

**Warren County Public Health
STI/STD Morbidity Annual Brief
February 2022**



Purpose

The purpose of this report is to highlight the impacts sexually transmitted infections (STI's) have on Warren County residents and to reinforce the need for residents to have access to reproductive health services. During the COVID-19 pandemic many preventive services were put on hold including testing for STI's. It is possible Warren County could see an increase in the number of diagnosed STI's as we emerge from COVID-19. It is also possible that there are more people who are unknowingly infected with an STI because of limited access to reproductive health services.

This report will focus on the morbidity rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. The report will show the impacts STI's have on males and females of different ages. It will also review New York State's Expedited Partner Therapies (*the clinical practice of providing individuals with medication or a prescription to deliver to their sexual partner(s) as presumptive treatment for a sexually transmitted infection (STI), without completing a clinical assessment of those partners*) as a way to reduce STI impacts in Warren County.

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Morbidity Rates for STI's in Warren County 2016-2018

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic data from 2019 and 2020 are not yet available. Please contact Warren County Public Health if you want more information about Warren County STI numbers.

Table 1

Community Health Indicator Report Indicators	Warren County		NYS Excluding NYC		County Rate Significantly Different from NYS excluding NYC
	Data Years	Numerator	Percentage (or) Rate (or) Ratio	Percentage (or) Rate (or) Ratio	
156-Early syphilis case rate per 100,000	2016-2018	14	7.2	10.0	No
157-Gonorrhea case rate per 100,000 males - Aged 15-44 years	2016-2018	18	55.6	249.1	Yes
158-Gonorrhea case rate per 100,000 females - Aged 15-44 years	2016-2018	24	75.9	209.1	Yes
159-Gonorrhea case rate per 100,000 - Aged 15-19 years	2016-2018	3	29.2*	243.7	Yes
160-Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 males - Aged 15-44 years	2016-2018	176	544.0	678.8	Yes
161-Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 males - Aged 15-19 years	2016-2018	26	484.4	731.6	Yes
162-Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 males - Aged 20-24 years	2016-2018	60	1,142.2	1,413.5	No
163-Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 females - Aged 15-44 years	2016-2018	408	1,289.8	1,415.7	Yes
164-Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 females - Aged 15-19 years	2016-2018	105	2,133.7	2,537.8	No
165-Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 females - Aged 20-24 years	2016-2018	189	3,632.5	3,117.6	No
166-Percentage of sexually active young women (aged 16-24) with at least one chlamydia test in Medicaid program	2018	344	74.8	69.8	No
167-Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) hospitalization rate per 10,000 females - Aged 15-44 years	2016-2018		s	1.9	NA

Chlamydia Morbidity by Gender and Age

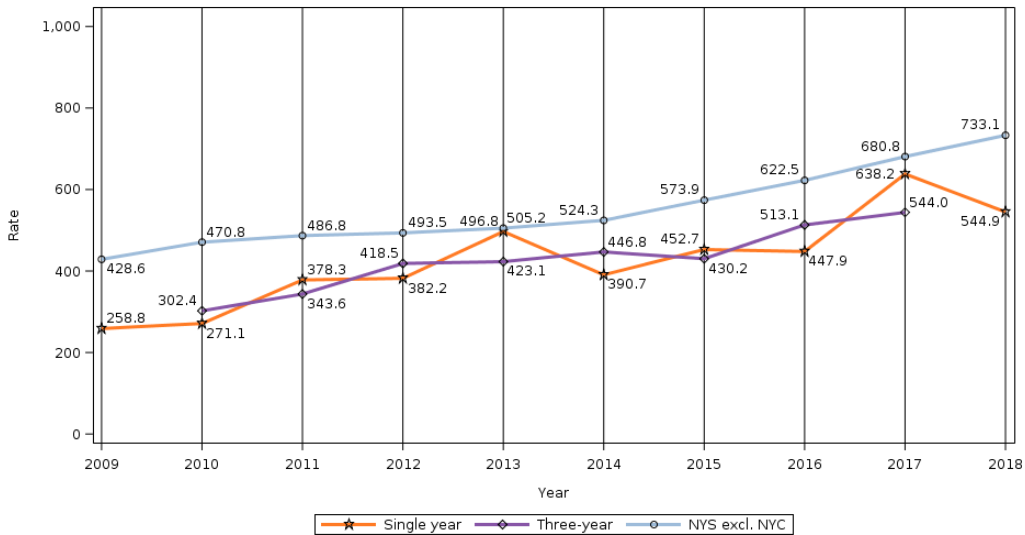
Chlamydia remains the most common sexually transmitted disease in New York State and Warren County. The table on the previous page show Warren County has similar rates of chlamydia as New York State (excluding NYC). Warren County females have higher rates of chlamydia than males.

