

ADVERTISEMENT

Rate of sexually transmitted diseases high in region

8:51 PM, Jun. 20, 2011 | 43Comments

Recommend

You recommend Rate of sexually transmitted diseases high in region | Cincinnati.com |

Recommend Confirm

Tweet 13

Print Email Share A A +

momslike.com

Written by Peggy O'Farrell

FILED UNDER

News Local News

Hamilton County has a "mini-epidemic" of sexually-transmitted diseases, says the author of a new report gauging the region's health.

The county's rate of syphilis is almost nine times higher than the nation's, while gonorrhea and chlamydia rates are double and triple, respectively, the national rates, according to the report, "Indicators of Healthy Communities," released Monday.

"We don't like to talk about it, but we have a problem here. We have a horrible problem locally that we need to address," said Eddie Hooker, an emergency medicine physician and associate professor of health services administration at Xavier University.

STD rates in the region

Hamilton County has substantially higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases than the nation as a whole, new data show. The rates are per 100,000 population, 2005-08

AREA | RATE

Chlamydia

U.S. | 348
Kentucky | 226
Boone | 177
Campbell | 246
Kenton | 303
Ohio | 390
Butler | 292
Clermont | 180
Hamilton | 791

More

ADS BY PULSE 360

Get Listed Here

\$39 Auto Insurance?

Maryland: Special Online Rates As Low As \$39 a

In 2010, the incidence rate for syphilis in Hamilton County was 32 per 100,000, compared to 3.6 for the U.S. and 2.0 for Ohio.

Lack of money and manpower to track and sometimes treat individuals infected with chlamydia and gonorrhea are part of the problem, Hooker said.

People can get tested at any hospital or physician office, and those organizations notify local health departments if someone tests positive for an STD.

The physician who orders the test usually prescribes treatment for the individual - but some don't come in to get their final test results, and many don't refer their partners for testing or treatment, Hooker said.

The Cincinnati Health Department, which does the bulk of STD testing in the region,

ADVERTISEMENT

MORE HEADLINES

- Cardboard regatta brings family closer
- Moble home parks could lose water, sewer service
- Ex-commissioner John Dowlin dies

MOST POPULAR

- Coroner's report details baby's death
- Ohio may close local BMV driver's exam stations
- Palmer stays mum on status with Bengals
- Upset With Netflix? Join The Club
- Councilman asks YMCA to delay closings



Zoo babies



Moon over Cincinnati



A Miracle to Have Survived

MOST COMMENTED

- Pub's liquor permit denied over smoking violations 309
- Pot ballot measure now a joint effort 100
- Bid to kill NKAPC gains steam 98
- Commissioners deny coroner's Alaskan cruise trip request 88
- The Morning Line, 7/14 83

Month From Top Firms. Free Quotes
AutoInsurance.Insure.com

Baltimore: Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious

Mom Reveals Clever \$4 Wrinkle Therapy That Makes Botox Doctors Furious
ConsumerLifeOnline.com

New Policy in Maryland

Drivers with no DUIs may be eligible for \$9 per week car insurance.
www.lifestylejournal.com

keeps data on infections, but they don't have the personnel or the budget to follow up with people who test positive for chlamydia or gonorrhea, said Larry Holditch, medical director for the department.

"The main reason is the volume," Holditch said. "You're talking about 6,300 cases of chlamydia and 2,500 cases of gonorrhea. You'd have to hire 100 staff. There's just not the money or staff to do the follow-up."

When someone tests positive for an STD through one of the department's health centers, staff give the individual a card that they can share with their partner, he said.

"We don't get a huge return on that," he said.

Another issue, Hooker and Holditch said, is that in Ohio, it's illegal to provide treatment to the partner of a person who tests positive for an STD if they don't come in for testing.

Health department personnel do follow up on individuals who test positive for syphilis and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and their partners, Holditch said.

And, he said, the private or hospital-based physicians who ordered the tests also have a responsibility to follow up infected individuals.

At Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, doctors and nurses are using text messages to notify teens who test positive for STDs to get treatment and bring their partners in, said Jill Huppert, a pediatric and adolescent gynecologist.

"We looked at the rates of STDs in girls who were coming into the emergency department, and almost a quarter of them who were tested had chlamydia or gonorrhea. But we couldn't find them afterwards or get them into treatment or even just let them know they had something," she said.

Now, nurses ask for teens' cell numbers when they check into the emergency department or teen health center.

Ohio law allows providers to notify teens of infection without notifying their parents as well, Huppert said.

If an agency outside the health department wanted to take on the task of following up on individuals with STDs, Hooker said, "I can guarantee you that I will be standing up here next year saying you made a difference."

Monday's health report does show some good news, Hooker said: Deaths from heart disease, cancer and stroke are all decreasing, though the region is still higher than the nation in those categories.

Xavier, the Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati put together the report, which was first released in 1997. It was last issued in 2006 but will



SOLD

NOBODY SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX.

Click here to see every home listing in thousands of cities and towns.

remax.com

Each RE/MAX® office is independently owned and operated.

ADVERTISEMENT

be issued annually beginning next year.

View Comments (43) | Share your thoughts »

TOP VIDEO PICKS
selected by Taboola



Grandmother killed in Westwood
Apr 20, 2011



Death Row inmate speaks
May 2, 2011



Search Ends in Sadness
Jun 13, 2011

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

undefined

undefined

Kings Island's Vortex roller coaster closed indefinitely

Body found in car at airport

Coroner's report details baby's death

SPONSORED LINKS What's this?

Foods that Trigger Rheumatoid Arthritis Flare-Ups (Lifescrypt.com)

15 Things Not to Say to Someone With RA (Health.com)

10 Psoriatic Arthritis Symptoms (Health.com)

7 Birth Control Myths (Lifescrypt.com)

Did Dakota Fanning Chop Off Her Hair? (Us Weekly)

1 Trick to Relieve Joints

See How You Can Relieve Your Joints With This Fast and Easy Trick!
www.Instaflex.com

AdChoices ▶

METROMIX



Pavilion's DJ Series with Jermaine Dupri

More from Metromix

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Advertise
- Submit a Story
- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Submit an Event
- Send Your Feedback
- Newspapers in Education
- Reprints
- Newsroom Staffs
- Subscribe Today
- Manage Your Account
- Change Address
- Delivery Problem
- Pay Your Bill
- Billing Questions
- NIE Adopt a Class
- E-Edition

SHARE

- Share Stories**
Submit your stories to our site!
- Share Photos**
Share your photos in our community photo galleries.
- Share Events**
Get your upcoming event listed in our free calendar listings.

MOBILE

- Use our mobile site and iPhone apps to keep updated with what's going on around Cincinnati.
- Mobile Site
- Mobile App
- Baseball Report App
- Football Report App
- Porkapolis
- CinStages App



ADVERTISEMENT



Site Map | Back to Top ^

NEWS

- Latest Headlines
- Crime & Courts
- Education
- Government
- Nation/World
- Alerts

SPORTS

- Bengals
- Reds
- UC
- Xavier
- High School
- Statistics

ENTERTAINMENT

- Metromix
- Movies
- Eat & Drink
- Music
- Calendar
- Theater

LIVING

- Home & Garden
- Travel
- Food
- Health
- Parenting
- Dating

BLOGS

- News & Opinion
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Living
- Moms
- CincyBlogs

FOLLOW US

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Mobile
- RSS
- E-mail Alerts