



Department of Public Health & Environment

**Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)
Rates and Trends**

Updated: May 2006

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Summary

As of 2004, Washington County had 16,282 (8%) teens 15-19 years of age and Minnesota had 339,116 (7%) youth in this age group. The population of youth ages 15-19 in the county increased by 1,718 (12%) between 2000 and 2004 and Minnesota increased by 2,321 (0.6%).¹ As a result of this population increase, it might seem like the number of sexually active teens has increased but according to rates (per 1,000 teens) the number has been declining.

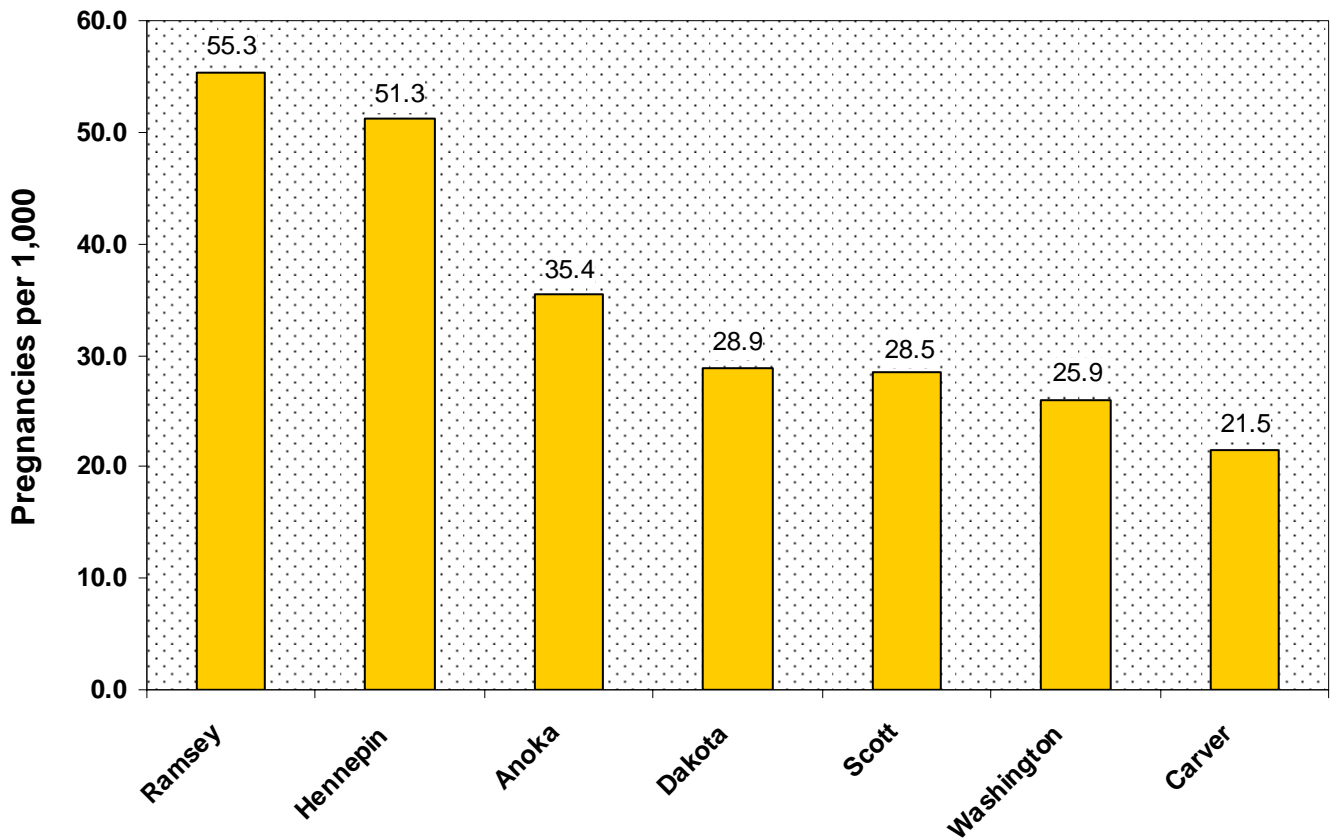
Pregnancy rates, sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates and adolescent sexual behaviors are some indicators for the sexual health of adolescents. Graphs of these rates are included.

Data for STIs such as genital warts (or human papillomavirus - HPV), Hepatitis B, and herpes are available but not included in this report. Data on HIV/AIDS were available, however, in Washington County there has been only one HIV case in the past five years and zero cases of AIDS. It's possible for a person to have HIV longer than a year before symptoms occur and a diagnosis is made. Potential exposure to HIV could occur during the teen years.

In general, Washington County has lower rates of teen pregnancies and reportable STIs compared to other metro counties, Minnesota and the United States. The percentage of 9th grade teens that are sexually active in Washington County has been decreasing. The sexual activity rate is about the same for Washington County and Minnesota teens.