When the data is further broken out we see several trends in Warren County. Among males ages 15-44 there has been a steady increase in the rates of chlamydia as shown in the graph 1. When examined further, males ages 20-24 have a higher rate of chlamydia than the other identified age groups (see graph 2).

Warren County - Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 males - Aged 15-44 years

Data Source: Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology Data as of December 2020

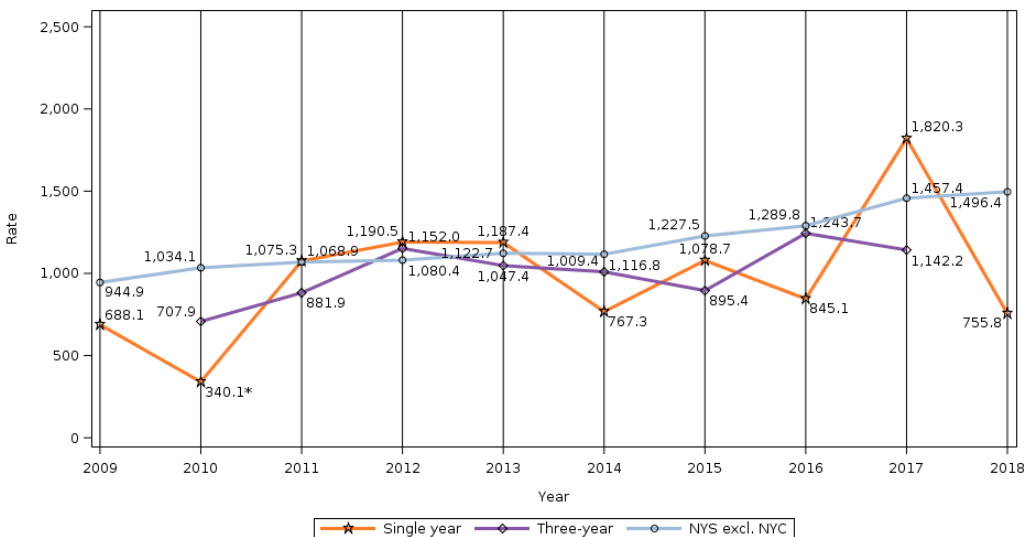
Graph 1



Warren County - Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 males - Aged 20-24 years

Data Source: Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology Data as of December 2020

Graph 2

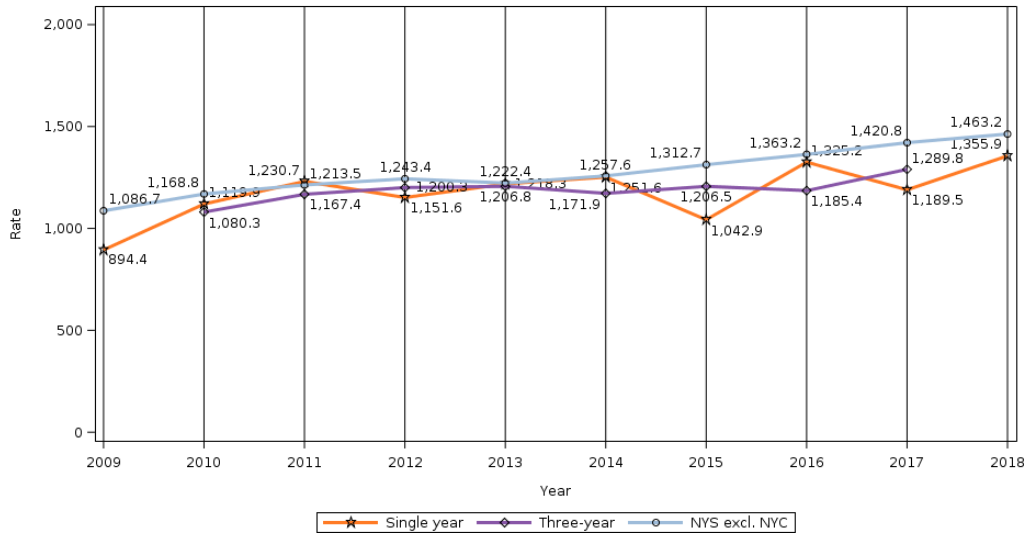


Warren County females have also seen a steady but slower increase than males in chlamydia rates among females 15-44. This can be seen in graph 3. Similar to males, females in the 20-24 age group have the highest rate of chlamydia infections among the identified age groups (see graph 4).

