

# *Chlamydia trachomatis* Cases in Champaign County

---

## *General Chlamydia trachomatis Information*

---

### **Background**

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacterium that can infect both men and women, potentially causing serious, permanent damage to a women's reproductive organs. Within the United States, chlamydia is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI) with over 1.5 million cases reported in 2016; however, an estimated 2.86 million infections occur annually.

### **Transmission & Risk**

This STD is transmitted person-to-person by having sex with someone who has the infection, "having sex" is defined as either anal, vaginal, or oral sex. It can also be transmitted from an infected woman to her baby during childbirth. An individual once infected with chlamydia can still get infected again if they have sex with an infected person. Any sexually active person is at risk for being infected with chlamydia, especially those who are young. 1 in 15 sexually active females aged 14-19 years has chlamydia. Untreated chlamydia in pregnant women has been associated with pre-term delivery and can spread to the newborn. It is highly recommended that pregnant women be screened for chlamydia during their first prenatal visit.

### **Symptoms & Complications**

In women, the bacteria first infect the cervix (structure that connects the vagina or birth canal to the uterus or womb) and/or the urethra (urine canal). Some infected women have an abnormal vaginal discharge or a burning sensation when urinating. Untreated infections can spread upward to the uterus and fallopian tubes (tubes that carry fertilized eggs from the ovaries to the uterus), causing pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID can be silent or can cause symptoms such as abdominal and pelvic pain. Even if PID causes no symptoms initially, it can lead to infertility (not being able to get pregnant) and other complications later.

Some infected men have discharge from their penis or a burning sensation when urinating. Pain and swelling in one or both testicles (known as "epididymitis") may also occur but is less common. Infection in men is less common than in women. Chlamydia can also infect the rectum in men and women, either through receptive anal sex, or possibly via spread from the cervix and vagina. While these infections often cause no symptoms, they can cause rectal pain, discharge, and/or bleeding (known as "proctitis").

### **Testing, Diagnosis, Treatment**

It is recommended that sexually active persons should get tested for chlamydia, especially if they 1) have genital symptoms, 2) have an oral, anal, vaginal partner who was recently diagnosed with a STD, 3) are a woman 25 and younger or an older woman with chlamydial risk factors, 4) are pregnant, 5) are a man who has sex with men (MSM) who have receptive anal sex, and/or 6) have multiple partners. HIV infected sexually active women who are 25 or younger and all HIV-infected patients who engage in receptive anal sex should be tested at their first HIV care visit and at least annually afterwards.

A laboratory test is needed to diagnose chlamydia, such as a vaginal cotton swab or a urine sample. Chlamydia is easily treated and cured with antibiotics (in both infants and adults), persons infected should refrain from having sex for 7 days after single dose antibiotics or until completion of a seven-day

course of antibiotics. Repeat infection is common and those who have not been appropriately treated are at high risk for reinfection. Multiple infections increase a women’s risk of serious reproductive health complications. It is recommended that individuals with chlamydia get retested three months after treatment.

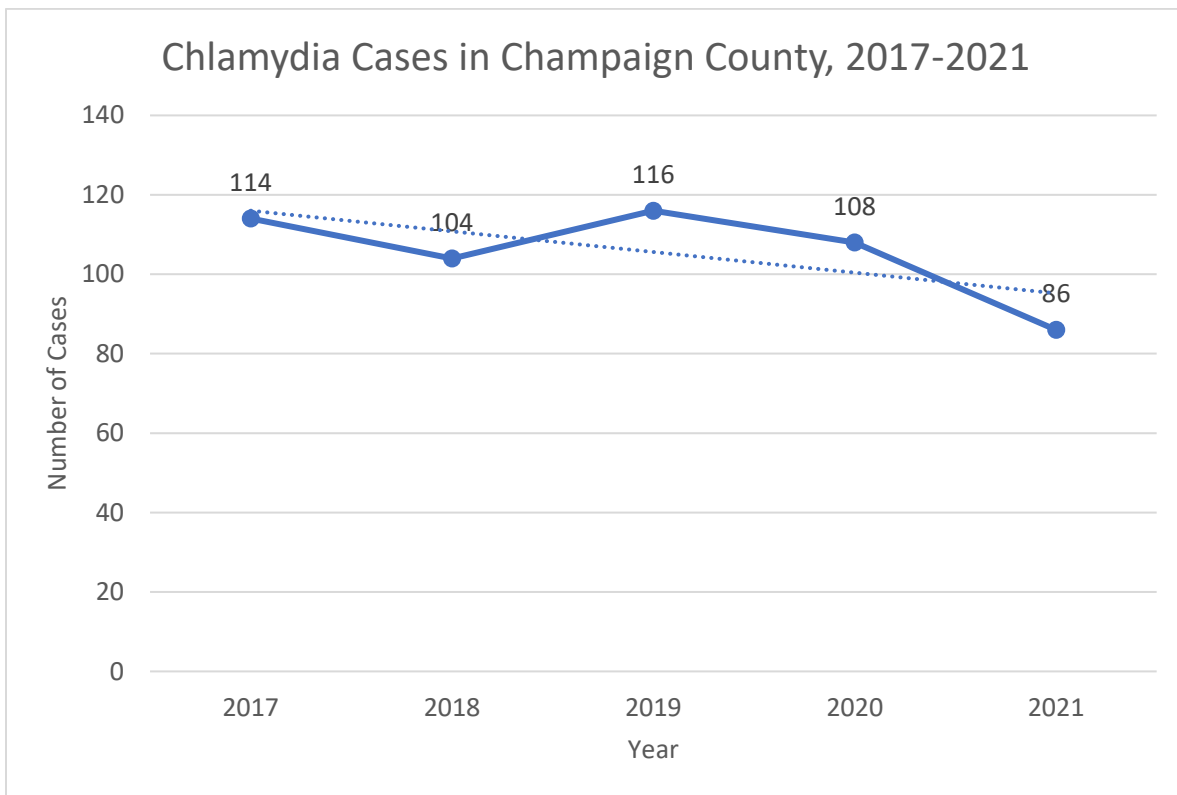
More information can be found here: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-ourprograms/infectious-disease-control-manual/section3/section-3-chlamydia>