¹ Minnesota Department of Health 2004 Population Annual Summary: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/04annsum/index.html>

Teen Pregnancy Rates in Metro Counties Ages 15-19, 2002-2004*



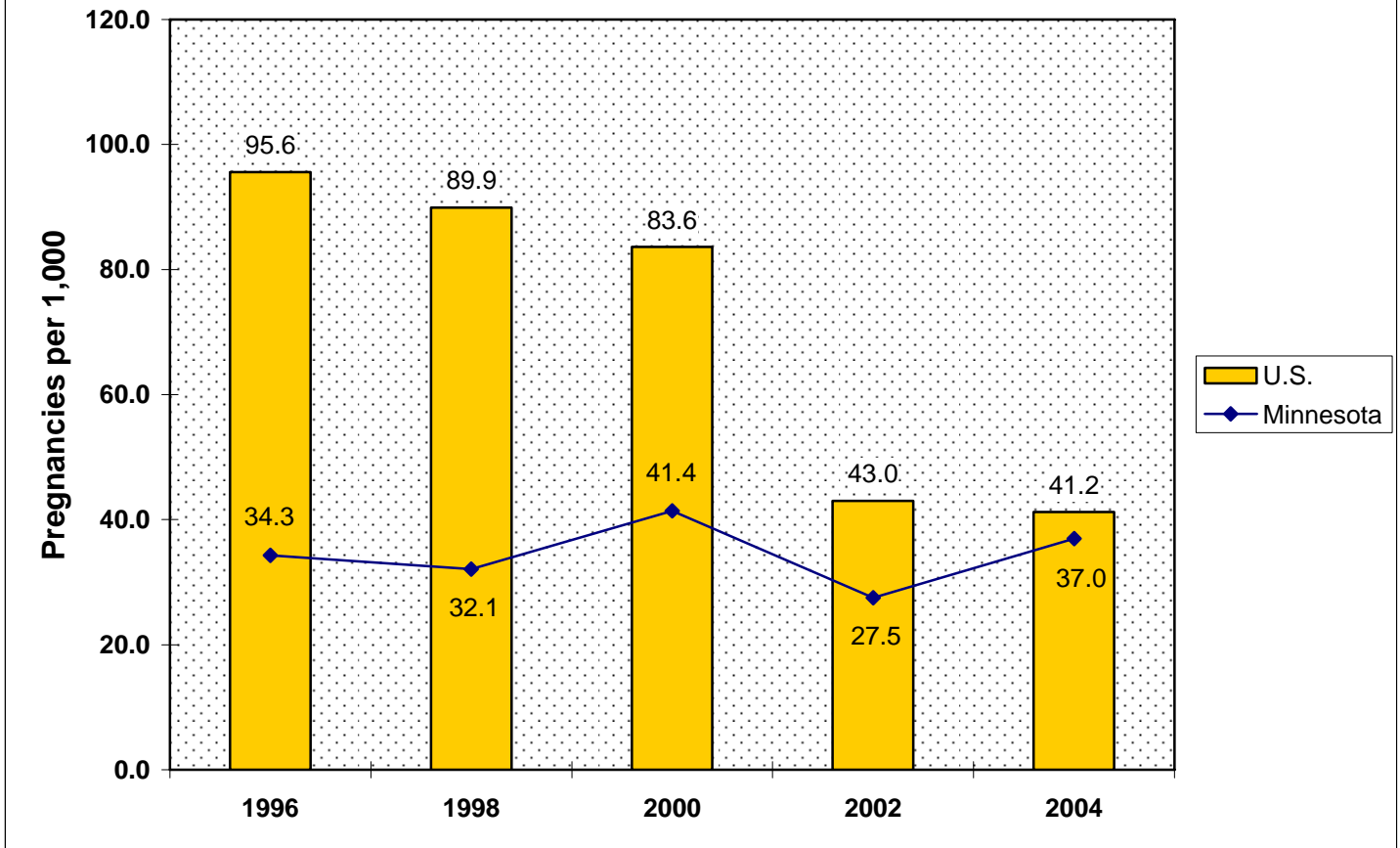
* Rates reported are three-years combined

Trends:

Washington County had the second lowest rate of teen pregnancy for 15 -19 year olds when compared to the other Metro counties. In 2002-2004 the county had a teen pregnancy rate (25.9) lower than all Minnesota counties except for Carver County. The Minnesota rate for 2002-2004 was 37.5, which the county was well below.²

² Minnesota Department of Health, Statistics Portal, Mini Profiles: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/miniprofiles/index.html>
United States Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Minnesota Profile of General Demographic Characteristics 2000: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

