

2016 Suburban Cook County

Annual Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance Report

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Public Health

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Communicable Disease Control and
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ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

CCDPH: Cook County Department of Public Health. Jurisdiction includes all areas in Cook County, Illinois excluding Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the virus that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

HP2020: Healthy People 2020. A U.S. Health and Human Services-sponsored statement of national health objectives aimed at identifying the most significant preventable threats to health and establishing national goals to reduce these threats.

MSM: Male-to-male sexual contact.

P&S SYPHILIS: Primary and secondary stages of syphilis, highly infectious stages.

STI: Sexually Transmitted Infection. Generally, this refers to chlamydia (*Chlamydia trachomatis*), gonorrhea (*Neisseria gonorrhoea*) or syphilis (*Treponema pallidum*) infection.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

CHLAMYDIA

- In suburban Cook County, the 2016 chlamydia rate was 461.1 per 100,000 population.
- In 2016, the majority of reported chlamydia cases were diagnosed in persons of color: 41% of cases were non-Hispanic Black and 19% were Hispanic.
- The chlamydia rate for non-Hispanic Blacks (1,163.0 per 100,000 population) in 2016 was 10 times higher than the rate in non-Hispanic Whites (121.7 per 100,000 population) and 3 times higher than the rate in Hispanics (452.0 per 100,000 population).
- Chlamydia rates were highest among females aged 20-24 years and 15-19 years, with 4,547.7 and 2,720.1 cases diagnosed per 100,000 population, respectively.

GONORRHEA

- In suburban Cook County, the 2016 gonorrhea rate was 112.7 per 100,000 population.
- The average gonorrhea rate in females aged 15-44 years was 228.5 per 100,000 population, lower, overall, than the HP2020 goal of 257.0 per 100,000 population for this age group; however, rates were not uniform and were highest in females aged 20-24 years (613.9 per 100,000 population) and in females aged 15-19 years (425.1 per 100,000 population).
- The average gonorrhea rate in males aged 15-44 years was 314.0 per 100,000 population, higher than the HP2020 goal of 198.0 per 100,000 population for this age group; like females, however, rates were not uniform and were highest in males aged 20-24 years (788.7 per 100,000 population) and unlike females, in males aged 25-29 (438.1 per 100,000 population).
- The 2016 gonorrhea rate in non-Hispanic Blacks (399.8 per 100,000 population) was 19 times higher than the gonorrhea rate in non-Hispanic Whites (20.8 per 100,000 population) and nearly 7 times higher than the rate in Hispanics (54.7 per 100,000 population).

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY (P&S) SYPHILIS

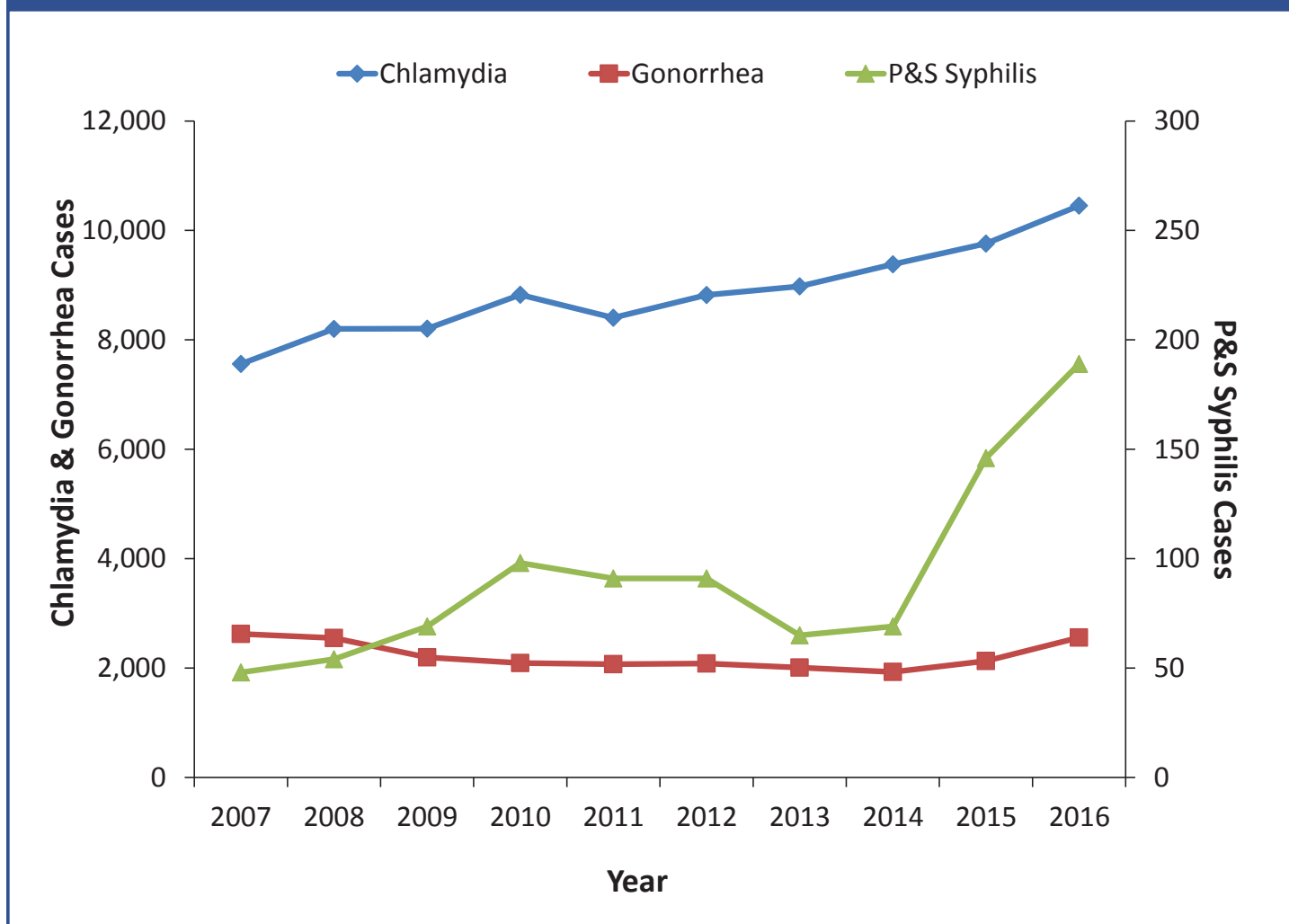
- In suburban Cook County, the 2016 P&S syphilis rate was 8.3 per 100,000 population.
- In 2016, 89% of P&S syphilis cases were male, a rate of 15.3 per 100,000 population, higher than the HP2020 goal of 6.8 per 100,000 population; the P&S syphilis rate in females was 1.8 per 100,000 population, above the HP2020 goal of 1.5 per 100,000 population.
- In 2016, 49% of reported P&S syphilis cases were non-Hispanic Black; 23% were non-Hispanic White and 23% were Hispanic.

Table 1. Number and Rates (per 100,000 population) of Reported Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and P&S Syphilis Cases by Year, Suburban Cook County, 2012-2016

Disease	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		5-Year Median	
	No.	Rate*	No.	Rate*	No.	Rate*	No.	Rate*	No.	Rate*	No.	Rate*
Chlamydia	8,820	389.0	8,977	395.9	9,384	413.9	9,760	430.5	10,453	461.1	9,384	413.9
Gonorrhea	2,081	91.8	2,009	88.6	1,928	85.0	2,128	93.9	2,555	112.7	2,081	91.8
P&S Syphilis	91	4.0	65	2.9	69	3.0	146	6.4	189	8.3	91	4.0