Warren County - Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 females - Aged 15-44 years

Data Source: Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology Data as of December 2020

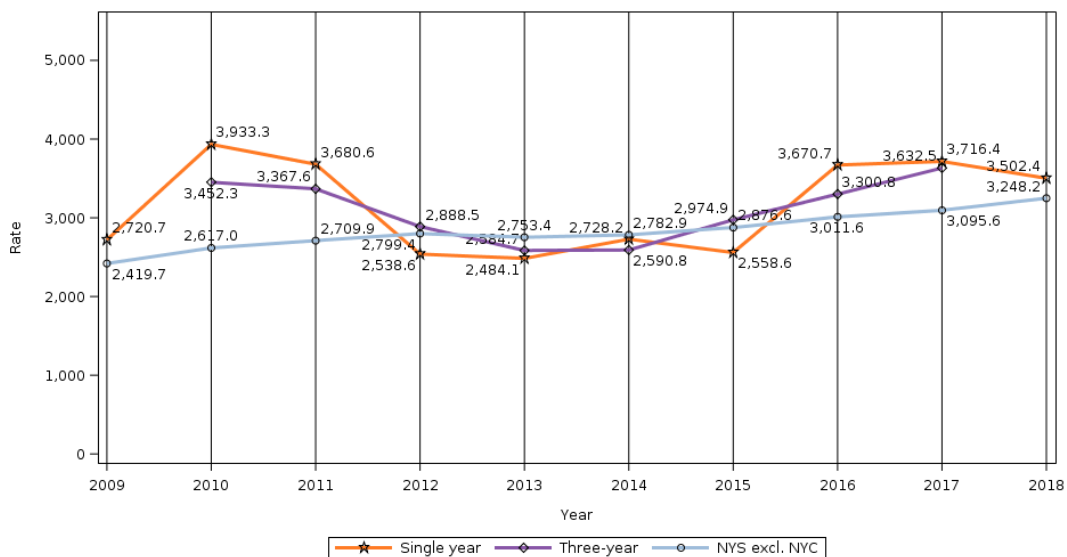
Graph 3



Warren County - Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 females - Aged 20-24 years

Data Source: Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology Data as of December 2020

Graph 4



The data for chlamydia infections in Warren County show that both females and males are impacted. The data also support the need for access to testing and treatment for chlamydia infections across all identified ages groups. The data seems to support targeted education, testing and treatment among 20-24 year old of both genders. This group may even benefit from Expedited Partner Therapy services.

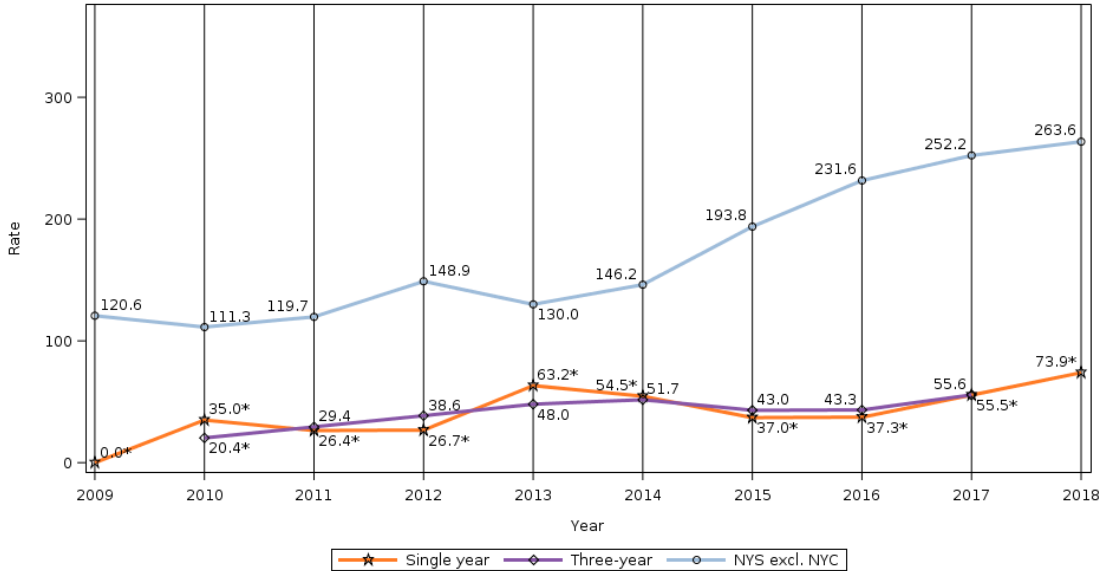
Gonorrhea Morbidity by Gender and Age

Gonorrhea infections among Warren County residents 15-44 years old have not seen any significant changes for the three years 2016-2018. Both males and females are impacted by gonorrhea, with females being impacted at a slightly higher rate. The three year trend data should be used when analyzing data since single year data can be unstable due to too few cases. Gonorrhea rates among 15-19 years old remain too low to provide a stable rate which is indicated by the asterisks in graph 7.