Teen Pregnancy Rates in U.S. and Minnesota Ages 15-19, 1996-2004

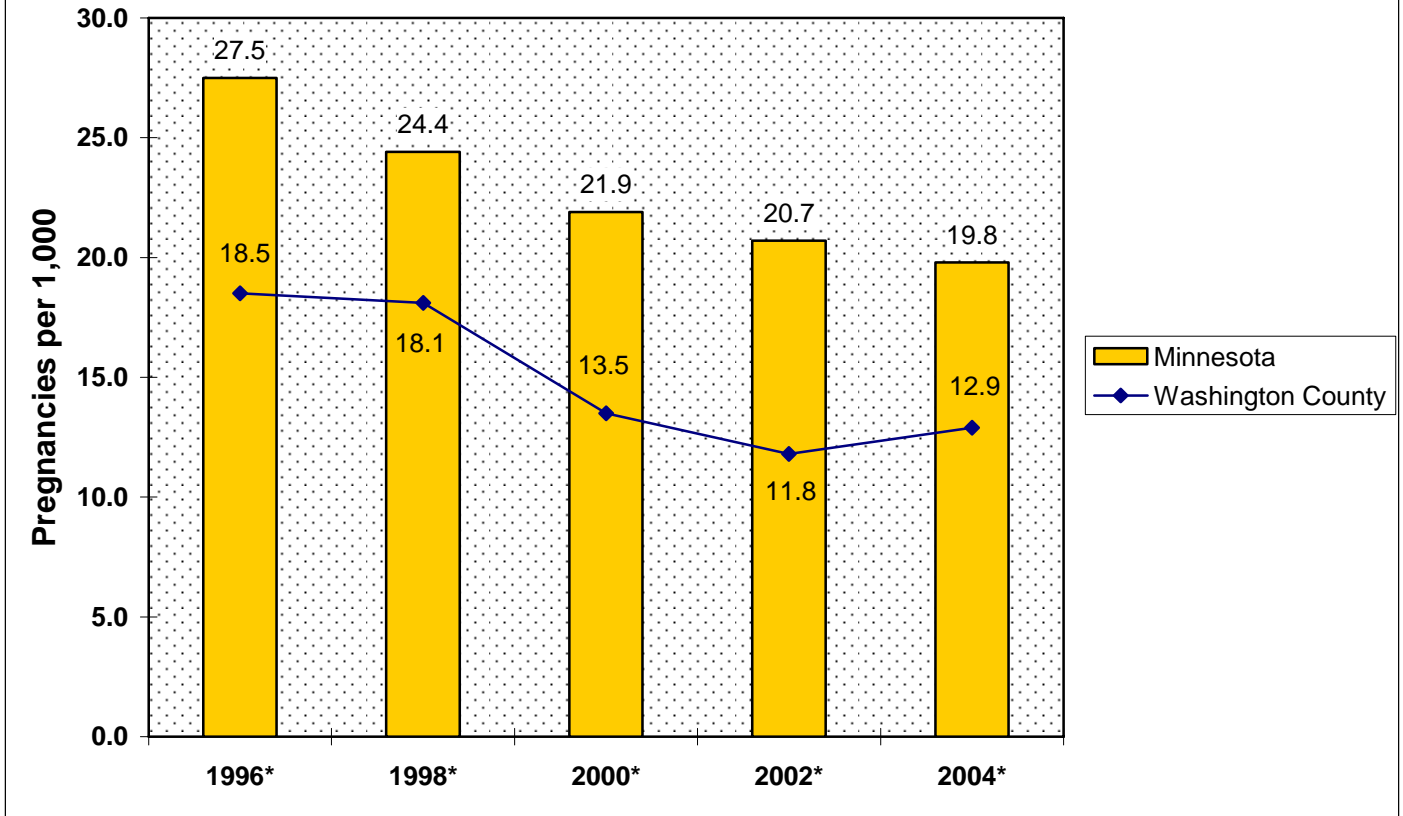


Trends:

This data is for teens 15-19 years of age. From 1996 to 2004 the U.S. teen pregnancy rate decreased. In Minnesota the pregnancy rate has fluctuated up and down over these years. However, the teen pregnancy rate in Minnesota is one of the lowest in the nation, ranking 47th nationally. In 2004, Washington County had a teen pregnancy rate of 25.9 for 15-19 year olds, which was considerably lower than the U.S. rate (41.2) and the Minnesota rate (37.0).³

³ The Alan Guttmacher Institute (2004). U.S. teen pregnancy statistics: www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_pregnancy_trends.pdf.
 Minnesota Department of Health Statistics Portal, 2004 Minnesota Annual Health Statistics, Fertility tables: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/04annsum/index.html>
 Minnesota Organization on Teen Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting: www.moapp.org, 651-644-1447.

Washington County and Minnesota Pregnancy Rates Ages 15-17, 1996-2004



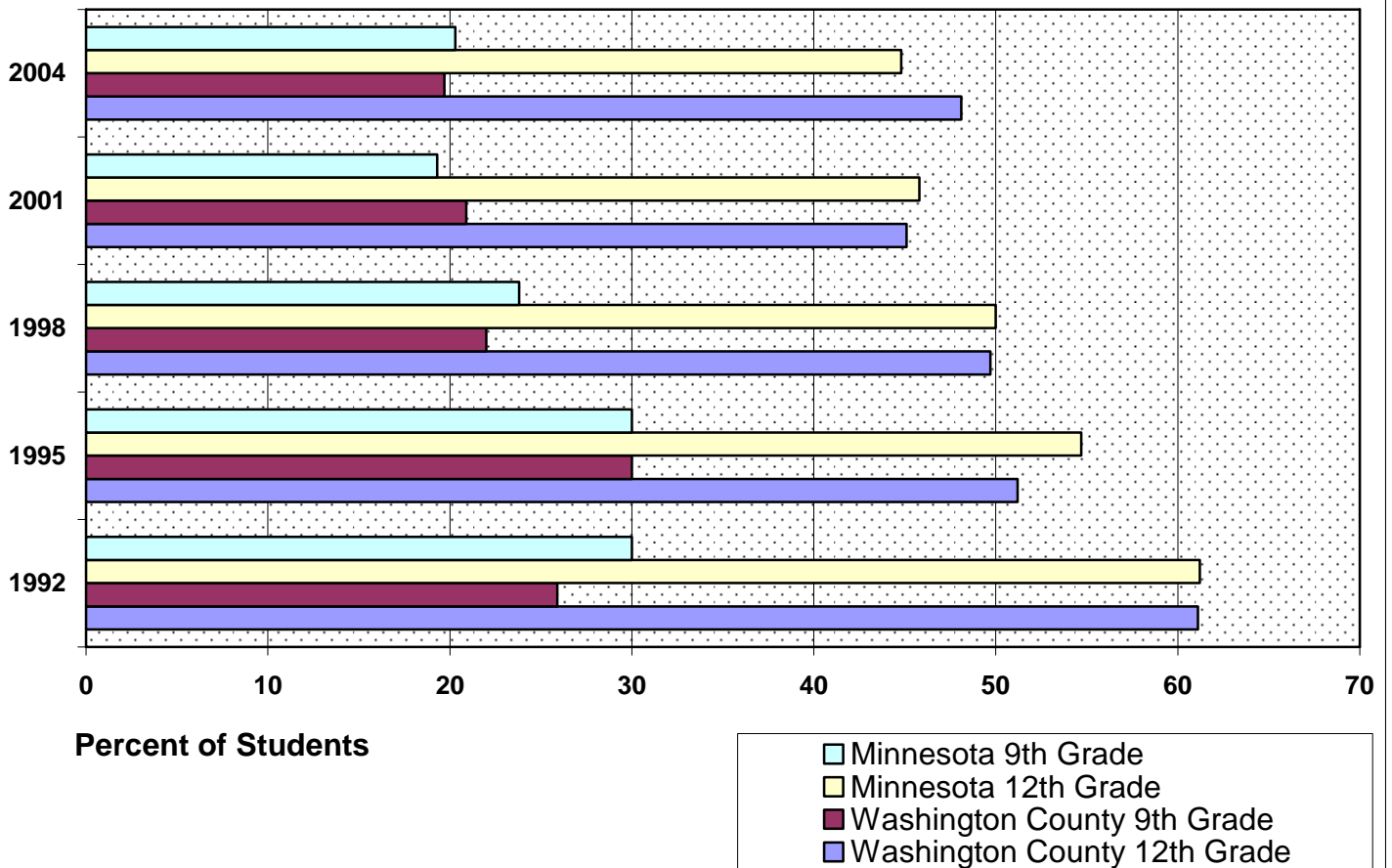
* Rates reported are three-year combined rates