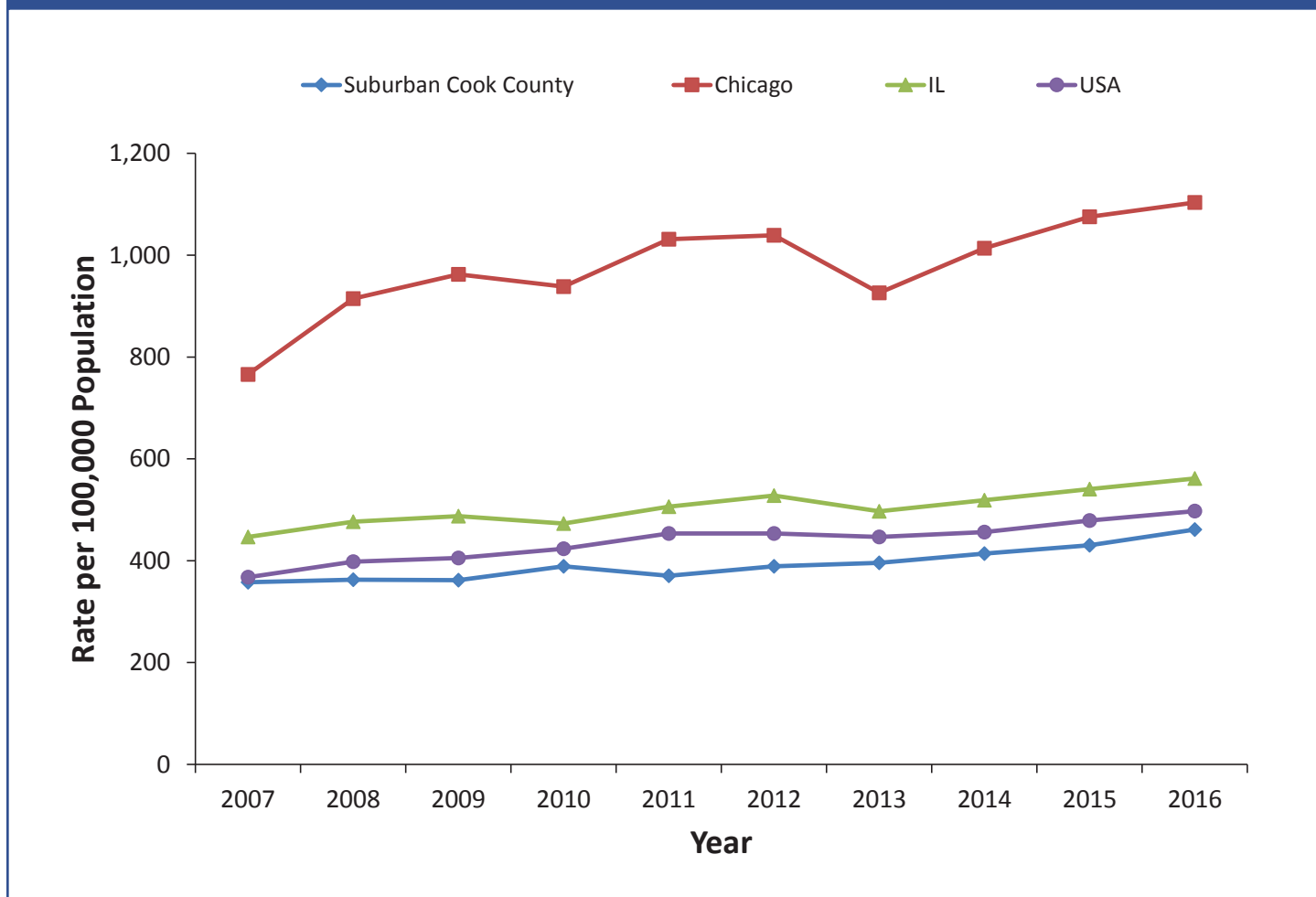
* Incidence rates calculated per 100,000 population based on 2010 estimates of the population (U.S. Census Bureau).

Figure 1. Trends in the Number of Reported Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and P&S Syphilis Cases, Suburban Cook County, 2007-2016



▲ **Figure 1.** All reportable STIs are on the rise in suburban Cook County. Between 2007-2016, the number of chlamydia cases increased 38%, from 7,559 cases in 2007 to 10,453 cases in 2016. In 2016, 2,555 cases of gonorrhea were reported, slightly below the high of 2,642 cases in 2007. P&S syphilis cases nearly tripled, increasing from 65 in 2013 to 189 in 2016.

Figure 2. Trends in Chlamydia Rates (per 100,000 population) by Selected Public Health Jurisdictions, 2007-2016



▲ **Figure 2.** Rates of chlamydia in suburban Cook County, Chicago, Illinois, and in the United States are on the rise. In 2016, the rate of chlamydia in suburban Cook County (461.1 per 100,000 population) was 57% less than the rate in Chicago (1,075.2 per 100,000 population) and was lower than the rates in Illinois and the U.S. overall (561.4 and 497.3 per 100,000 population, respectively).

Table 2. Number, Proportion and Rates (per 100,000 population) of Reported Chlamydia Cases by Selected Characteristics, Suburban Cook County, 2014-2016

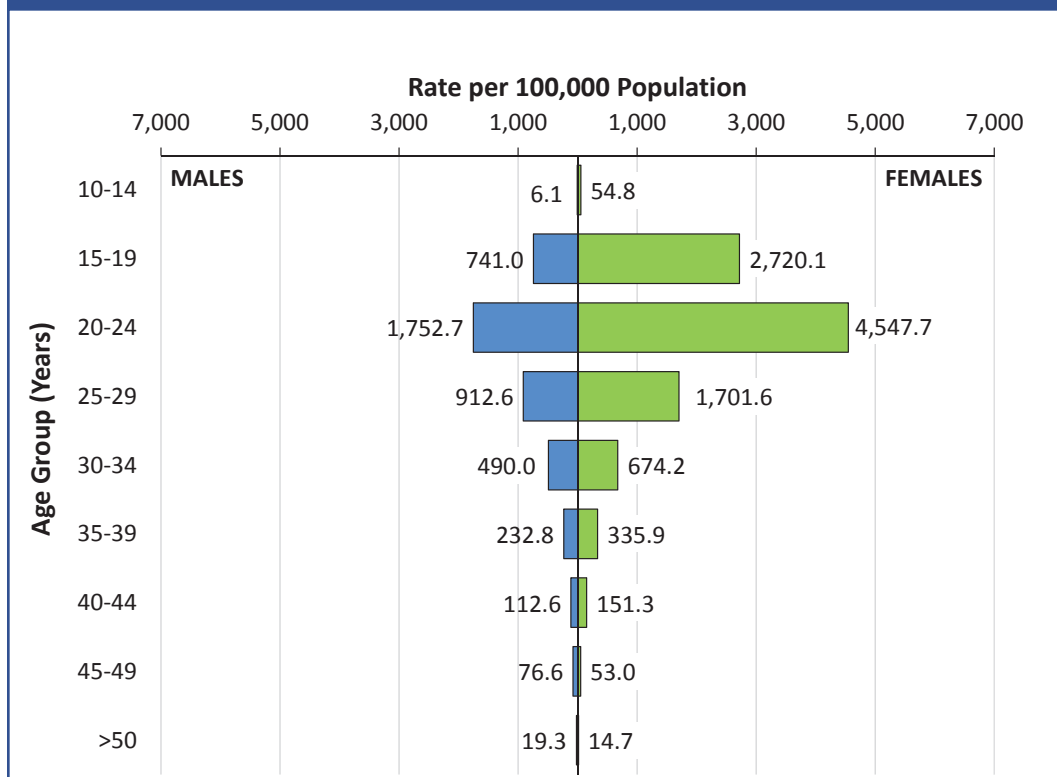
Characteristic	2014			Year 2015			2016		
	No.	(%)	Rate*	No.	(%)	Rate*	No.	(%)	Rate*
Sex									
Male	2,642	(28.2)	241.1	2,893	(29.6)	264.0	3,189	(30.5)	291.0
Female	6,722	(71.6)	573.8	6,843	(70.1)	584.1	7,251	(69.4)	619.0
Unknown	20	(0.2)	n/a	24	(0.2)	n/a	13	(0.1)	n/a
Age Group (Years)									
<10	1	(0.01)	†	3	(0.03)	†	1	(0.01)	†
10-14	69	(0.7)	42.9	43	(0.4)	26.7	49	(0.5)	30.5
15-19	2,617	(27.9)	1,629.9	2,498	(25.6)	1,555.8	2,720	(26.0)	1,694.0
20-24	3,743	(39.9)	2,831.8	3,971	(40.7)	3,004.3	4,117	(39.4)	3,114.8
25-29	1,564	(16.7)	1,090.9	1,761	(18.0)	1,228.4	1,876	(17.9)	1,308.6
30-34	696	(7.4)	491.7	781	(8.0)	551.7	827	(7.9)	584.2
35-39	378	(4.0)	257.5	360	(3.7)	245.3	420	(4.0)	286.2
40-44	162	(1.7)	105.2	160	(1.6)	103.9	204	(2.0)	132.5
45-49	70	(0.7)	41.3	94	(1.0)	55.5	111	(1.1)	65.5
>50	84	(0.9)	11.0	89	(0.9)	11.7	128	(1.2)	16.8
Race/Ethnicity									
Non-Hispanic Black	4,124	(43.9)	1,114.9	3,970	(40.7)	1,073.3	4,302	(41.2)	1,163.0
Non-Hispanic White	1,476	(15.7)	113.0	1,342	(13.8)	102.8	1,589	(15.2)	121.7
Hispanic	1,590	(16.9)	364.1	1,796	(18.4)	411.2	1,974	(18.9)	452.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	87	(0.9)	58.1	77	(0.8)	51.4	92	(0.9)	61.4
Other/Unknown	2,107	(22.5)	n/a	2,575	(26.4)	n/a	2,496	(23.9)	n/a
District									
North	1,904	(20.3)	205.3	2,010	(20.6)	216.7	2,246	(21.5)	242.1
West	2,345	(25.0)	465.3	2,417	(24.8)	479.6	2,590	(24.8)	513.9
Southwest	1,112	(11.8)	305.6	1,285	(13.2)	353.1	1,294	(12.4)	355.6
South	4,012	(42.8)	850.4	4,048	(41.5)	858.0	4,317	(41.3)	915.0
Unknown	11	(0.1)	n/a	0	(0.0)	n/a	6	(0.1)	n/a
Total	9,384	(100.0)	413.9	9,760	(100.0)	430.5	10,453	(100.0)	461.1

