

Program/Service Information Report

Clinical Services

January - December 2019

To: Board of Health

Meeting Date: June 3, 2020

Report No.: BH.01.JUN0320.C10

Prepared By: Rosalyn LaRoche Manager, Clinical Services

Approved By: Rita Isley Director, Community Health

Submitted By: Dr. Nicola J. Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Key Points

- Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections rates generally continue to rise across Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) but are less than provincial rates.
- Without proper treatment, undiagnosed Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections can lead to significant medical issues.
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) works with community partners to provide and support prevention measures, testing and treatment for Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections.

Program Requirements

Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

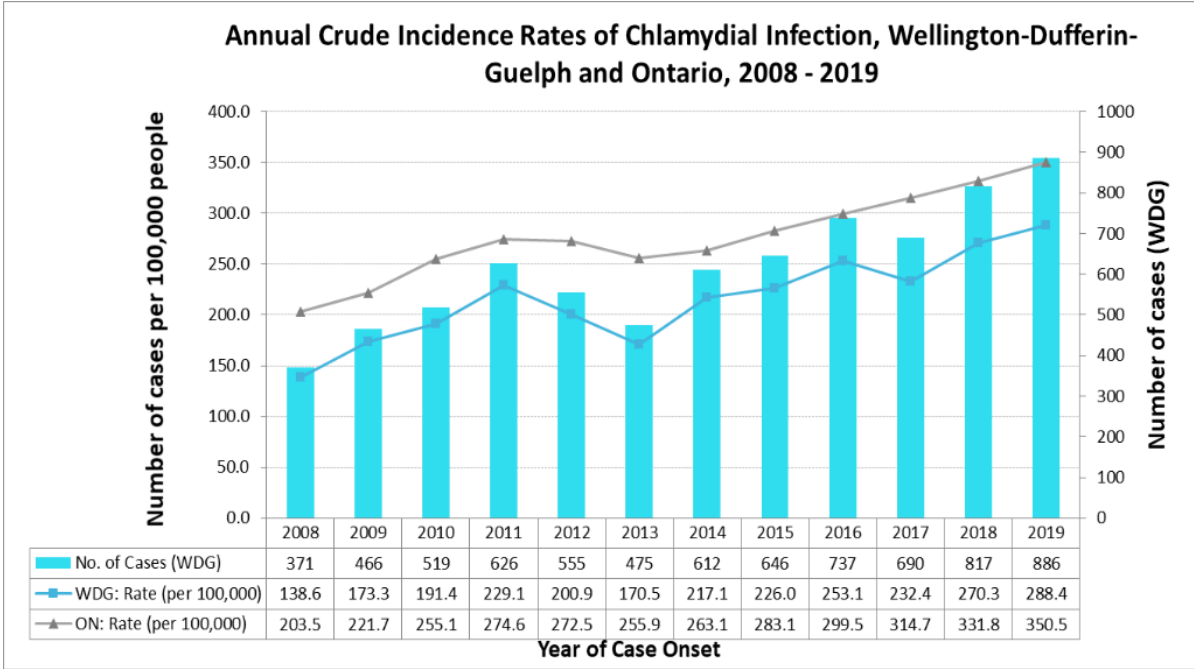
In compliance

Not in compliance. If not in compliance, provide additional information about the variance and how it will be addressed.

