



Sexually Transmitted Infections: A Continuing Problem

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'Sexually transmitted diseases are a continuing problem among the young ... More public education and surveillance are needed to prevent transmission of these infections.'

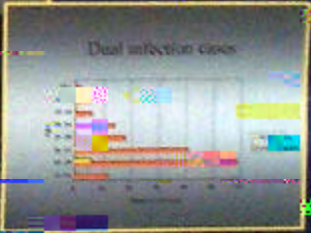
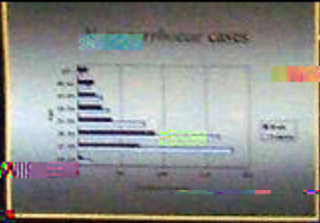
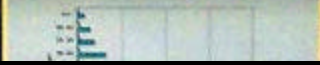
Introduction

Sexually transmitted diseases continue to be an important public health problem throughout the world. In the United States, Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae are the most common bacterial causes of sexually transmitted diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 10 million cases of gonorrhea and 4 million chlamydia infections occur in the U.S. each year. The estimated cost of these infections and the problems they cause is over \$1 billion a year.

Methods

Detection of *C. trachomatis* and *N. gonorrhoeae* from genital specimens was done using a nucleic acid hybridization technique (AVIDIN-FITC-T-TESTING).
Patients who were listed in registry from period 1/1/99 through December, 2000, were obtained from the computer records of the clinical laboratory and were grouped according to age.

C. trachomatis cases



Results

204 (8.4%) of the 24,281 tests for *C. trachomatis* were positive. Of the positive results 162 (79.2%) were from female patients and the highest rates were seen in women 15 to 24 years.
Positive tests for *N. gonorrhoeae* resulted in 142 (5.7%) of the 24,861 tests performed. Of the positive results 128 (90%) were from female patients and 14 (10%) were from male patients. Most infections were found in 15 to 24 years and 15 to 24 years.

Conclusion

The data indicate that sexually transmitted diseases are a continuing problem, particularly among young (15-24 years), sexually active individuals and is associated with higher education enrollment. The lack of diagnosis, timely and accurate data systems from a considerable burden on the health care system. We suggest that more public education and surveillance be made to prevent transmission of these infections.