*Incident rates calculated per 100,000 population based on 2010 estimates of the population (U.S. Census Bureau).

†Rates not calculated for n<5.

▲ **Table 2. Sex:** Between 2014 and 2016, about 70% of reported chlamydia cases were female. **Age Groups:** In 2016 65% of reported chlamydia cases were 15-24 years of age. **Race/Ethnicity:** In 2016, 41% of reported chlamydia cases were non-Hispanic Black. In 2016, the rate of chlamydia in non-Hispanic Blacks (1,163.0 per 100,000 population) was 3 times higher than the rate in Hispanics (452.0 per 100,000 population), 10 times higher than the rate in non-Hispanic Whites (121.7 per 100,000 population), and 19 times higher than the rate in Asian/Pacific Islanders (61.4 per 100,000 population). **District:** Chlamydia rates were highest in the South District (915.0 per 100,000 population) followed by the West district (513.9 per 100,000 population).

Figure 3. Chlamydia Rates (per 100,000 population) by Sex and Age Groups (Years), Suburban Cook County, 2016



◀ **Figure 3.** The chlamydia rates for both males and females were highest in the 20-24 year old age group, though the rate in females was 3 times higher than the rate in males. Among those aged 15-19 years, the rate in females was almost 4 times greater than the rate in males.

► **Figure 4.** The 2016 chlamydia rate in non-Hispanic Blacks was 3 times higher than the rate in Hispanics, 10 times higher than the rate in non-Hispanic Whites, and nearly 19 times higher than the rate in Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Figure 4. Chlamydia Rates (per 100,000 population) by Race/Ethnicity, Suburban Cook County, 2016

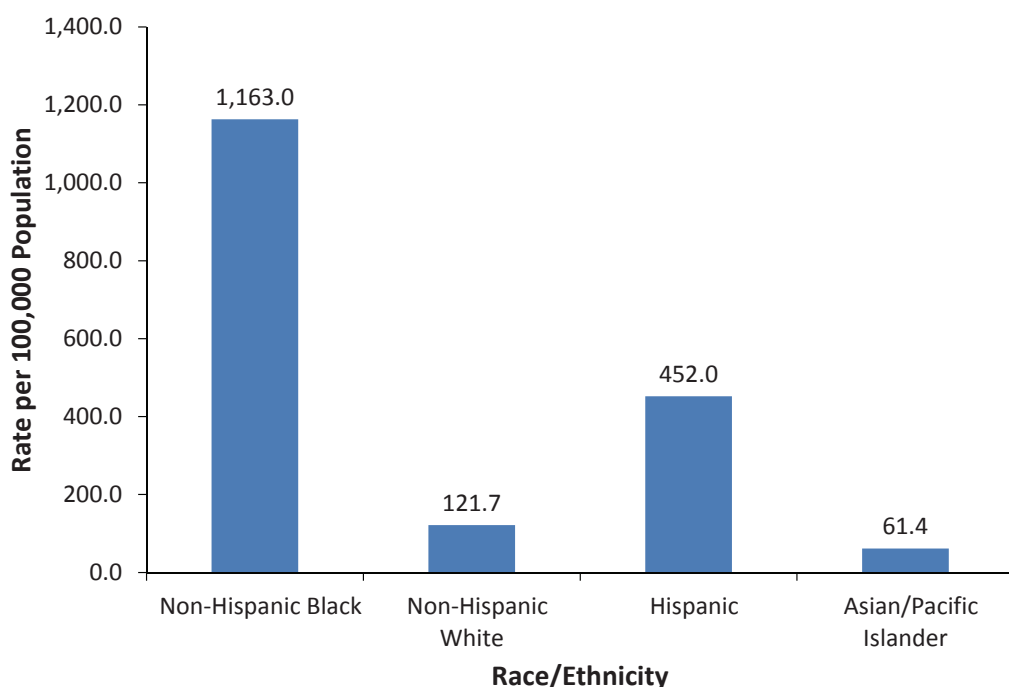
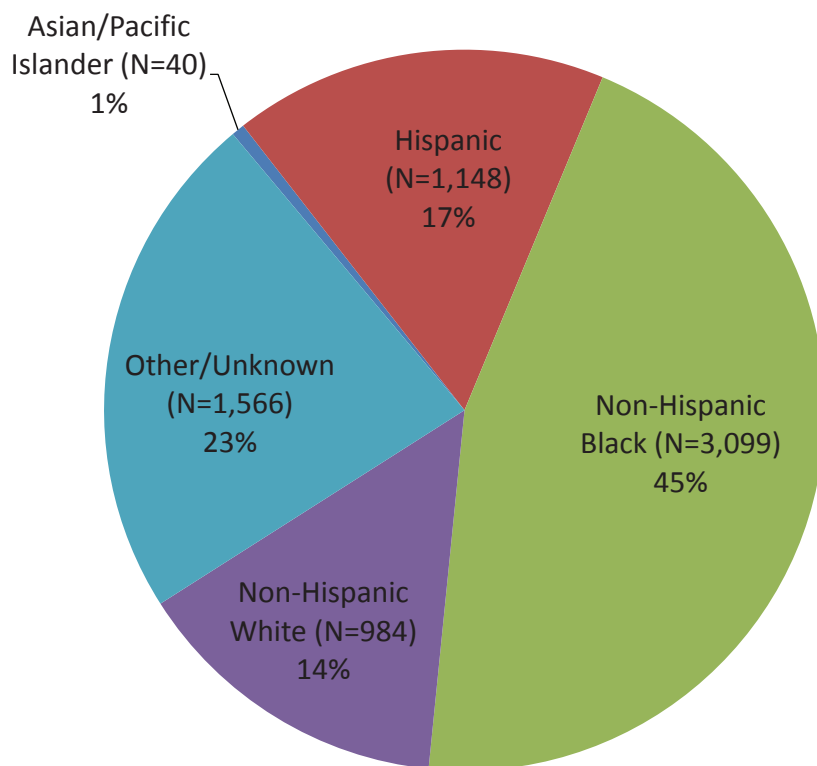


Figure 5. Proportion of Chlamydia Cases Among Persons Aged 15-24 Years by Race/Ethnicity, Suburban Cook County, 2016



▲ **Figure 5.** In 2016, a majority of chlamydia cases reported in youth (persons aged 15-24 years) were non-Hispanic Black (45%); 17% were Hispanic, 14% were non-Hispanic White, and 1% were Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Figure 6. Chlamydia Rates (per 100,000 population) by Municipality, Suburban Cook County, 2016