Warren County - Gonorrhea case rate per 100,000 males - Aged 15-44 years

Data Source: Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology Data as of December 2020

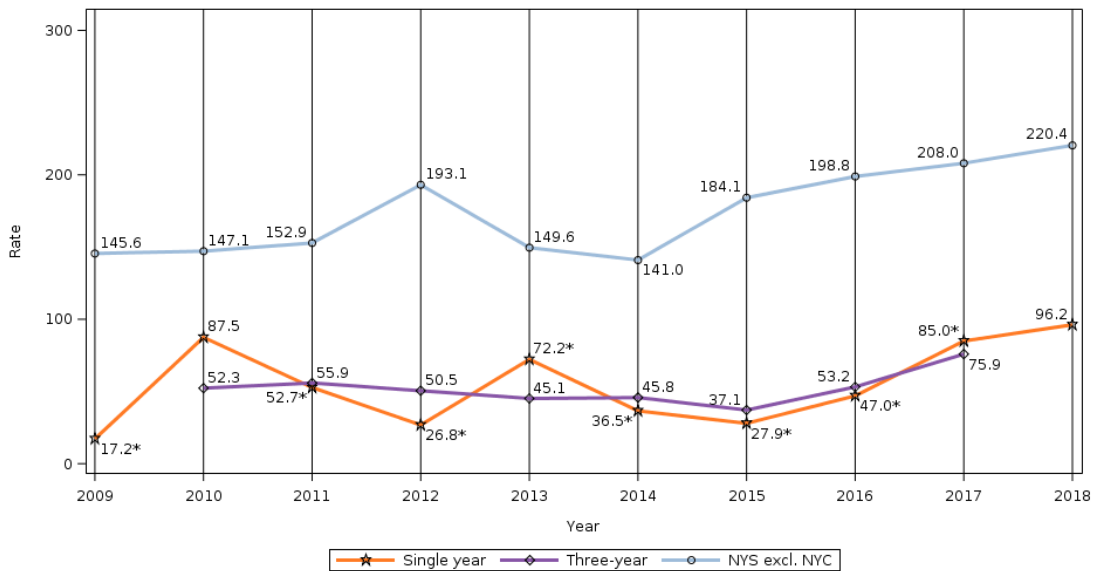
Graph 5



Warren County - Gonorrhea case rate per 100,000 females - Aged 15-44 years

Data Source: Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology Data as of December 2020

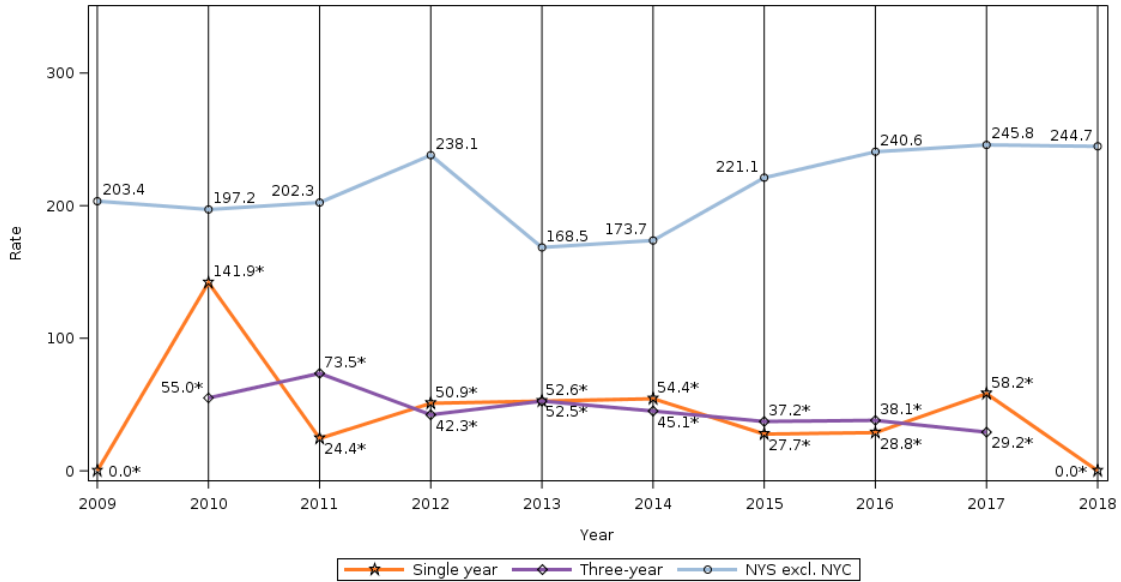
Graph 6



Warren County - Gonorrhea case rate per 100,000 - Aged 15-19 years

Data Source: Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology Data as of December 2020

