

Assessment of primary care and school-based testing for chlamydia infection in young women

AUTHORS: Bernadette Zakher*, Lindsay Jenkins

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Primary Care Providers; Public Health Providers; Epidemiologists, School-based Providers

ABSTRACT:

Background: The USPSTF and CDC recommend screening for chlamydia in sexually active females under the age of 25. Age alone is a risk factor and no further risk factors need to be assessed to screen. Due to the asymptomatic nature of chlamydia, screening is recommended in an effort to control infection in the population. However, primary care clinicians may not be adhering to the recommended screening guidelines for chlamydia.

Objective: To assess how often primary care providers and school-based providers in Multnomah County are testing young women for chlamydia and to identify factors associated with testing. To compare persons tested to those who were not tested.

Methods: Electronic health record data was analyzed for frequency of testing in women aged 15 to 24 years and for features related to testing.

Results: In 2016, primary care and school-based providers saw more than 6000 women aged 15 to 24 years, with 35% of this sample recorded as being sexually active during the year and 65% recorded as not sexually active or missing data on this factor. Providers at these clinics tested 61% of these sexually active women for chlamydia in 2016. Among young women noted to be sexually active in 2016, CT testing was significantly associated with younger age, certain races, and a greater number of visits in 2016.

Conclusions: These findings suggest that many providers at school-based and primary care clinics in Multnomah County are adhering to guidelines to test young women for chlamydial infection. However, a large proportion of women are still not tested for chlamydia as recommended and testing varies by clinic and by personal factors. These findings have implications for provider education regarding chlamydia screening.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Describe the proportion of young women being tested for chlamydia in Multnomah County primary care and school-based clinics
- Identify factors associated with chlamydia testing in young women in Multnomah County primary care and school-based clinics
- Identify factors associated with not being tested for chlamydia in women under 25 in Multnomah County primary care and school-based clinics
- Discuss areas for improvement in provider education about chlamydia screening in young women

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION: Bernadette Zakher, MD Resident, Public Health and Preventive Medicine Oregon Health and Science University 9712272263 | zakher@ohsu.edu