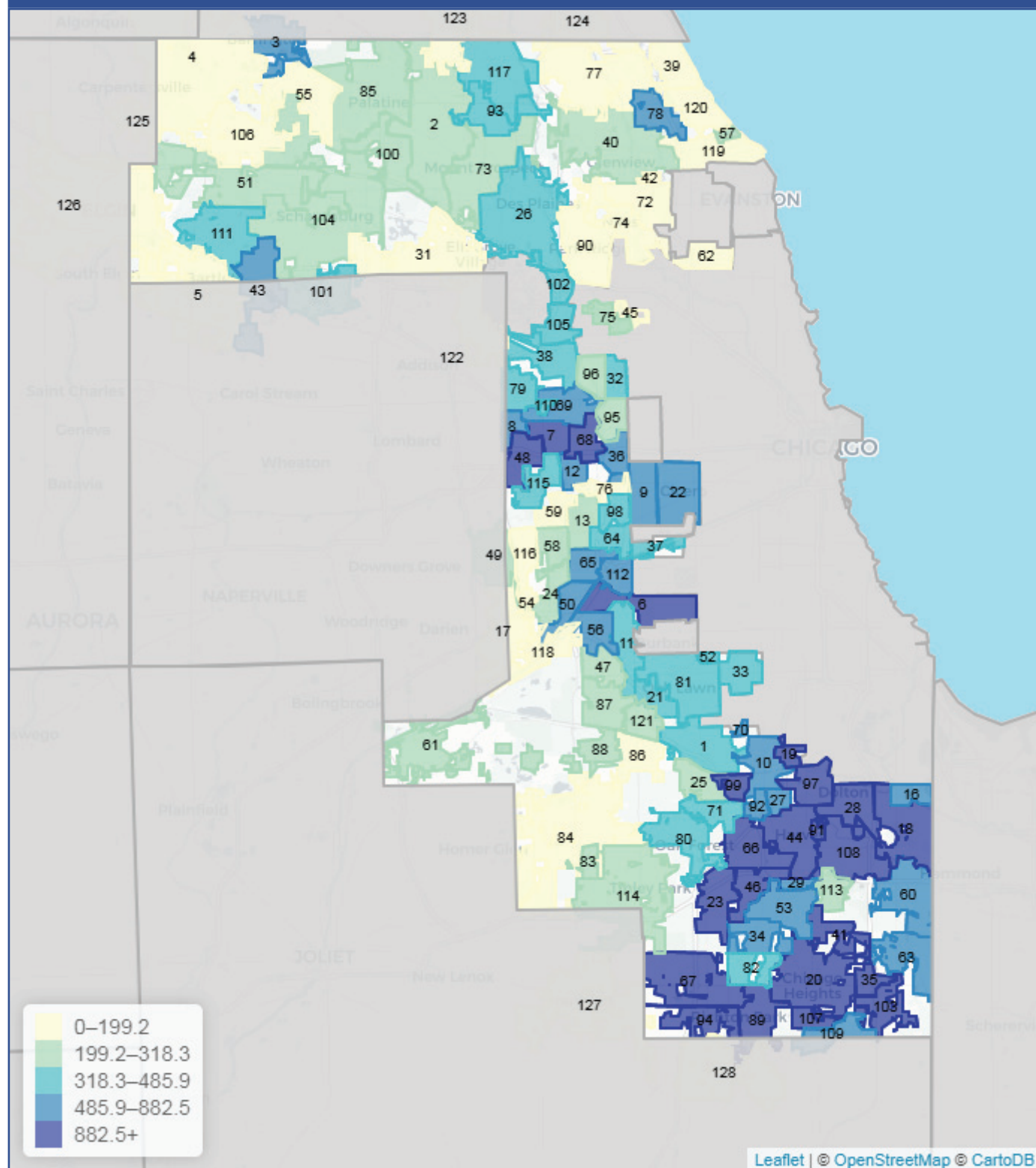
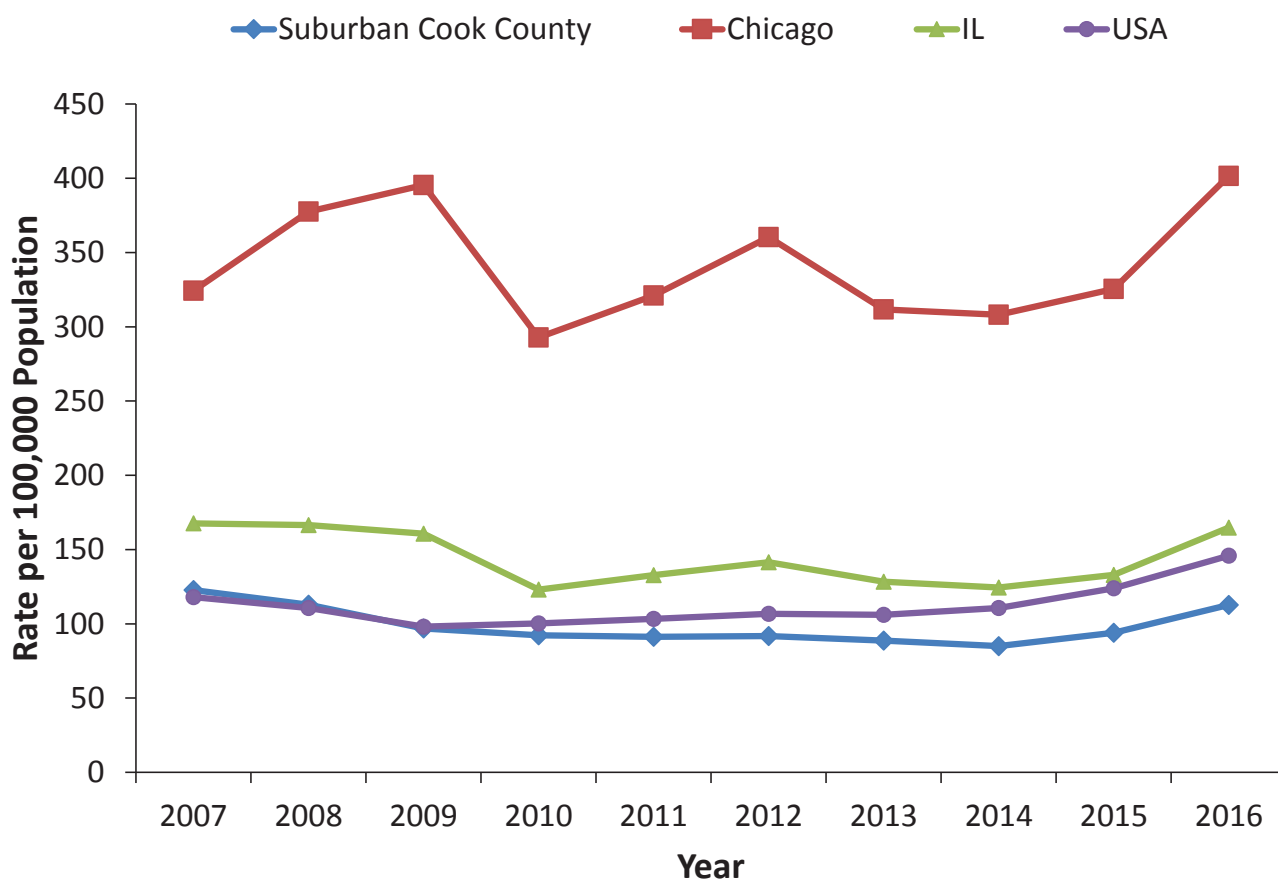


Figure 7. Trends in Gonorrhea Rates (per 100,000 population) by Selected Public Health Jurisdictions, 2007-2016



▲ **Figure 7.** Gonorrhea rates in suburban Cook County declined steadily, from 122.7 per 100,000 population in 2007 to 85.0 per 100,000 population in 2014. Since 2014, however, rates have increased in all public health jurisdictions above. In suburban Cook County, rates in 2016 (112.7 per 100,000 population) were almost as high as rates in 2007. The rate in the US overall was 145.8 per 100,000 population. The 2016 gonorrhea rates in Illinois and Chicago were 164.8 and 401.5 per 100,000 population, respectively. In 2016, the rate of gonorrhea in Chicago was 3.6 times higher than the rate in suburban Cook County.

