



# Health Profile: Sexually Transmitted Infections

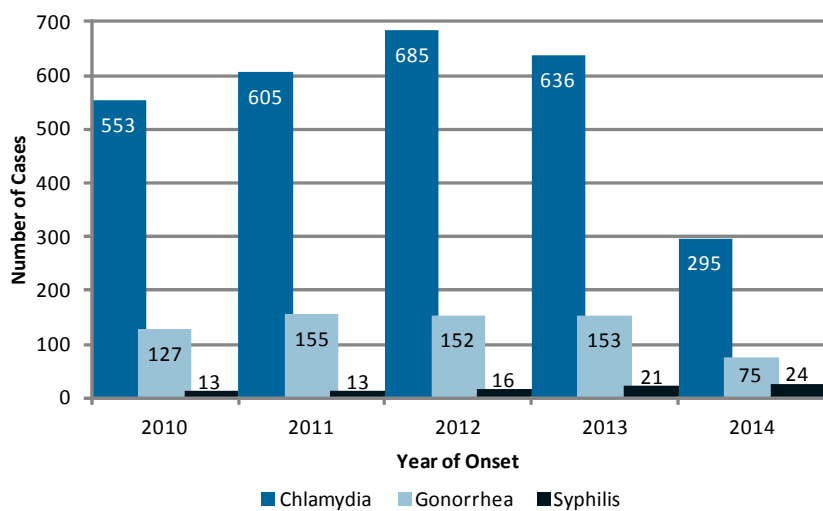
## Newton County 2015

The Communicable Disease Unit of Newton County received 394 reports of sexually-transmitted infections in 2014. Sexually-transmitted infections are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in Newton County and, generally, in the State of Georgia. Sexually-transmitted infections are both preventable and often curable with appropriate diagnosis and treatment. Without treatment, these infections can lead to sterility, cancer, and death. Based on current capacity, 14.3% of these cases were investigated by Communicable Disease staff. Investigations were prioritized based on factors such as age, pregnancy, clustering, and provider request; syphilis and HIV (when reported to Newton County directly) are always investigated.

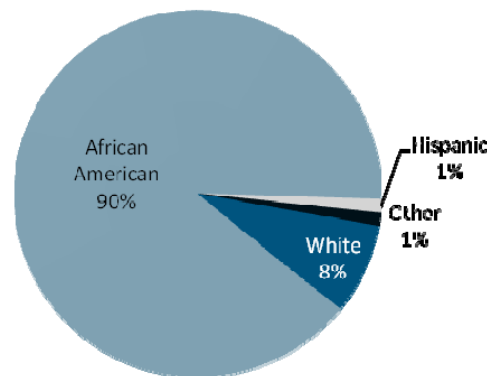
Chlamydia accounted for almost 74.9% of the total number of cases of sexually-transmitted infections reported. The next most frequently reported sexually-transmitted infection was gonorrhea, which accounted for 38.8% of total cases reported. These two diseases represent a substantial percentage of the total burden of disease from STI in Newton County. Reported cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea have decreased significantly since 2012. This is not novel to Newton, but also seen throughout the state of Georgia. While Georgia numbers were both down for the two illnesses in 2013, the state still held the ranking of 9<sup>th</sup> for Chlamydia and 8<sup>th</sup> for Gonorrhea<sup>1</sup>. The nation as a whole and the south as a region still had an overall decrease in cases from 2012. At the time of this report 2014 national data and rankings were unavailable.

STI investigations and disease control efforts are focused on syphilis, HIV and Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in teens and pregnant women. Investigations include provider record searches, patient follow up and/or interviews, and contact tracing. is required from the health provider. Syphilis and HIV cases reported by private and public entities are investigated for epidemiologic data (i.e. demographics, signs/symptoms, labs, treatment, etc.) . The individuals are educated about their infection, linked to care, if necessary, and interviewed to identify their sexual and needle sharing partners. Contact tracing is a very important public health function as we are able to prevent the spread of STDs by offered testing and treatment to the spread of disease.

**Sexually Transmitted Infections  
Newton County 2010-2014\* (N=3,523)**



**Syphilis by Race/Ethnicity  
Newton County 2010-2014 (N=87)**



**Syphilis Risk Factors Identified  
Newton County 2010-2014 (N=53)**

Risk Factor	No.
Men having Sex with Men (MSM)	30
Drug Use	15
Anonymous Sex Partner	13
Sex While Intoxicated or High	11
Incarcerated within last 12 months	5
Injecting Drug User (IDU)	2
Sex with IDU	2
Sex Exchange for Drugs or Money	1

\* Preliminary data as of 3/27/2015 and subject to change