

Trends: STIs among teens and young adults in a Philadelphia family planning clinic

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Background: Since 1981, the Teen and Young Adult Center within the Section of Adolescent Medicine at St. Christopher's Hospital for children has offered comprehensive family planning services for young adults ages 13-21, complete with targeted health behavior interventions that promotes sexual health provided by a dedicated team of health educators and clinical providers. The Teen and Young Adult Center is located in the Port Richmond/Juanita section of Philadelphia, an area with high rates of sexual activity, unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections in adolescents.

Objective: This study is aimed to retrospectively analyze rates and trends associated with STIs in adolescents seen at the Teen and Young Adult Center. These data will help to target prevention programs and increase access to reproductive health services for young adults in Philadelphia.

Design/Methods: A retrospective chart review was conducted of 6373 medical records of young adults who were treated for a STI in the Teen and Young Adult Center from 6/13/2006 to 6/13/2019. The information has been extracted from Electronic Medical Records (EHR), cleaned to remove patient identifiers, and stored in REDCap.

Results: There was seasonal variability in Gonorrhea rates, specifically in September where regardless of year a drop in rates was seen during this time, and in December where regardless of year an increase in rates was seen. Less month-to-month variability was seen with Chlamydia rates, however, regardless of year, Chlamydia rates peaked in January.

Conclusion: Interventions that target Gonorrhea may be more amenable due to evident seasonal trends. Patients with Gonorrhea tend to present to clinical settings due to presence of more notable symptoms compared to Chlamydia.