Table 3. Number, Proportion and Rates (per 100,000 population) of Reported Gonorrhea Cases by Selected Characteristics, Suburban Cook County, 2014-2016

Characteristic	Year 2014			2015			2016		
	No.	(%)	Rate*	No.	(%)	Rate*	No.	(%)	Rate*
Sex									
Male	989	(51.3)	90.3	1,189	(55.9)	108.5	1,505	(58.9)	137.4
Female	935	(48.5)	79.8	932	(43.8)	79.6	1,048	(41.0)	89.5
Unspecified	4	(0.2)	n/a	7	(0.3)	n/a	2	(0.1)	n/a
Age Group (Years)									
<10	2	(0.1)	†	1	(0.05)	†	1	(0.04)	†
10-14	16	(0.8)	9.9	11	(0.5)	6.8	18	(0.7)	11.2
15-19	462	(24.0)	287.7	496	(23.3)	308.9	557	(21.8)	346.9
20-24	713	(37.0)	539.4	803	(37.7)	607.5	930	(36.4)	703.6
25-29	367	(19.0)	256.0	385	(18.1)	268.5	485	(19.0)	338.3
30-34	163	(8.5)	115.1	177	(8.3)	125.0	211	(8.3)	149.1
35-39	89	(4.6)	60.6	98	(4.6)	66.8	129	(5.0)	87.9
40-44	43	(2.2)	27.9	58	(2.7)	37.7	71	(2.8)	46.1
45-49	31	(1.6)	18.3	44	(2.1)	26.0	61	(2.4)	36.0
>50	42	(2.2)	5.5	55	(2.6)	7.2	92	(3.6)	12.0
Race/Ethnicity									
Non-Hispanic Black	1,290	(66.9)	348.7	1,326	(62.3)	358.5	1,479	(57.9)	399.8
Non-Hispanic White	184	(9.5)	14.1	183	(8.6)	14.0	271	(10.6)	20.8
Hispanic	158	(8.2)	36.2	178	(8.4)	40.8	239	(9.4)	54.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	(0.4)	4.7	8	(0.4)	5.3	13	(0.5)	8.7
Other/Unspecified	289	(15.0)	n/a	438	(20.6)	n/a	553	(21.6)	n/a
District									
North	241	(12.5)	26.0	226	(10.6)	24.4	324	(12.7)	34.9
West	417	(21.6)	82.7	460	(21.6)	91.3	583	(22.8)	115.7
Southwest	166	(8.6)	45.6	239	(11.2)	65.7	295	(11.5)	81.1
South	1,103	(57.2)	233.8	1,203	(56.5)	255.0	1,353	(53.0)	286.8
Unknown	1	(0.1)	n/a	0	(0.0)	n/a	0	(0.0)	n/a
Total	1,928	(100.0)	85.0	2,128	(100.0)	93.9	2,555	(100.0)	112.7

*Incident rates calculated per 100,000 population based on 2010 estimates of the population (U.S. Census Bureau).

†Rates not calculated for n<5.

▲ **Table 3. Sex:** From 2014-2016, the proportion of cases who were male increased from 51% to 59%. **Age Groups:** As with chlamydia, the majority (58%) of cases were 15-24 years of age. **Race/Ethnicity:** in 2016, 58% of gonorrhea cases were in non-Hispanic Blacks, which is somewhat lower than in previous years. At the same time, however, the proportion of cases marked as Other/Unknown has also increased. The 2016 gonorrhea rate in non-Hispanic Blacks was 399.8 per 100,000, 19 times higher than the rate in non-Hispanic Whites (20.8 per 100,000 population) and 7 times higher than the rate in Hispanics (54.7 per 100,000 population), and 46 times higher than the rate in Asian/Pacific Islanders (8.7 per 100,000 population). **District:** In 2016, 53% of gonorrhea cases were diagnosed in the South District and almost 23% were diagnosed in the West District. The South and West districts also had the highest gonorrhea rates in 2016 (286.8 and 115.7 per 100,000 population, respectively).

► **Figure 8.** As was the case with chlamydia rates, gonorrhea rates were highest in persons aged 15-24 years of age. Males aged 20-24 years had the highest gonorrhea rate in 2016 (788.7 per 100,000 population), followed by females aged 20-24 (613.9 per 100,000 population). The average rate in females aged 15-44 years of age was 228.5 per 100,000 population, lower, overall, than the HP2020 goal of 257.0 per 100,000 population in this age group. The average rate in males aged 15-44 years was 314.0 per 100,000 population, higher than the HP2020 goal of 198.0 per 100,000 population.

Figure 8. Gonorrhea Rates (per 100,000 population) by Sex and Age Groups (Years), Suburban Cook County, 2016