Trends:

This data is for teens 15-17 years of age and rates are lower than for teens 15-19 years of age. The teen pregnancy rates for 15-17 year olds continue to decline in Minnesota. In Washington County the rates have also been declining but increased slightly in 2004.

⁴ Minnesota Department of Health, County Health Tables: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/index.htm>
 Minnesota Organization on Teen Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting: www.moapp.org, 651-644-1447.

Teens That Ever Had Sexual Intercourse Washington County and Minnesota 1992-2004

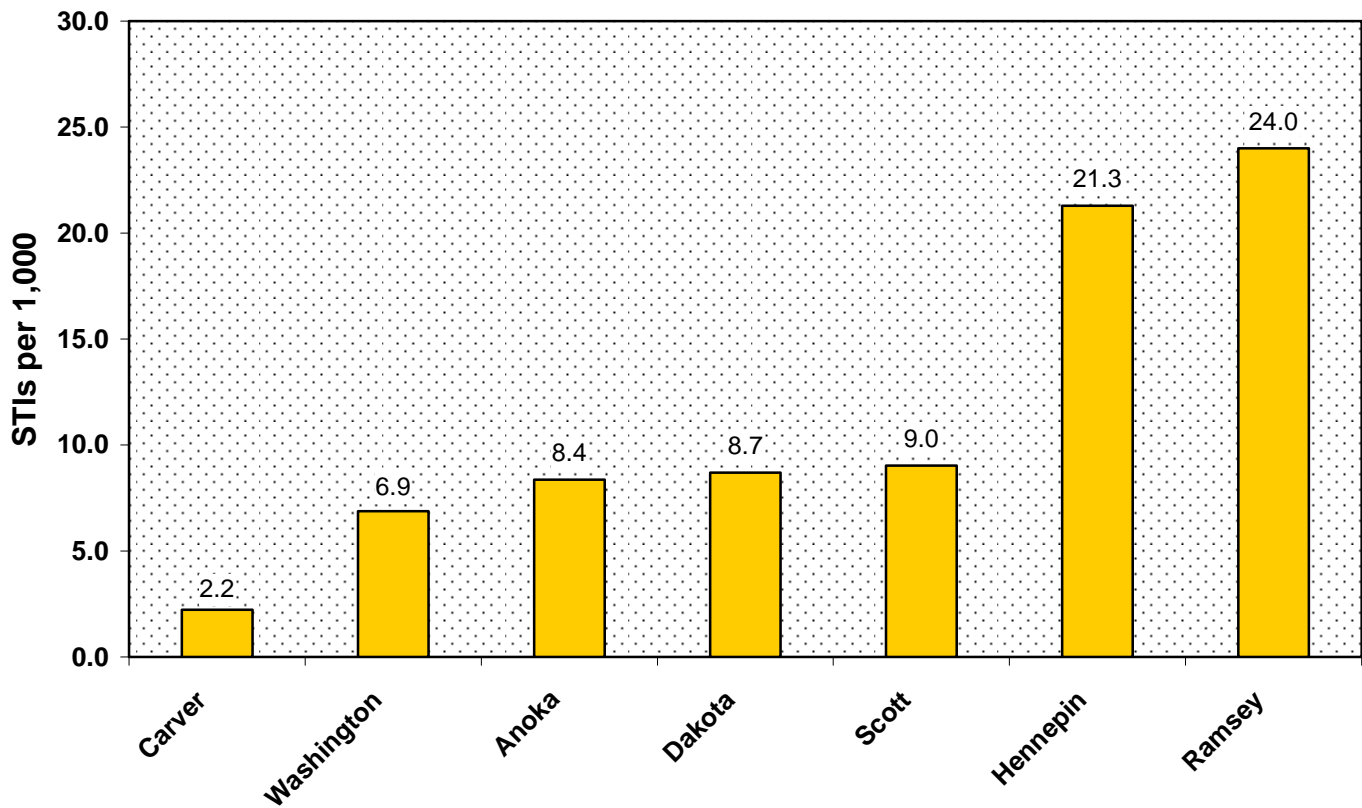


Trends:

The 2004 Minnesota Student Survey, a voluntary survey of students in Minnesota school districts, shows the percentage of teens that are sexually active in Washington County has been decreasing. The sexual activity rate for Washington County 9th graders is on a downward trend as compared to Minnesota 9th graders. The sexual activity rate for Washington County 12th graders tends to be at or slightly below that of Minnesota 12th graders.⁵

⁵ Minnesota Student Survey, Minnesota Department of Education: 612-296-5289, <http://education.state.mn.us/mde/index.html>

