

Abstract title (max 150 characters):

CHLAMYDIAL INFECTIONS AMONG YOUNG ADULTS IN BALTIMORE, MD, USA: TRENDS ACROSS THE LAST DECADE

Abstract text (max 2000 characters):

Background: STI surveillance provides estimates of diagnosed chlamydial infections as reported to local health departments. Population-based surveys provide an alternate and complementary estimate of STI prevalence and behaviors associated with undiagnosed infection. Together they provide a more complete profile of STI epidemiology within local populations and over time. Methods: The Baltimore STD and Behavioral Survey (BSBS) combined probability sampling with household interview and collection of urine specimens to estimate chlamydial infection among 18-35 year olds in 1997-98 in Baltimore, MD, USA. A similar behavioral survey (Monitoring STIs Survey Program, MSSP), using telephone interview and mail-out specimen collection, was administered in 2006-07. Data derived from case reports to the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) during these same periods are analyzed. Results: Survey estimates of CT were slightly higher in 2007-08 (4.1, se 0.7) than 1997-98 (3.0, se 0.8) and varied substantially by gender. Whereas more females tested positive in 1997-98 (4.3% v 1.6% for males), in 2007-08 4.6% of males tested positive in comparison to 3.7% of females ($p=0.5$). Survey reports of diagnosed CT in the past year were similar during the two periods (3.2% and 4.0%) but higher among females (4.4% v 1.9% in the BSBS and 5.2% v 2.5% in the MSSP). Weighted population prevalence estimates of case reports to the BCHD provided the lowest overall estimates of infection, 2.1% in 1997-98 and 3.2% in 2007-08; reports were higher among females than males (3.6 v 0.5 in 1997-98 and 5.1 v 1.2 in 2007-08). Conclusions: Diagnosed and undiagnosed chlamydial infections appear to have increased moderately in the last decade among young adults in Baltimore. In contrast to self-reports and case reports of higher rates of diagnosed CT infections among females across the decade, recent survey estimates suggest an equal burden of undiagnosed infection among males and females.

Mode of presentation (Abstract topics)

14 Track C: 21-STI surveillance, monitoring & evaluation

16 Track C: 23-Observational epidemiological & socio-behavioural studies

Presentation method

Oral presentation preferred

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