

Background

- Rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have been rising in the United States
- Physician offices play an important role in STI prevention, education, and laboratory testing options for patients at risk
- Few studies have documented the extent that physician's offices have contributed to these efforts

Study Aim

- This study aimed to determine trends in STI laboratory testing and education in United States physician offices from 2009 - 2016

Methods

- This was a cross-sectional study of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey from 2009 - 2016
- Data weights were applied to extrapolate to national estimates
- Testing for HIV, HPV, chlamydia (2009 - 2016) and hepatitis and gonorrhea (2014 - 2016) were presented per 1,000 total visits
- STI prevention education on transmission, safe sex, condom use, and partner notification was presented as the percentage of visits including education
- Subgroup analyses were performed for age group, sex, geographical region, and provider specialty by STI test and receipt of prevention education

STI testing in primary care settings is increasing, but is still underutilized.

STI prevention education remains low and is provided to less than 1% of patients in primary care settings.

Figure 1. STI Laboratory Testing Rates (per 1,000)

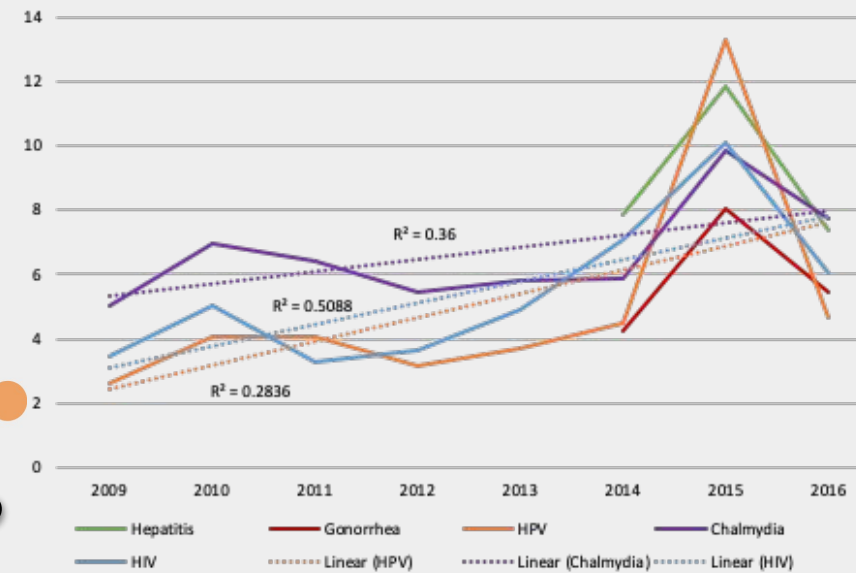
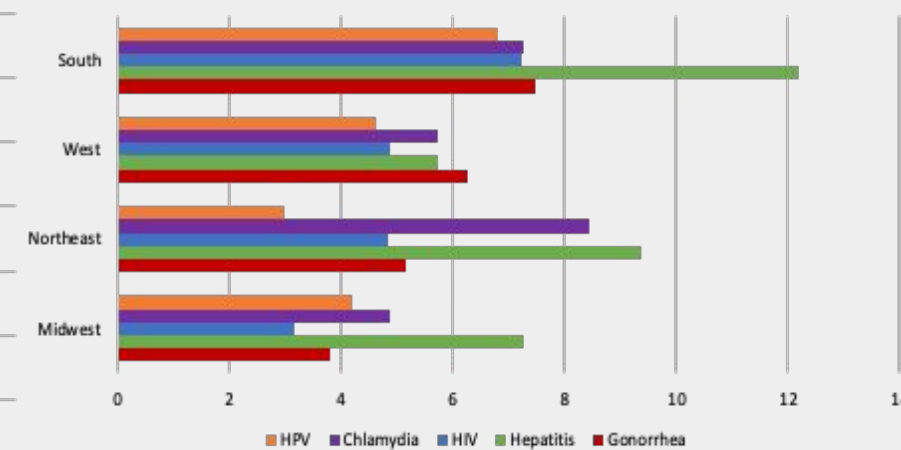


Figure 2. STI Testing Rates by Geographic Region (per 1,000)



Results and Conclusions

- The South region had the highest STI testing rates (1.9%), but trailed behind the Northeast and West in STI prevention education (0.7% and 0.5% vs 0.4% in the South)
- "No Charge or Charity" was the most common form of payment for those receiving STI testing (6.2%)
- 15 - 24 year olds received a majority of STI testing although 25 - 44 year olds were more commonly tested for Hepatitis and HPV
- Females were tested and provided STI education at higher rates than males (2.2% vs 0.8%, and 0.6% vs 0.4% respectively)
- OB/GYN as majority testing and education providers likely explains female vs. male discrepancies
- Primary care providers need to be utilized as a frontline resource for encouraging and providing both STI testing and prevention education

Figure 3. STI Testing Rates by Age Group (per 1,000)

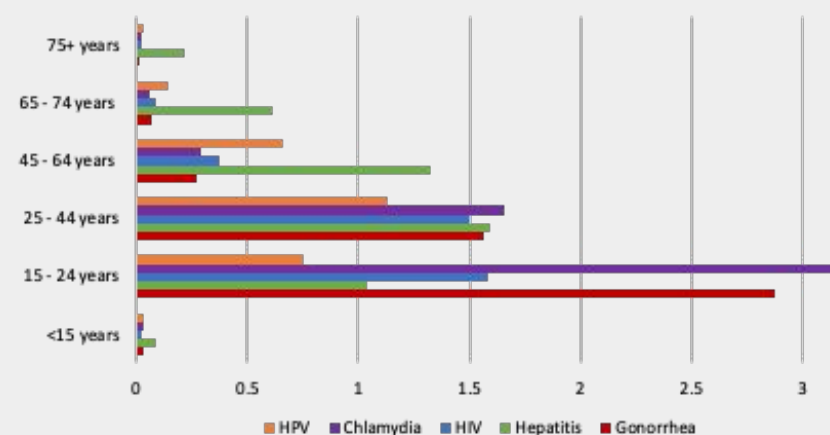


Figure 4. Any STI Test by Provider Specialty

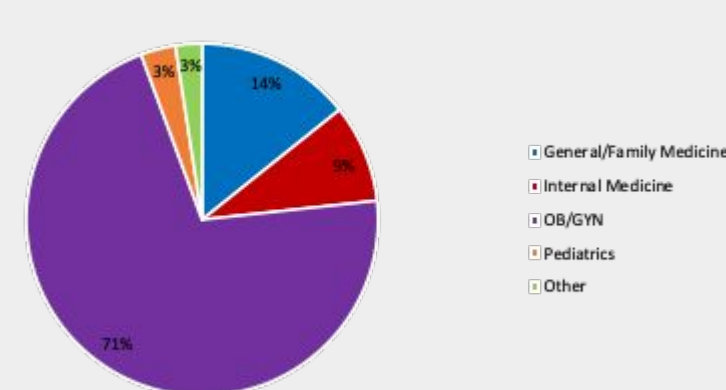


Figure 5. STI Prevention Education by Provider Specialty