STIs (Chlamydia and Gonorrhea combined) in Metro Counties Ages 15-19, 2005

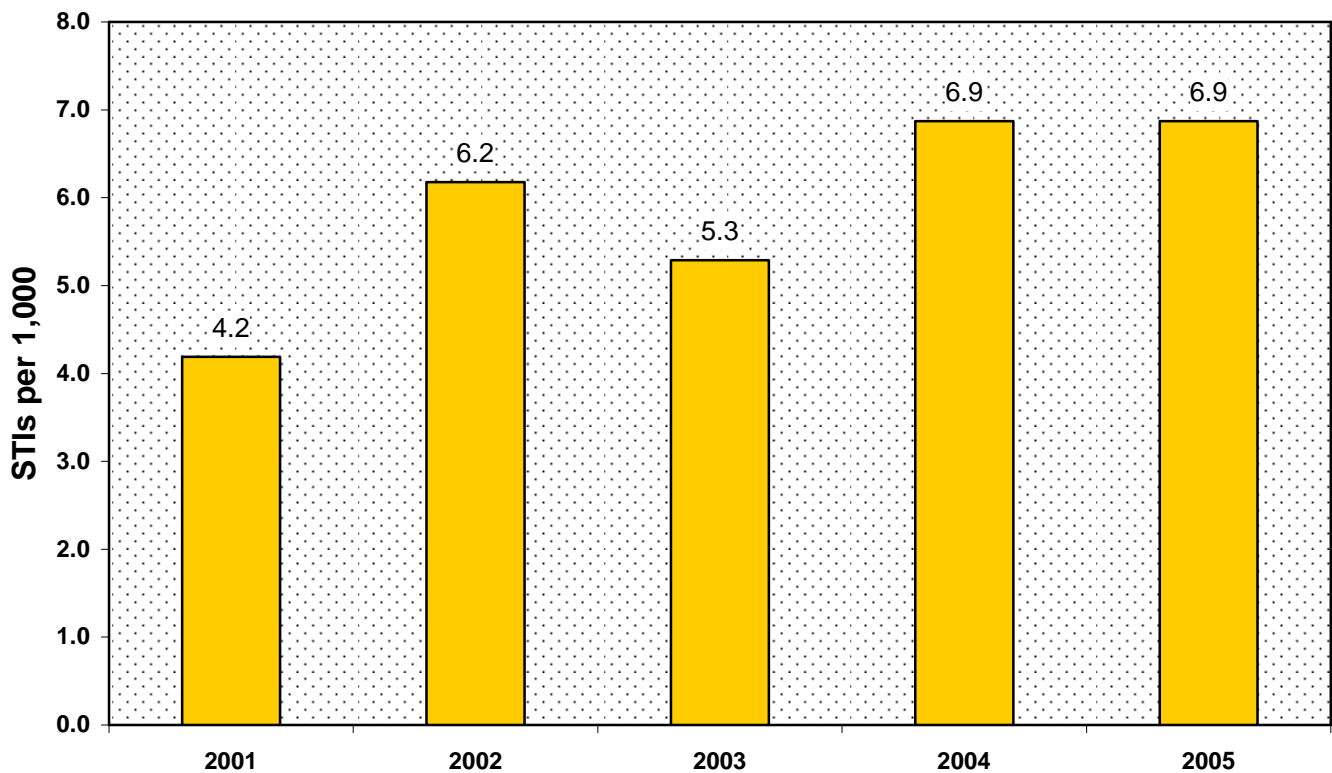


In comparison to other metro counties, Washington County teen's contract sexually transmitted infections (chlamydia and gonorrhea) at about the same rate as teens in Anoka and Dakota County.⁶ The rate of sexually transmitted infection for Washington County teens ages 15-19 is lower than the Minnesota rate of 11.8.

Note: Chlamydia has historically been an under-diagnosed and under-reported STI of teenagers for many biological and medical coverage factors. For example, the vast majority of reported chlamydia cases are female. Their male sexual partners are typically not tested or reported, only treated based on their female partners test results. This medical practice suppresses the true rate of chlamydia in the population. Chlamydia rates are an indicator that expresses the numerous non-reportable STI within the population and must be interpreted cautiously. The true rate of all STI (or burden of STI) within this population may be several times greater than the combined reported chlamydia and gonorrhea rate. Gonorrhea rates are expectedly lower in the teenage population because it is typically found in older age groups.

⁶ Minnesota Department of Health, data request to STD and HIV section, based from 2001-2005 STD Surveillance Statistics: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stdstatistics.html>, 651-201-5414. Minnesota Organization on Teen Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting, Available: www.moapp.org, 651-644-1447.

STIs (Gonorrhea and Chlamydia combined) in Washington County Ages 15-19, 2001-2005

