

UNITED KINGDOM: "The English National Chlamydia Screening Program: Variations in Positivity in 2007/2008 "
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Vol. 36; No. 8: P. 522-527 (08.01.09):: Ian Simms; Alireza Talebi; Johanna Rhia; Paddy Horner; Rebecca S. French; Randall Sarah; Mary Macintosh

In the current study, investigators examined the rate of positivity in the English National Chlamydia Screening Program in 2007-2008.

Among 334,902 chlamydia tests performed, 29 percent were for male patients, among whom 7.6 percent had positive diagnoses. Among women, 9.3 percent were positive for chlamydia. Positivity increased rapidly to a plateau for males ages 19-24. For women, positive diagnoses peaked at age 18, with equal risk of positivity seen for ages 21 and 16.

Positive diagnoses were generally higher among male and female patients who were black or of mixed ethnicity compared with white patients, and Asians had a lower risk of infection. Patients' risk of infection varied by screening venue.

In multivariable analysis, male and female positivity varied significantly with age, ethnicity, screening venue, whether youths had a new sexual partner in the previous three months, and whether patients had two or more sexual partners in the past year. Positivity did not significantly vary with the program's implementation phase.

"This is the largest description of testing for Chlamydia trachomatis in health care and non-health care settings outside of genitourinary medicine clinics in England and allowed a detailed analysis of positivity by age and ethnic group," concluded the study authors. "Considerable heterogeneity exists, and local health service commissioners need to ensure that the implementation of chlamydial screening reflects these differences."