

Communicable Diseases

Why It Is Important

Determinants and risk factors for communicable diseases such as STDs and HIV/AIDS are high-risk sexual behavior, drug and alcohol abuse, limited access to health care, and poverty. Lifetime costs associated with treating HIV/AIDS are estimated at \$155,000 or more per person. Compared with the costs for prevention, it would be highly cost-effective for both the individual and society if more programs focused on prevention. Currently though, despite the many burdens, costs, complications, and the preventable nature of STD and HIV/AIDS, the problem is not being met with full recognition and action by society, the health system, and policy makers.⁵⁵

Figure 118: Number of Cases of Selected Communicable Diseases in Stanislaus County

Disease	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	03-07 % Change
Chlamydia	1,558	1,808	1,991	1,837	1,908	22.5
Gonorrhea	284	530	662	405	468	64.8
Hepatitis C	567	523	558	457	519*	-8.5
Total (selected diseases)	2,409	2,861	3,211	2,699	2,895	20.2

Source: Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, CAPE Unit, 2008.

* 285 cases of this total have not been confirmed.

Figure 119: Cumulative HIV Count Through the End of 2007, by Age and Ethnicity, Stanislaus County

Age Group	Hispanic	Asian	African American	Hawaiian	Caucasian	Multi-race	Total
0 to 12 years old	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
13 to 19 years old	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 to 29 years old	11	2	3	1	19	0	36
30 to 39 years old	7	2	1	0	18	0	28
40 to 49 years old	4	0	5	1	14	2	26
50 years or older	1	0	0	0	10	0	11
Total	24	4	9	2	61	2	102

Source: Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, CAPE Unit, 2008.

Data Summary

In 2007, there were 2,895 cases of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Hepatitis C in Stanislaus County. This was a 20% increase since 2003. In the County, the greatest number of cases of HIV was among Caucasians (61), followed by Hispanics (24) through the end of 2007. By age, 20 to 29 year olds had the highest number of cases of HIV (36), followed by 30 to 39 year olds (28).

⁵⁵ Healthy Carolinians, *Sexually Transmitted Disease – HIV/AIDS*, http://www.healthycarolinians.org/2010objs/std_aids.htm, 2008.