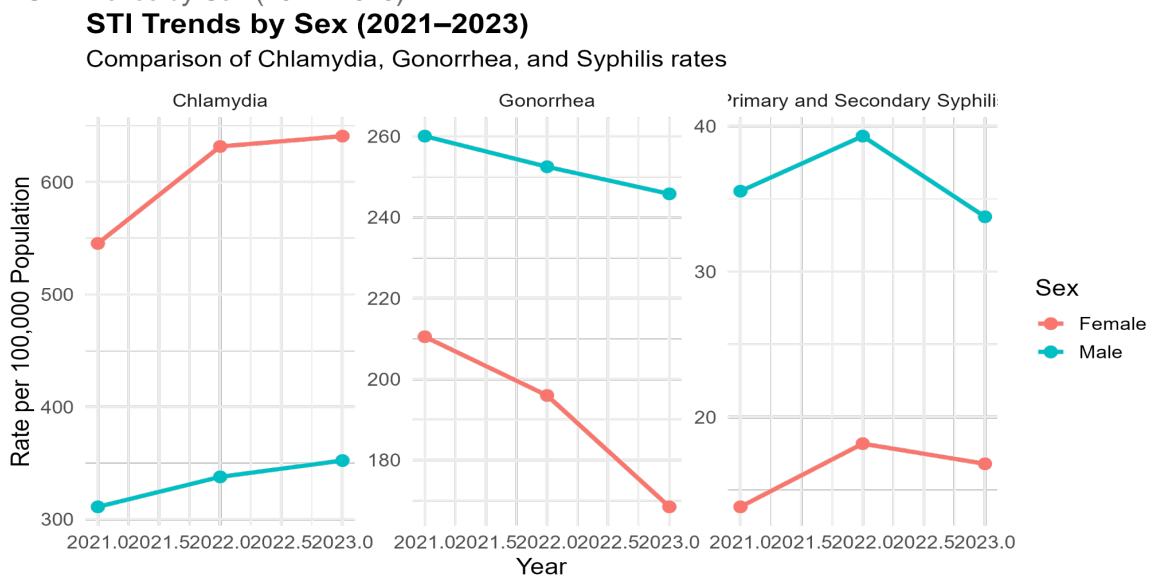
Chlamydia rates climbed steadily from 2021 to 2023, with a sharper rise among females between 2021 and 2022. Gonorrhea, higher among males, shows a modest decline across the period. Syphilis surged after the pandemic in 2022, followed by a decline in 2023, suggesting intervention effects.

Figure 1. Overall STI Rate Trends (2021–2023)



Source: CDC NCHHSTP AtlasPlus

Figure 2. STI Trends by Sex (2021–2023)



Reflections & Implications

These trends underscore persistent gender disparities in STI burden and the importance of targeted prevention, testing, and treatment efforts. Continued monitoring can help sustain gains seen in 2023 and identify subpopulations where risk remains elevated.

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