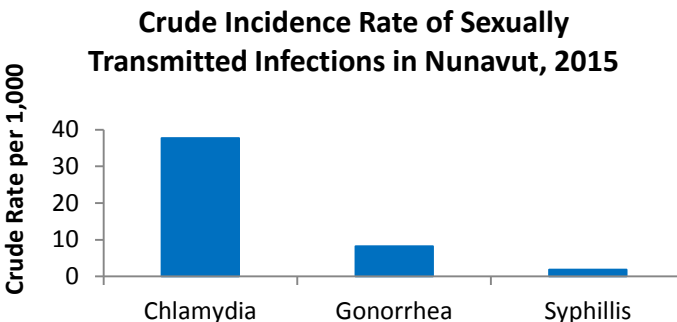


# Sexually Transmitted Infection Rates in Nunavut, 2008–2015



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 Building *Nunavut* Together  
*Nunavut* iuqatigiingniq  
 Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

Sexual health is an important part of overall health and well-being. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are a major health concern in Nunavut and represent most of the reported communicable diseases. This report focuses on chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and syphilis.



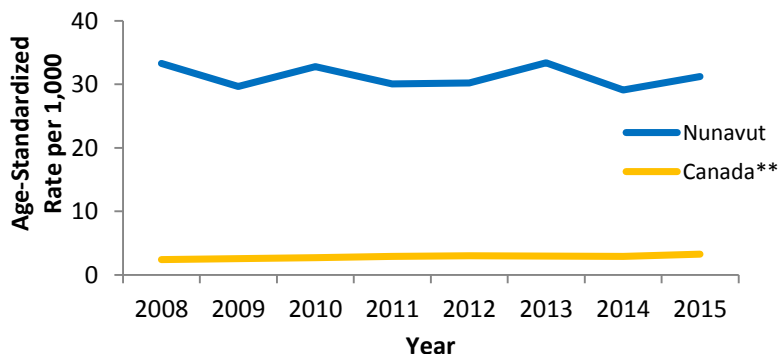
## CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection and the most commonly reported STI in Canada and in Nunavut. Many people with chlamydia do not show any signs but can still pass the infection on to others. Some people may have symptoms, such as unusual discharge, burning when urinating, and pain during sex. If left untreated, it can cause serious long-term health problems such as lower abdominal pain, testicular pain, infertility and sterility (unable to have children). A urine test can determine if you have chlamydia.

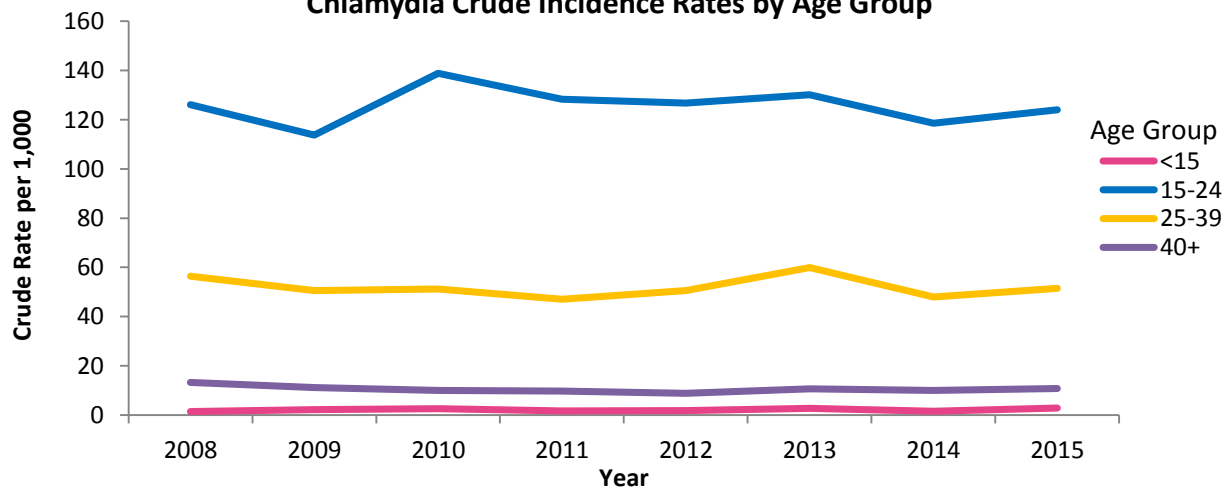
### Nunavut facts:

- Chlamydia was the most commonly reported STI in 2015, with 1,376 new reported infections.
- Almost one-third (30%) of the reported infections in 2015 were in the 15–19 age group.
- There was an increase in number of cases in 2015 compared to 2014.