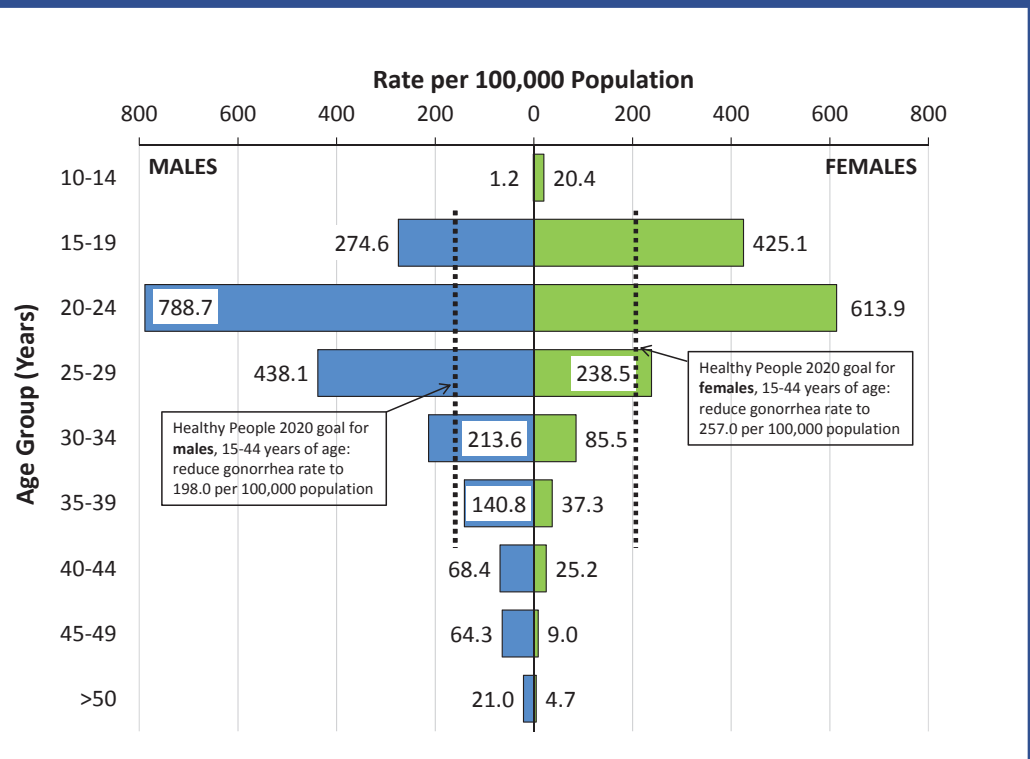
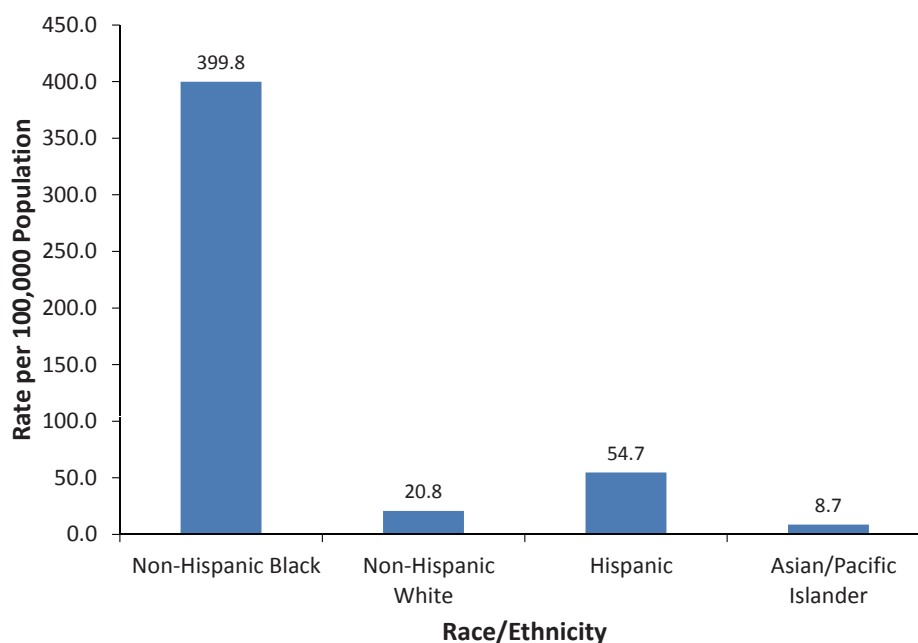
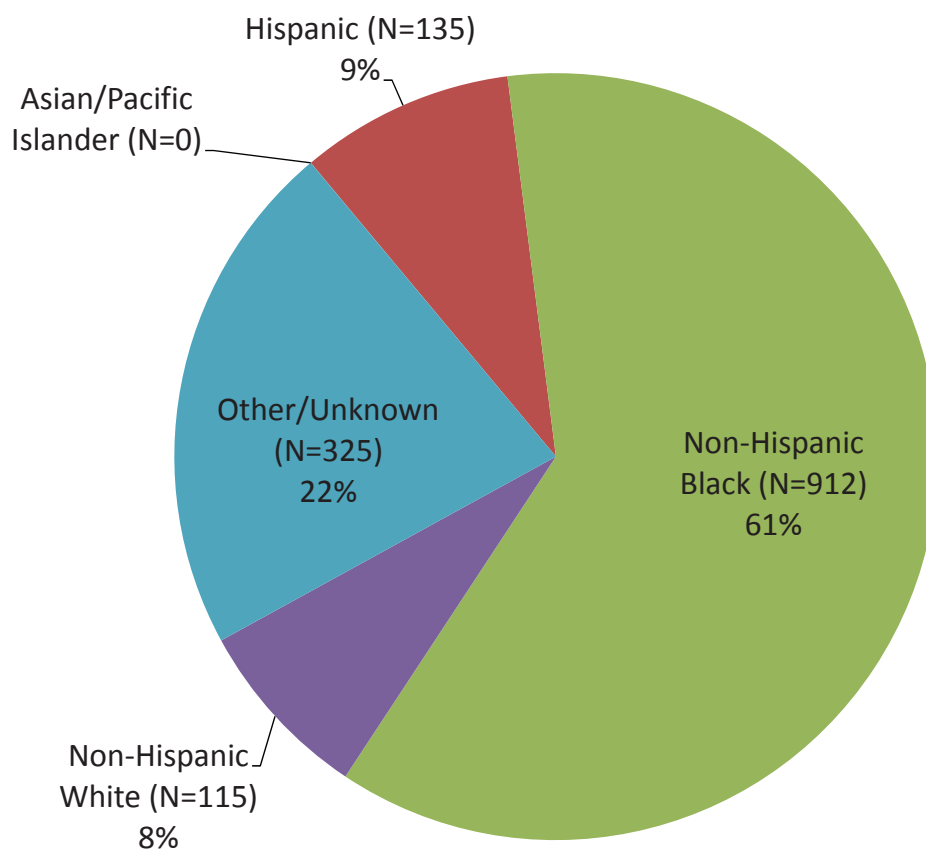


Figure 9. Gonorrhea Rates (per 100,000 population) by Race/Ethnicity, Suburban Cook County, 2016



◀ **Figure 9.** The 2016 gonorrhea rate in non-Hispanic Blacks was 399.8 per 100,000, 19 times higher than the rate in non-Hispanic Whites (20.8 per 100,000 population) and 7 times higher than the rate in Hispanics (54.7 per 100,000 population), and 46 times higher than the rate in Asian/Pacific Islanders (8.7 per 100,000 population).

Figure 10. Proportion of Gonorrhea Cases Among Persons Aged 15-24 Years by Race/Ethnicity, Suburban Cook County, 2016



▲ **Figure 10.** Among gonorrhea cases reported in 2016 who were 15-24 years of age, 61% were non-Hispanic Black, 9% were Hispanic, 8% were non-Hispanic White, 9% were Hispanic and 22% were Other/Unknown.

Figure 11. Gonorrhea Rates (per 100,000 population) by Municipality, Suburban Cook County, 2016