---

*Champaign County Related Discussion*

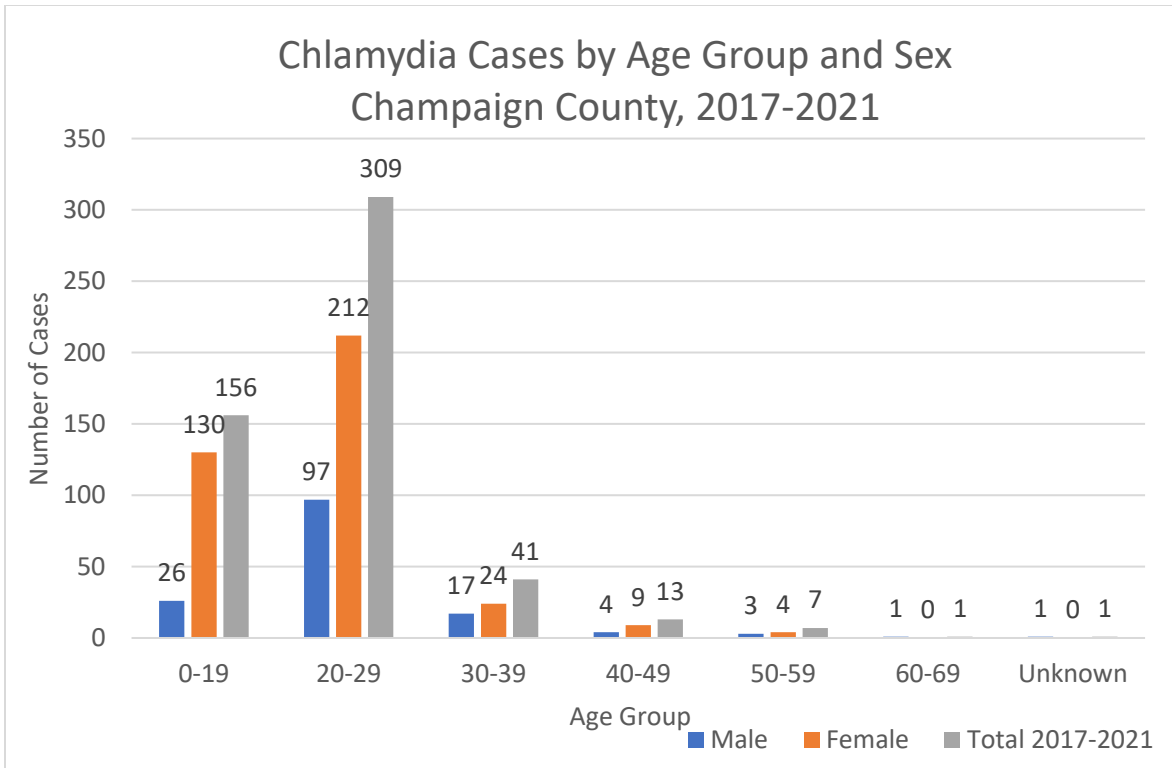
---

Figure 1 shows the chlamydia cases in Clark County from 2017 to 2021. All cases during this period are classified as confirmed. From 2017 to 2021 there is a 18.5% decrease in cases. Overall, the trend of chlamydia cases is trending downwards.



**Figure 1** Chlamydia Cases in Champaign County, 2017-2021.

Figure 2 shows the Chlamydia cases from 2017-2021 broken up by age group and sex. Overall, the majority (58.52%) of all cases fall within the 20-29 age group. The highest number of cases for both males (65.10%) and females (55.94%) fall within the 20-29 year old age group. The second highest for both males (17.45%) and females (34.30%) fall in the 0-19 year old age group.



**Figure 2** Chlamydia Cases by Age Group and Sex, Champaign County, 2017-2021.