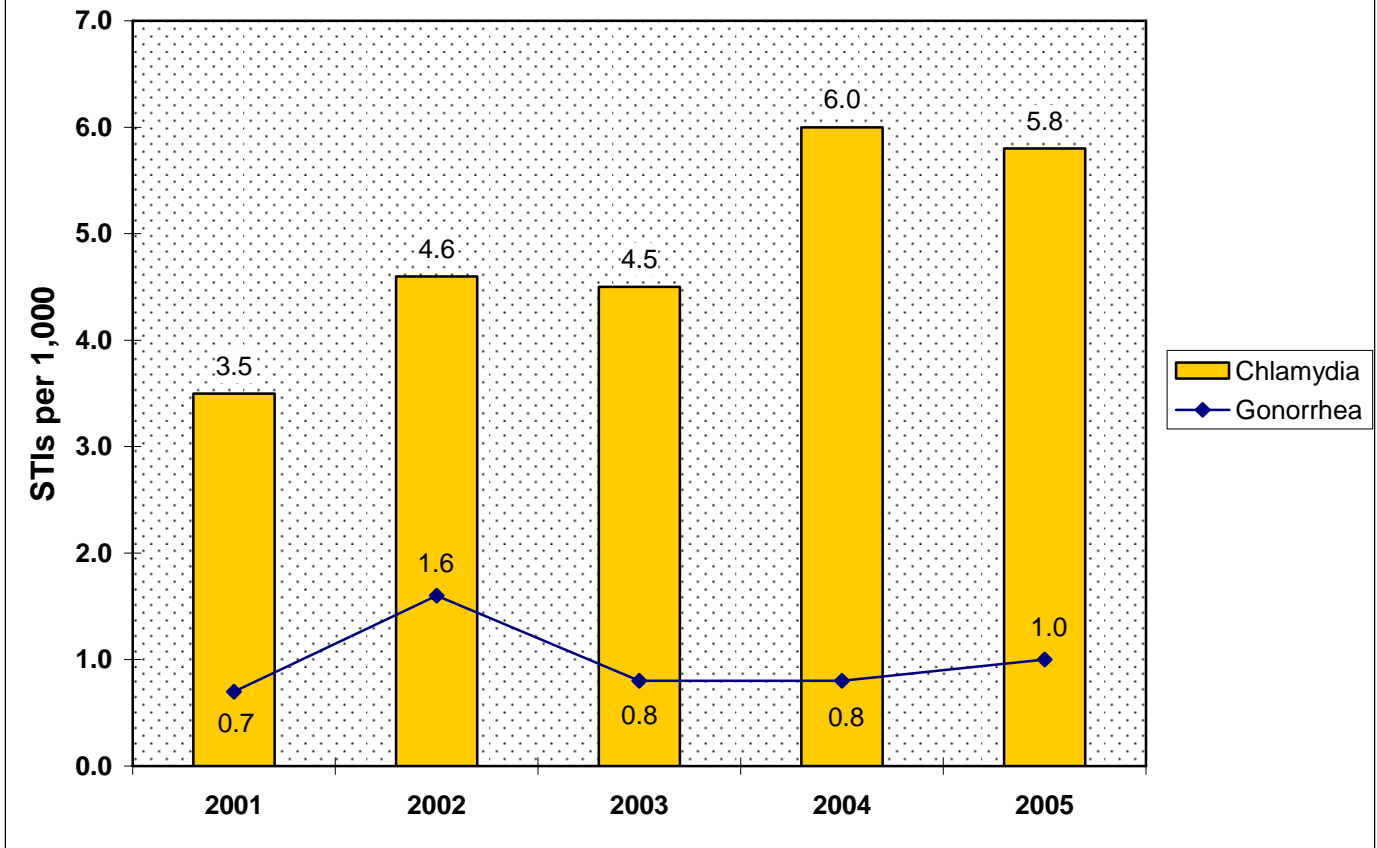


Chlamydia and gonorrhea combined rates for Washington County youth ages 15-19 continue to be low. During the past two years, the rate has remained constant at 6.9 per 1,000 persons. Trends in chlamydia and gonorrhea rates are difficult to identify because the incidence is low and usually fluctuates slightly from year to year.⁷

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STIs (Gonorrhea and Chlamydia) in Washington County Ages 15-19, 2001-2005