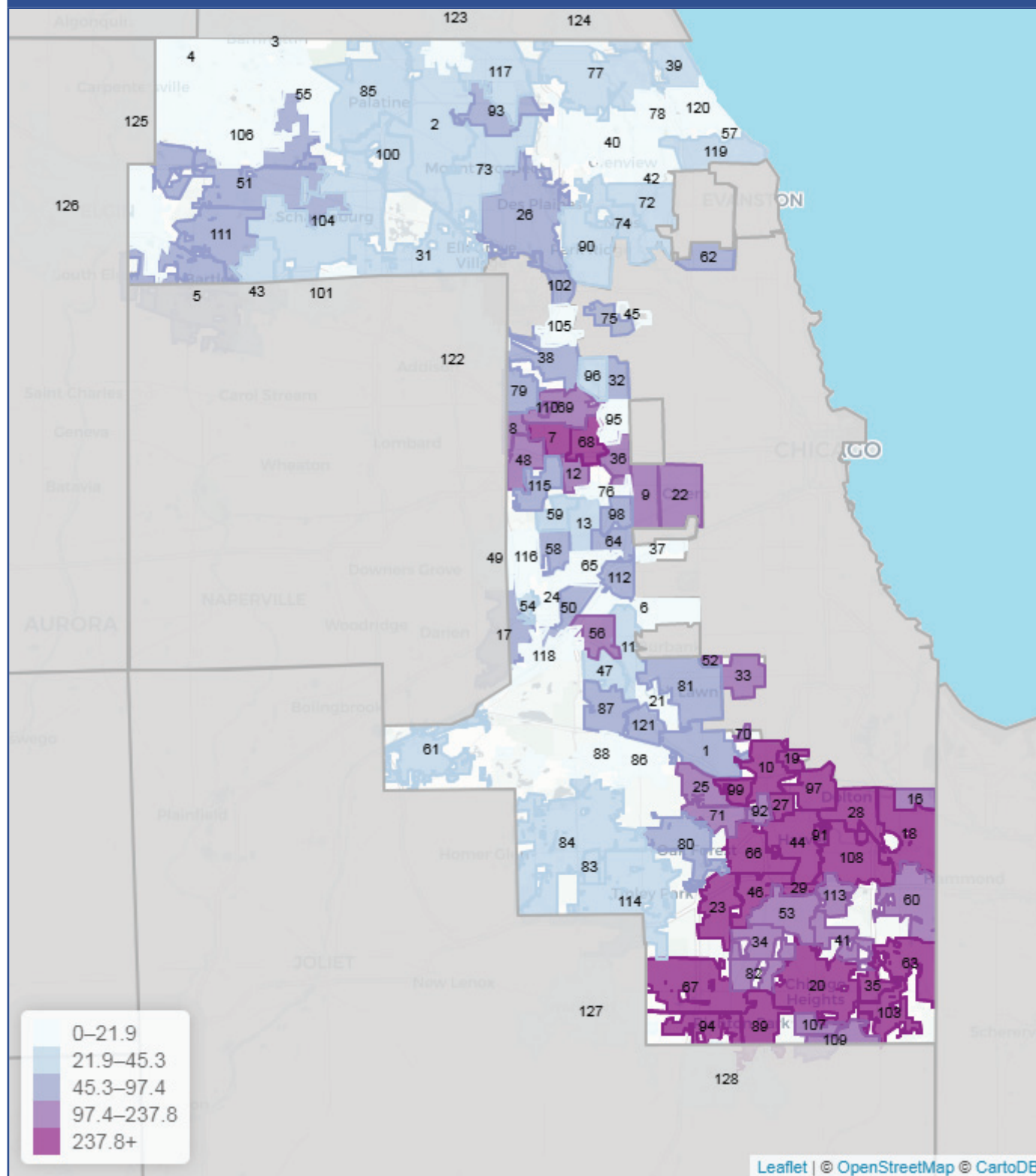
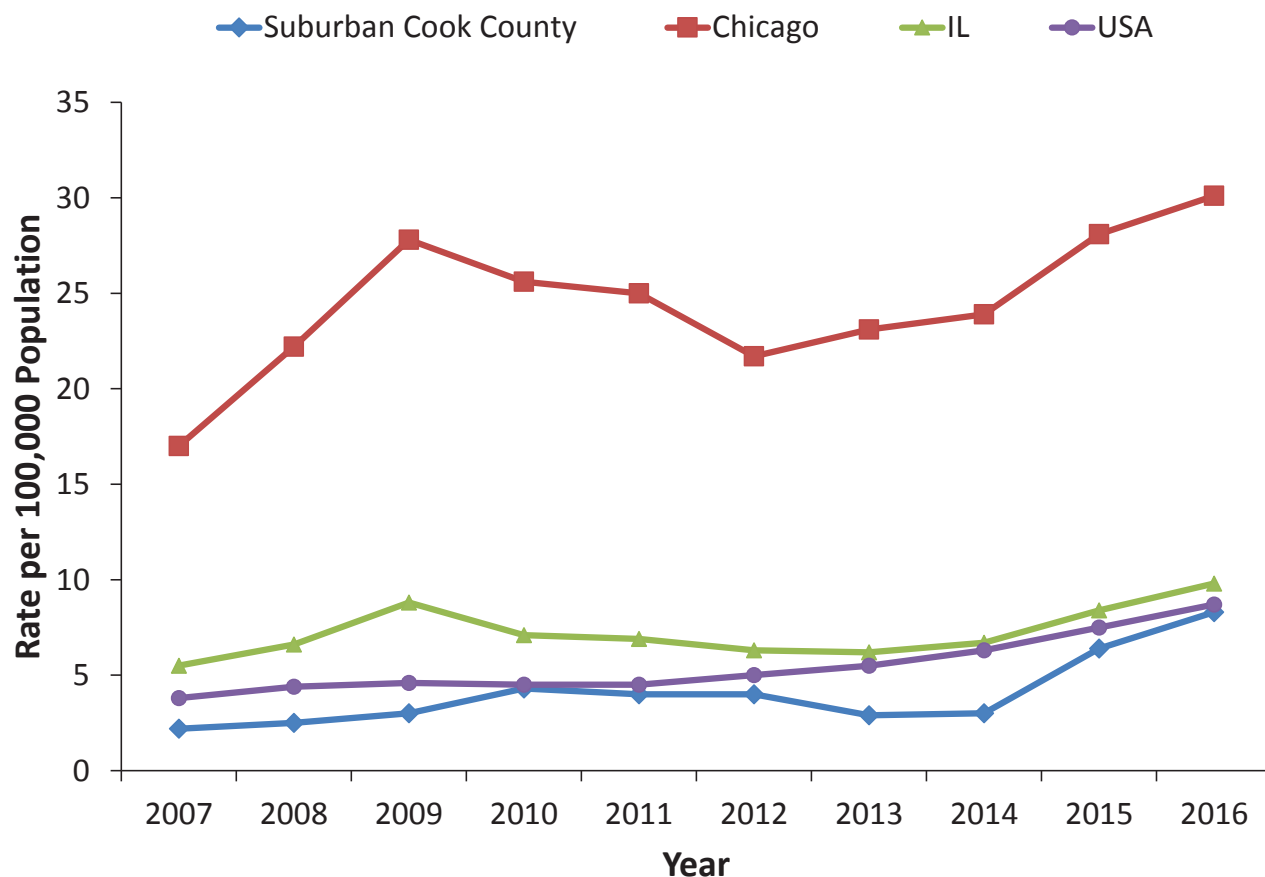


Figure 12. Primary and Secondary Syphilis Rates (per 100,000 population) by Selected Public Health Jurisdictions, 2007-2016



▲ **Figure 12.** Primary and secondary syphilis (P&S) rates are on the rise. Between 2007-2016, rates of P&S syphilis in suburban Cook County were typically lower than the rates in the US overall, lower than the rates in Illinois and lower than the rates in Chicago. In 2016, the rate of P&S syphilis in suburban Cook County was 8.3 per 100,000 population. In the US overall, the rate was 8.7 per 100,000 population. The P&S syphilis rate in Illinois was 9.8 per 100,000 population. However, Chicago had the highest P&S syphilis rate at 30.1 per 100,000 population, 3.6 times higher than the rate in suburban Cook County.

Table 4. Number, Proportion and Rates (per 100,000 population) of Syphilis and Selected Characteristics of P&S Syphilis Cases, Suburban Cook County, 2014-2016

Characteristic	2014			Year 2015			2016		
	No.	(%)	Rate*	No.	(%)	Rate*	No.	(%)	Rate*
Syphilis Stage									
Primary and Secondary	69	(24.1)	3.0	146	(34.2)	6.4	189	(34.1)	8.3
Early Latent	108	(37.8)	4.8	110	(25.8)	4.9	151	(27.3)	6.7
Late Latent	103	(36.0)	4.5	169	(39.6)	7.5	209	(37.7)	9.2
Congenital†	6	(2.1)	19.9	2	(0.5)	6.6	5	(0.9)	16.6
Total	286	(100.0)	12.6	427	(100.0)	18.8	554	(100.0)	24.4
Primary and Secondary Cases									
Sex									
Male	61	(88.4)	5.6	132	(90.4)	12.0	168	(88.9)	15.3
Female	8	(11.6)	0.7	14	(9.6)	1.2	21	(11.1)	1.8
Age Group (Years)									
<20	1	(1.4)	‡	11	(7.5)	6.9	14	(7.4)	8.7
20-24	14	(20.3)	10.6	37	(25.3)	28.0	42	(22.2)	31.8
25-29	16	(23.2)	11.2	24	(16.4)	16.7	50	(26.5)	34.9
30-34	5	(7.2)	3.5	14	(9.6)	9.9	24	(12.7)	17.0
35-39	5	(7.2)	3.4	14	(9.6)	9.5	17	(9.0)	11.6
40-44	9	(13.0)	5.8	13	(8.9)	8.4	13	(6.9)	8.4
45-49	10	(14.5)	5.9	14	(9.6)	8.3	9	(4.8)	5.3
>50	9	(13.0)	1.2	19	(13.0)	2.5	20	(10.6)	2.6
Race/Ethnicity									
Non-Hispanic Black	40	(58.0)	10.8	83	(56.8)	22.4	92	(48.7)	24.9
Non-Hispanic White	15	(21.7)	1.1	32	(21.9)	2.5	43	(22.8)	3.3
Hispanic	12	(17.4)	2.7	23	(15.8)	5.3	43	(22.8)	9.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	(2.9)	‡	5	(3.4)	3.3	6	(3.2)	4.0
Other/Unspecified	0	(0.0)	n/a	3	(2.1)	n/a	5	(2.6)	n/a
District									
North	14	(20.3)	1.5	21	(14.4)	2.3	30	(15.9)	3.2
West	19	(27.5)	3.8	39	(26.7)	7.7	66	(34.9)	13.1
Southwest	6	(8.7)	1.6	17	(11.6)	4.7	24	(12.7)	6.6
South	30	(43.5)	6.4	69	(47.3)	14.6	69	(36.5)	14.6
Total	69	(100.0)	3.0	146	(100.0)	6.4	189	(100.0)	8.3

*Incident rates calculated per 100,000 population based on 2010 estimates of the population (U.S. Census Bureau).

†Congenital syphilis rates calculated per 100,000 live births (taken from IDPH 2010 vital statistics).

‡Rates not calculated for n<5.