**Chlamydia Age-Standardized Incidence Rates \***



**Chlamydia Crude Incidence Rates by Age Group**



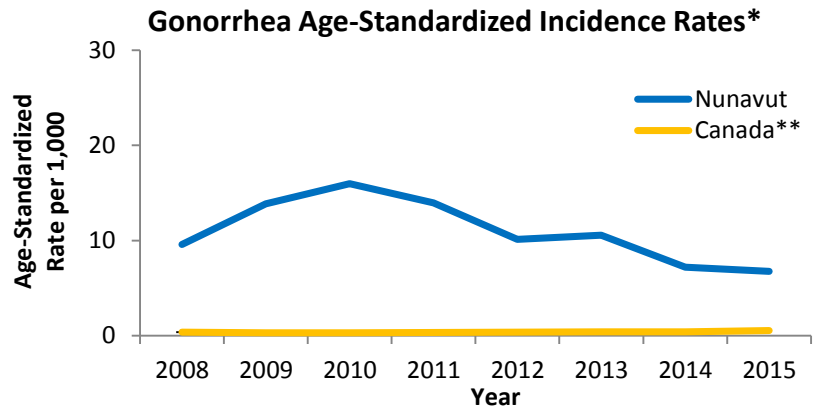
\*Age-standardized to 2011 Canadian population.  
 \*\* Canada rates do not include NU cases or population.

## GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is a bacterial infection and is the second most commonly reported STI in Canada. Gonorrhea has similar symptoms and long-term health effects as chlamydia. Usually people cannot tell if they have gonorrhea but can still pass on the infection to others. A urine test can determine if you have the infection.

### Nunavut facts:

- The gonorrhea rate appears to be decreasing, with 302 new reported infections in 2015.
- More than half (59%) of the reported infections in 2015 were in the 15-24 age group.
- There were more reported infections for women in the younger age groups.

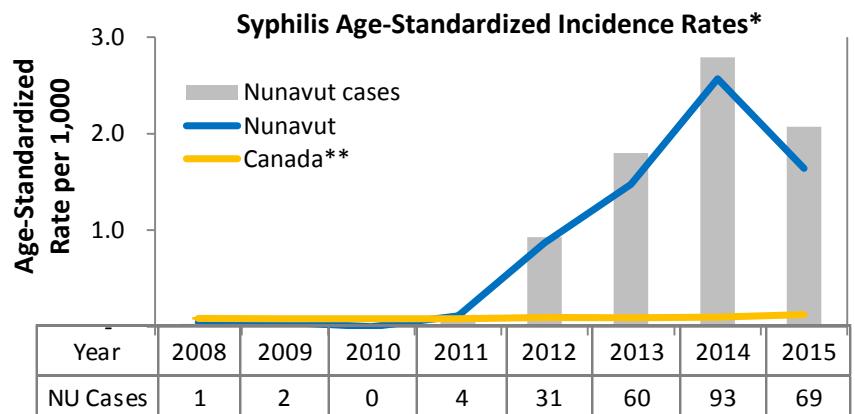


## SYPHILIS

Syphilis is a bacterial infection and has been on the rise throughout Canada. Although many may not show signs and symptoms, some people who are infected may develop sores around the genitals, mouth, or anus and rash on the palms or feet. If untreated, it can cause serious damage to the heart, brain, and other organs, and can even lead to death. A blood test can determine if you have syphilis.

### Nunavut facts:

- Syphilis used to be rare in Nunavut, but an outbreak began in 2012. There were 69 cases in 2015.
- The average age of cases in 2015 is 27.8 years old, with slightly more cases being female (55%).



Protect yourself and others; but most importantly respect yourself and your body.

- Use condoms every time you have sex.
- Get tested. Get treated.
- Stop the spread of STIs by asking your partners to get tested.

For more information, visit [www.irespectmyself.ca](http://www.irespectmyself.ca), ask your Community Health Representative, or go to your local health centre or public health.

\*Age-standardized to 2011 Canadian population.

\*\* Canada rates do not include NU cases or population.