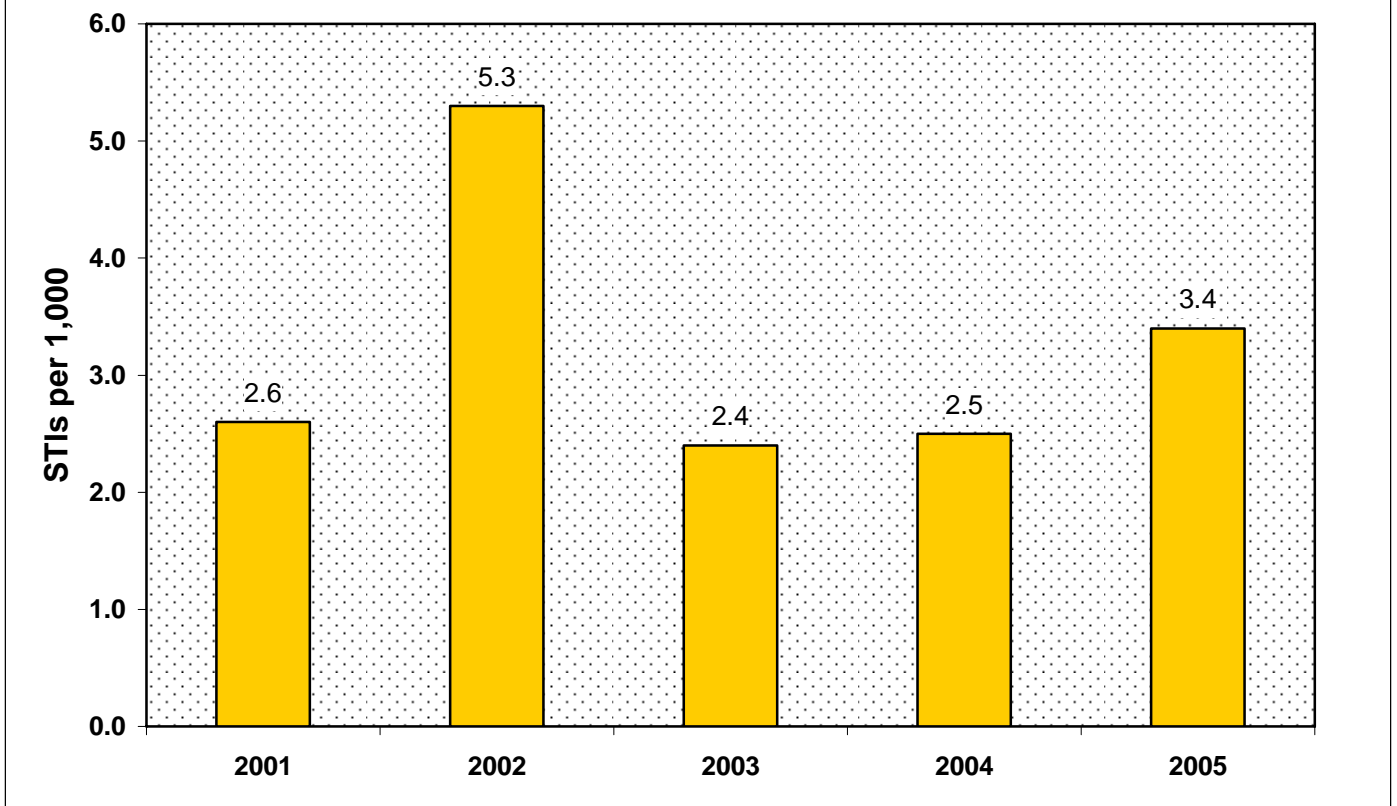


In Washington County, the rates of chlamydia have been high, reaching a rate of 5.8 per 1,000 persons in 2005. The rates of gonorrhea have been low over the past 5 years. Except for 2002, gonorrhea rates have remained at or below 1.0 per 1,000 persons.⁸

Note: Chlamydia has historically been an under-diagnosed and under-reported STI of teenagers for many biological and medical coverage factors. For example, the vast majority of reported chlamydia cases are female. Their male sexual partners are typically not tested or reported, only treated based on their female partners test results. This medical practice suppresses the true rate of chlamydia in the population. Chlamydia rates are an indicator that expresses the numerous non-reportable STI within the population and must be interpreted cautiously. The true rate of all STI (or burden of STI) within this population may be several times greater than the combined reported chlamydia and gonorrhea rate. Gonorrhea rates are expectedly lower in the teenage population because it is typically found in older age groups.

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**STIs (Chlamydia and Gonorrhea combined) in Washington County
Ages 15-17, 2001-2005**

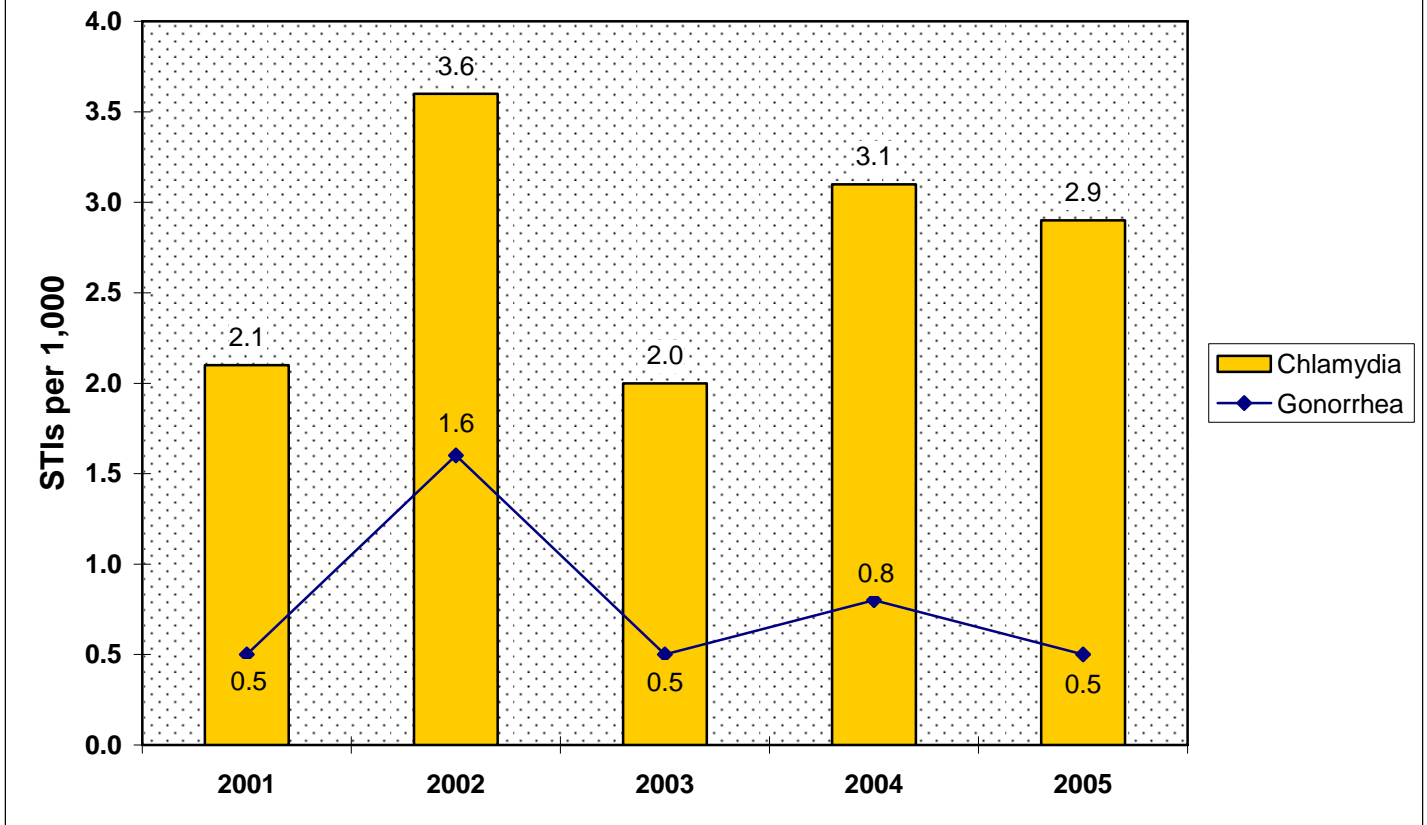


The rate of chlamydia and gonorrhea for 15-17 year olds spiked to 5.3 per 1,000 persons in 2002 and has remained relatively low since then. The rate for this age group is half as compared to 15-19 year olds.⁹