► **Table 4. Syphilis Stage:** In 2016, approximately a third of cases were classified as P&S syphilis, which is the contagious stage. **Sex:** Among P&S syphilis cases in 2016, the overwhelming majority of cases were males (88.9%). The P&S syphilis rate in males in 2016 was 15.3 per 100,000 population, higher than the HP2020 goal for males (6.8 per 100,000 population). The P&S syphilis rate in females in 2016 was 1.8 per 100,000, higher than the HP2020 goal of 1.5 per 100,000 population. **Race/Ethnicity:** In 2016, 48.7% of reported P&S syphilis cases were non-Hispanic Black. **District:** 36.5% of all P&S syphilis cases reported living in the South District and 34.5% reported living in the West District. The rate of P&S syphilis in the South District was 14.6 per 100,000 and 13.1 per 100,000 in the West District.

Figure 13. Primary and Secondary Syphilis Rates (per 100,000 population) by Municipality, Suburban Cook County, 2016

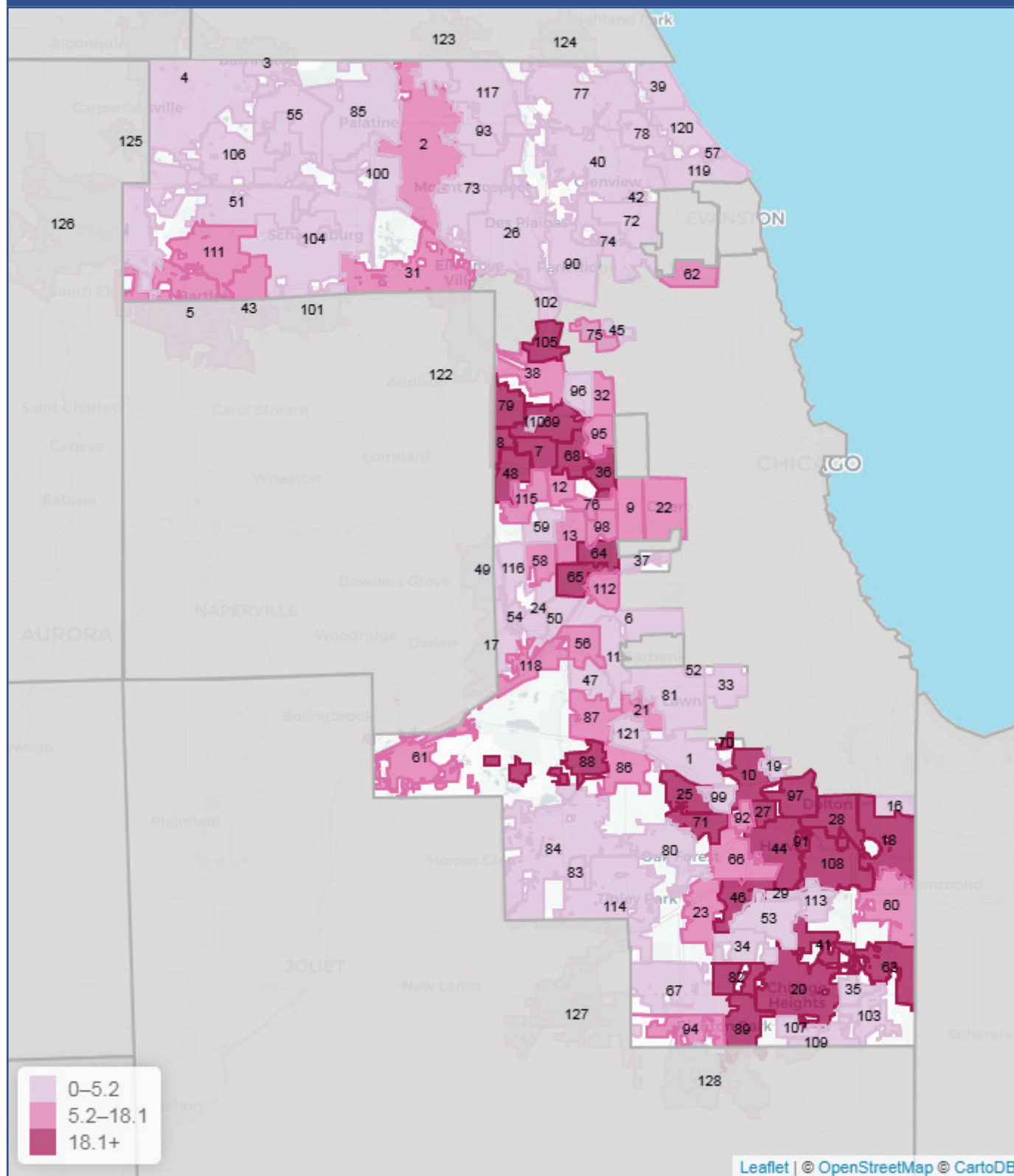


Table 5. Map Key - Suburban Cook County Municipalities and Chicago Community Areas

Number	Municipality/City	Number	Municipality/City
1	Alsip	65	McCook
2	Arlington Heights	66	Markham
3	Barrington	67	Matteson
4	Barrington Hills	68	Maywood
5	Bartlett	69	Melrose Park
6	Bedford Park	70	Merrionette Park
7	Bellwood	71	Midlothian
8	Berkeley	72	Morton Grove
9	Berwyn	73	Mount Prospect
10	Blue Island	74	Niles
11	Bridgeview	75	Norridge
12	Broadview	76	North Riverside
13	Brookfield	77	Northbrook
14	Buffalo Grove	78	Northfield
15	Burbank	79	Northlake
16	Burnham	80	Oak Forest
17	Burr Ridge	81	Oak Lawn
18	Calumet City	82	Olympia Fields
19	Calumet Park	83	Orland Hills
20	Chicago Heights	84	Orland Park
21	Chicago Ridge	85	Palatine
22	Cicero	86	Palos Heights
23	Country Club Hills	87	Palos Hills
24	Countryside	88	Palos Park
25	Crestwood	89	Park Forest
26	Des Plaines	90	Park Ridge
27	Dixmoor	91	Phoenix
28	Dolton	92	Posen
29	East Hazel Crest	93	Prospect Heights
30	Elgin	94	Richton Park
31	Elk Grove Village	95	River Forest
32	Elmwood Park	96	River Grove
33	Evergreen Park	97	Riverdale
34	Flossmoor	98	Riverside
35	Ford Heights	99	Robbins
36	Forest Park	100	Rolling Meadows
37	Forest View	101	Roselle
38	Franklin Park	102	Rosemont
39	Glencoe	103	Sauk Village
40	Glenview	104	Schaumburg
41	Glenwood	105	Schiller Park
42	Golf	106	South Barrington
43	Hanover Park	107	South Chicago Heights
44	Harvey	108	South Holland
45	Harwood Heights	109	Steger
46	Hazel Crest	110	Stone Park
47	Hickory Hills	111	Streamwood
48	Hillside	112	Summit
49	Hinsdale	113	Thornton
50	Hodgkins	114	Tinley Park
51	Hoffman Estates	115	Westchester
52	Hometown	116	Western Springs
53	Homewood	117	Wheeling
54	Indian Head Park	118	Willow Springs
55	Inverness	119	Wilmette
56	Justice	120	Winnetka
57	Kenilworth	121	Worth
58	La Grange	122	Bensenville
59	La Grange Park	123	Buffalo Grove
60	Lansing	124	Deerfield
61	Lemont	125	East Dundee
62	Lincolnwood	126	Elgin
63	Lynwood	127	Frankfort
64	Lyons	128	University Park

TECHNICAL NOTES

Cook County Department of Public Health Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health includes all municipalities and portions within Cook County, except for Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie and Stickney Township, each of which has its own state-certified local health department. Throughout this report, the term, “suburban Cook County” refers to CCDPH’s jurisdiction with the exceptions noted above.

Data Methodology

Medical providers and laboratories within suburban Cook County are required by law to report positive cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis to the Cook County Department of Public Health within 7 days of diagnosis. These case reports are then entered into a secure database and forwarded to the Illinois Department of Public Health, providing the basis for the information presented in this report. Incidence rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau (2010 Census).

Data Limitations

This report includes all reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, but does not represent the entire population of persons infected because not all infected persons have been tested or reported. Frequently, there is a considerable lag between the time a person is diagnosed with an STI and the time the local health department receives the report. Additionally, persons with asymptomatic STIs, such as chlamydia, may be underrepresented in surveillance reports because many such individuals may not seek care, may remain undiagnosed, and, consequently, unreported.