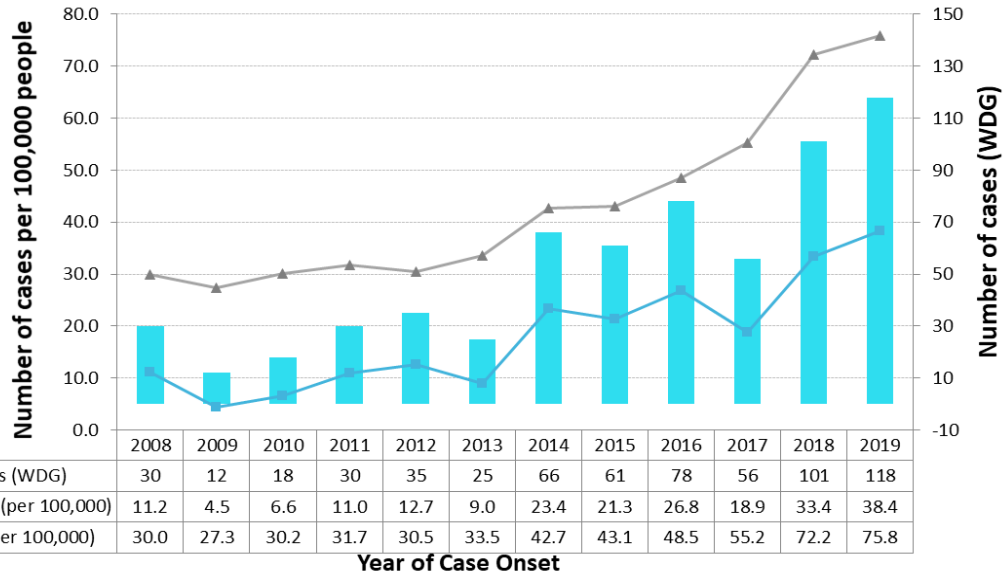
Highlights

Testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Blood-Borne Infections (BBI), along with appropriate treatment is key to reducing the spread of these infections. Without treatment, STI/BBIs can lead to significant health issues. For instance, untreated chlamydia or gonorrhea infections can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain in women and epididymo-orchitis in men.^{1,2} Untreated syphilis can lead to cardiovascular, organ and/or neurological issues (e.g. dementia) and can be transmitted to an unborn child during pregnancy.³ HIV can lead to immune suppression and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).⁴ Hepatitis B can lead to cirrhosis of the liver, end-stage liver disease, and/or hepatocellular carcinoma.⁵ Similarly, untreated Hepatitis C can lead to liver failure and cancer.⁶

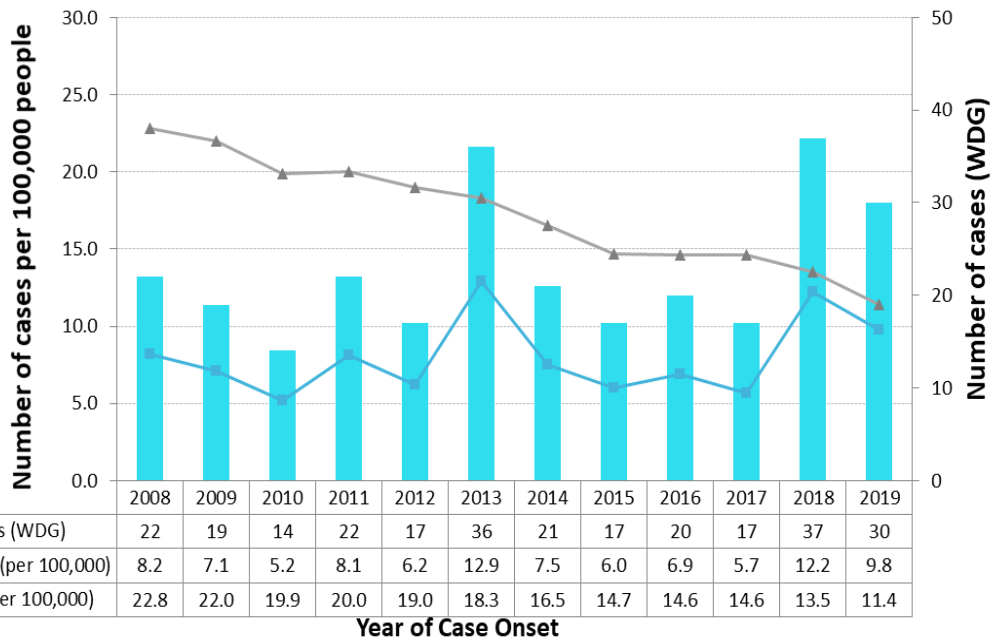
In WDG, reported rates of STI/BBI are generally on the rise, which is consistent with provincial trends. However, rates in WDG are lower than provincial rates.