Graph 7



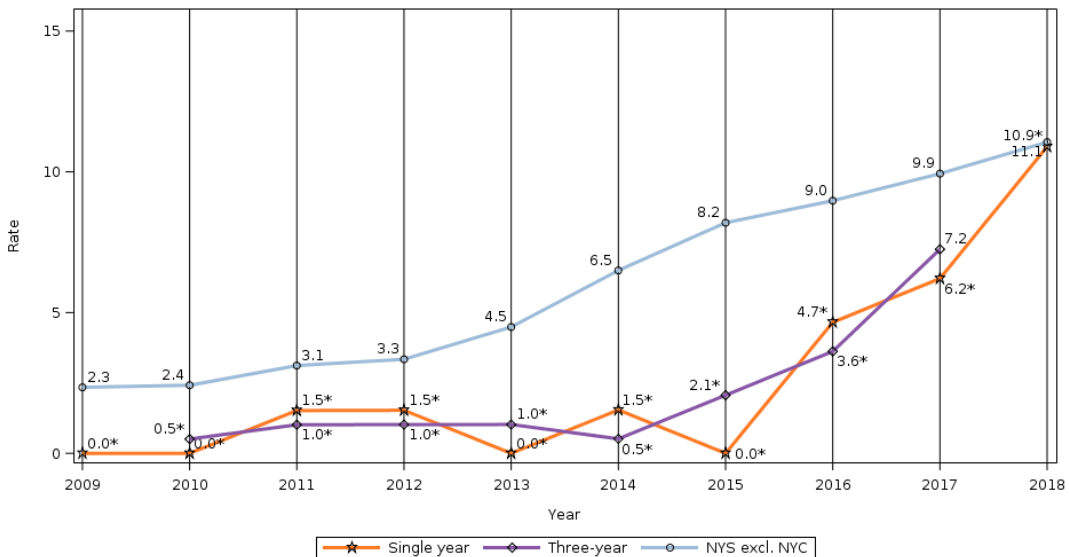
Although gonorrhea impacts a small number of Warren County residents it is important for those individuals to be able to find the education, screening and treatment resources they need to recover and prevent reinfection. This group may even benefit from Expedited Partner Therapy services.

Syphilis Morbidity

Because there are so few cases of syphilis in Warren County case rates are unstable. However, data from 2016-2018 show an increase in the number of syphilis cases as reflected in the spiking graph 8. It is hard to say if this trend will continue or if it is just a blip. Therefore, Warren County Public Health will continue to monitor the situation and reach out to community partners and healthcare providers should increasing community surveillance and interventions be needed.

Warren County - Early syphilis case rate per 100,000

Graph 8



Warren County Expedited Partner Therapy Update

Just prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic Warren County Public Health began developing a plan to educate healthcare providers and pharmacists located in Warren County about the expanded New York State Expedited Partner Therapy program for the treatment of STI's.



On January 1, 2020 Chapter 298 of the Laws of 2019 went into effect, expanding New York State Public Health Law §2312 to permit expedited treatment for STIs for which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of expedited therapy. Prior to this change, EPT was allowable in New York State for chlamydia only. The CDC currently includes EPT as an option for management of sex partner(s) for chlamydia (*Chlamydia trachomatis*), gonorrhea (*N. Gonorrhoeae*), and/or trichomoniasis (*Trichomonas vaginalis*) sexually transmitted bacterial infections.

Along with providing education to our healthcare partners Warren County Public Health staff wanted to gather information about how many healthcare providers and pharmacists already offered or planned to offer EPT for their patients. Due to the ongoing pandemic, very little information was gathered.

As the COVID-19 pandemic slowly subsides Warren County Public Health will renew efforts to raise awareness about EPT and help healthcare providers and pharmacists in Warren County address barriers to implementation of the EPT program.

This report has been developed to provide healthcare providers and community partners with a brief overview of the impacts sexually transmitted infections have on Warren County residents. The information in this report can be used to support education and intervention efforts targeting STI's. This report does not provide a comprehensive analysis of all STI data for Warren County nor does it provide information about STI programs and interventions that exist in Warren County. For more information about STI's in Warren County please contact the Warren County Public Health office at 518-761-6580 or email healthservices@warrencountyny.gov