

Chlamydia (genital)

Genital chlamydia is the most common reportable infection in BC. As the majority of chlamydia infections are asymptomatic, the reported number of chlamydia infections is only a fraction of the total population burden. If untreated, genital chlamydia may lead to complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease (a major cause of infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pain) in women and epidymo-orchitis in men.

Mirroring the national trend, genital chlamydia rates have been steadily increasing since the late 1990s. There are multiple reasons thought to be responsible for this increase, some of which are related to surveillance such as the increases in the sensitivity of laboratory tests and uptake of testing (e.g. greater acceptability of urine-based tests among men). Changes in behaviour, such as decreased condom use, may also be contributing to increasing chlamydia incidence.

Females are more likely to be diagnosed with chlamydia compared to males. The greater number of infections among females is partially due to routine screening performed at the time of visits that were

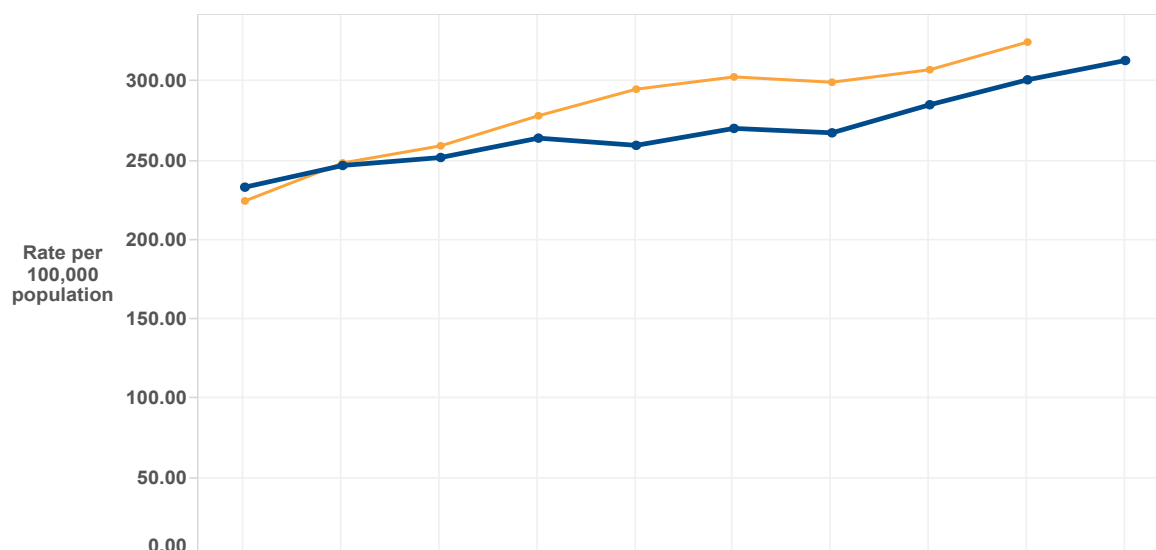
for other reasons (e.g. pap testing or contraception counselling).

Of concern is the rising number of lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) reported. LGV is caused by three specific serovars of chlamydia (L1, L2, and L3). The clinical presentation of LGV includes genital papules, ulcers, inguinal lymphadenopathy and hemorrhagic proctitis. If left untreated, LGV can cause serious sequelae such as lymphatic obstruction or anogenital ulcerations. LGV was first reported in Canada in 2003 and in BC in 2004. A provincial enhanced surveillance program for LGV was initiated in 2004. Since 2011, positive rectal chlamydia samples are routinely sent to the National Microbiology Laboratory for LGV serovar testing.

For more information on chlamydia and LGV, please see the [STI Annual Report](#).



18.1 Genital Chlamydia Rates by Year, 2007-2016



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Reports	10,020	10,751	11,124	11,809	11,692	12,300	12,288	13,261	14,135	14,889
BC Rate	233.51	247.18	252.21	264.42	259.87	270.55	267.77	285.47	301.20	313.35
Canada Rate	224.82	248.78	259.56	278.54	295.28	303.02	299.66	307.55	324.97	