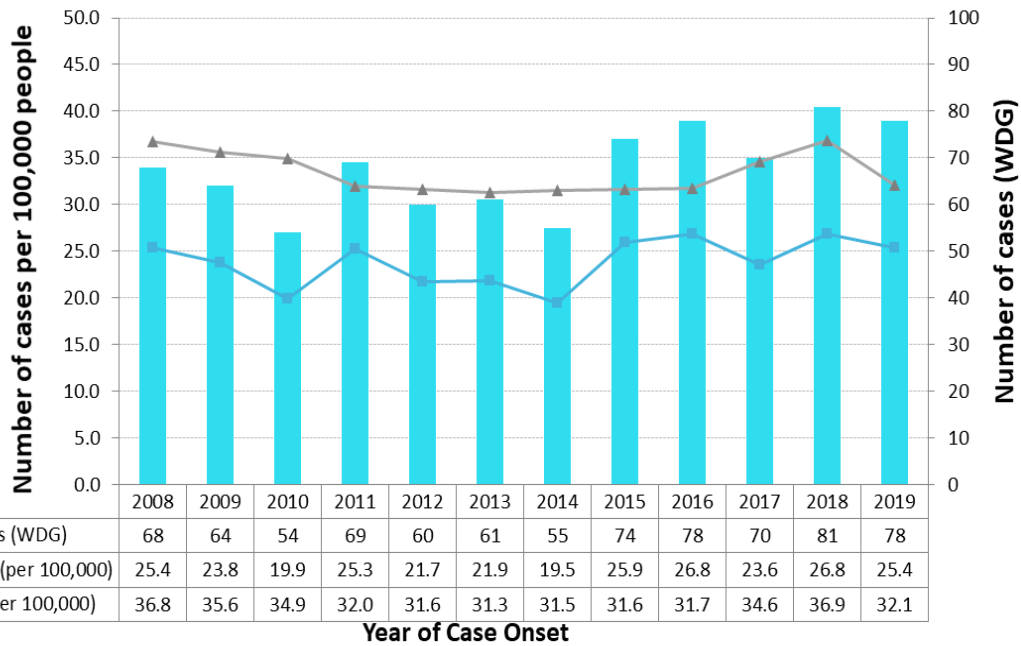
Annual Crude Incidence Rates of Gonorrhoea, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and Ontario, 2008 - 2019



Annual Crude Incidence Rates of Hepatitis B infection (acute and chronic), Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and Ontario, 2008 - 2019



Annual Crude Incidence Rates of Hepatitis C infection, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and Ontario, 2008 - 2019



Local numbers are too low in WDG to share comparative Annual Crude Incidence Rates with Ontario for Syphilis and HIV.

While the majority of people in WDG who test positive for a STI/BBI are tested by their local health care practitioner, there are approximately 18% that are tested positive for chlamydia or gonorrhea by a Public Health Nurse. WDGPH offers testing opportunities at convenient locations for people who engage in high-risk behaviours for infection transmission. Testing sites are located at ARCH (HIV/AIDs Resources & Community Health), on a Community Van, at Hope House, Wyndham Resource Centre and Shelldale Community Centre. Special testing clinics are set up throughout the year at sites such as the University of Guelph and special events like World Hepatitis Day. WDGPH also offers on-site testing at all offices for anyone, including people who may be uncomfortable seeking testing/treatment from their primary care provider.

WDGPH follows up with all people who test positive for a STI/BBI to ensure proper treatment measures and partner contact is completed. When appropriate, further testing might be required to ensure that the treatment regime was successful. Presently, due to antibiotic resistance and potential treatment failure, Gonorrhea treatment and follow-up are closely monitored at a local and provincial level.

WDGPH also supports preventative measures to reduce the spread of STI/BBIs. Distribution of free condoms, counseling on safe sex practice and distribution of unused

drug-using equipment (e.g. needles, cookers) are other interventions employed to help reduce the spread of these infections.

WDGPH Clinical Services staff work closely with community partners to find creative, innovative ways to encourage and provide testing to individuals who engage in high-risk behaviours, in efforts to reduce the spread of STI/BBIs.

Related Reports

1. Program/Service Information Report BH.01.May0119.C10 – Clinical Services.
2. BOH Report BH.01.May0119.R13 – Trends in Reported Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.

References:

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections – Management and treatment of specific infections – Chlamydia Infections [internet]. Ottawa: Government of Canada; 2010 [cited 2020 Jan 27]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines-sexually-transmitted-infections-30.html>
2. Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections – Management and treatment of specific infections – Gonorrhoea Infections [internet]. Ottawa: Government of Canada; 2010 [cited 2020 Jan 27]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines-sexually-transmitted-infections-34.html#toc361210449>.
3. Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections – Management and treatment of specific infections – Syphilis Infections [internet]. Ottawa: Government of Canada; 2010 [cited 2020 Jan 27]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines-sexually-transmitted-infections-27.html>Public Health Agency of Canada. Health – Diseases and Conditions – HIV and AIDS: Symptoms and Treatment [internet]. Ottawa: Government of Canada; 2010 [cited 2020 Jan 28]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/hiv-aids.html>

4. Public Health Agency of Canada. Reports and Publications – Primary Care Management of Hepatitis B – Quick Reference (HBV – QR) [internet]. Ottawa: Government of Canada; 2010 [cited 2020 Jan 27]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/primary-care-management-hepatitis-b-quick-reference.html#intro-1>
5. Hosein S. New hepatitis C screening guidelines released for Canada. [Internet]. 2017 May 08. [cited 2020 Jan 28]. Available from: <https://www.catie.ca/en/catienews/2017-05-08/new-hepatitis-c-screening-guidelines-released-canada>