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STIs (Chlamydia and Gonorrhea) in Washington County Ages 15-17, 2001-2005

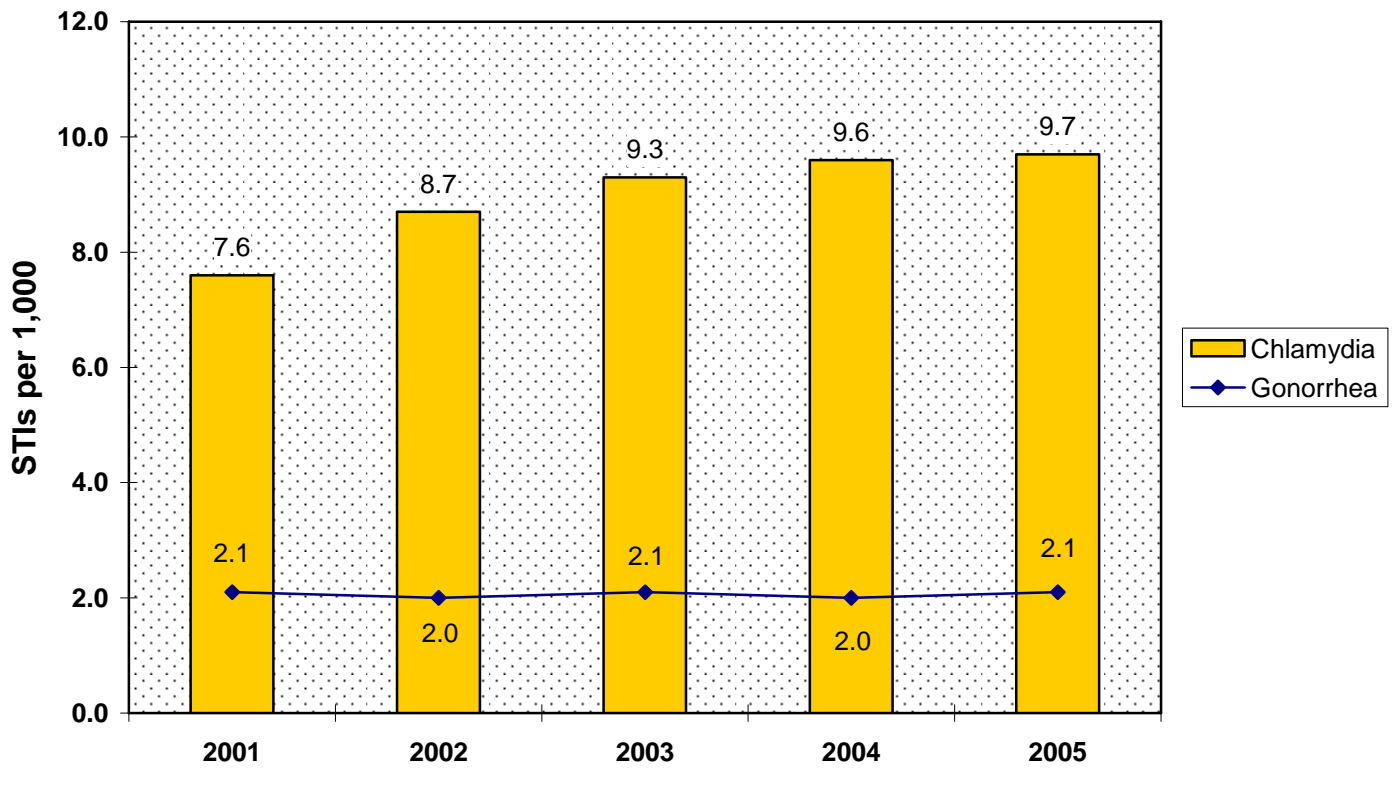


The rates of chlamydia for 15-17 year olds have fluctuated over the last five years. The rates of gonorrhea over this time period remained low as compared with chlamydia rates.¹⁰

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¹⁰ Minnesota Department of Health, data request to STD and HIV section, based from 2001-2005 STD Surveillance Statistics: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stdstatistics.html>, 651-201-5414.

STIs (Chlamydia and Gonorrhea) in Minnesota Ages 15-19, 2001-2005



In Minnesota, among 15-19 years olds there has been minor changes in the infection rates for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Chlamydia rates continue to be over three times higher than gonorrhea infection rates. Chlamydia rates have increased over this time period and reached 9.7 per 1,000 persons in 2005. Gonorrhea rates have remained at or slightly above the rate of 2.0 per 1,000 persons over this time period. Rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in Minnesota are high as compared to Washington County.¹¹

Note: Chlamydia has historically been an under-diagnosed and under-reported STI of teenagers for many biological and medical coverage factors. For example, the vast majority of reported chlamydia cases are female. Their male sexual partners are typically not tested or reported, only treated based on their female partners test results. This medical practice suppresses the true rate of chlamydia in the population. Chlamydia rates are an indicator that expresses the numerous non-reportable STI within the population and must be interpreted cautiously. The true rate of all STI (or burden of STI) within this population may be several times greater than the combined reported chlamydia and gonorrhea rate. Gonorrhea rates are expectedly lower in the teenage population because it is typically found in older age groups.

¹¹Minnesota Department of Health, STD Surveillance Statistics, 2001-2005:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stdstatistics.html>

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<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/index.htm>

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