

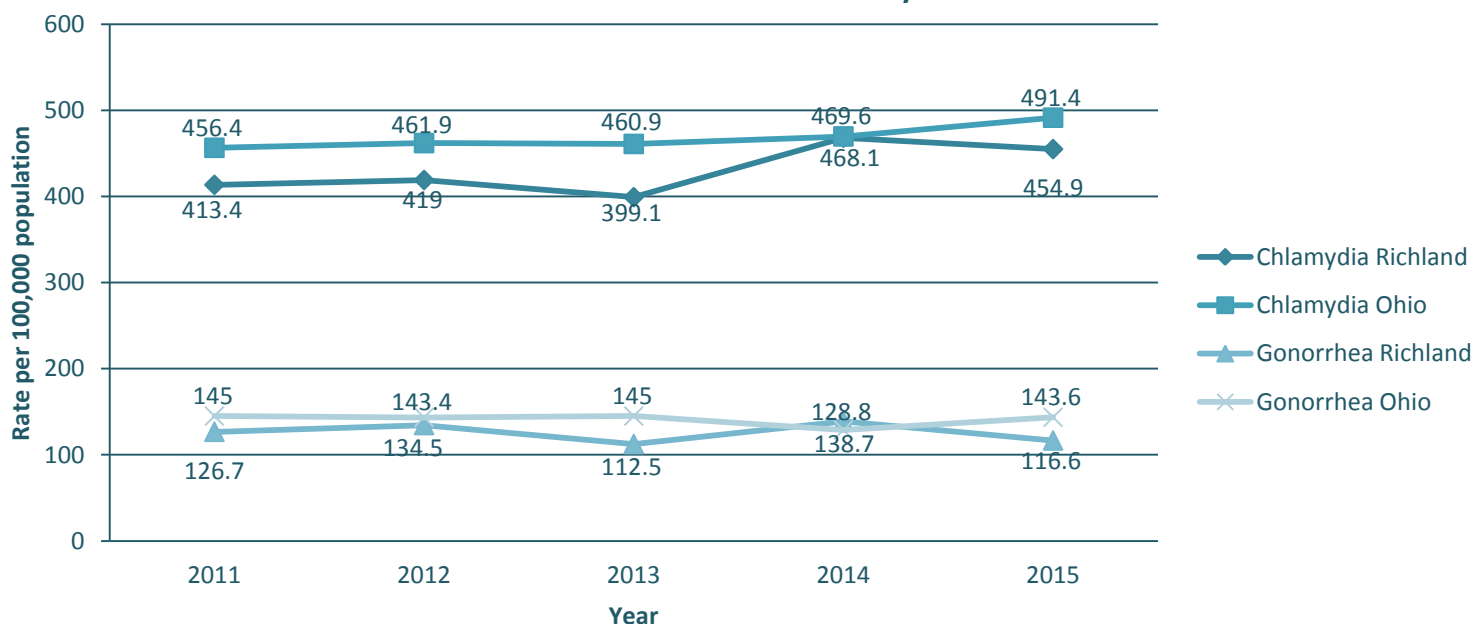
Sexual Health in Richland County

Adults

It is estimated that young adults ages 15 to 24 account for about half of the 20 million new sexually transmitted infections in the United States per year, despite making up only a quarter of the sexually active population¹. According to the 2016 Community Health Assessment, 12 percent of Richland County adults had been tested for an STD in the past year. In 2016, the rates for both chlamydia and gonorrhea decreased when compared to 2011. Unlike youth, fewer adults in Richland County use contraception than adults in the rest of the United States.

Methods of Birth Control	Percent of Richland County Adults ²	U.S. Ages 15-44 ³
They or their partner were too old	18%	N/A
Tubes tied	16%	15.5%
Condoms	13%	9.4%
Hysterectomy	13%	N/A
Birth control pill	12%	16%
Vasectomy	11%	5.1%
Ovaries or testicles removed	7%	N/A
Abstinence	5%	N/A
Withdrawal	5%	3%
Infertility	4%	N/A
Rhythm method	3%	0.8%
IUD	2%	6.4%
Contraceptive implants	1%	0.8%
Shots	1%	2.8%
None	14%	6.9%

Annualized Disease Rates for Richland County and Ohio Adults²



Youth

In Richland County, fewer youth participate in sexual intercourse when compared to the state and national incidence rates. Richland County youth are more likely to use condoms, birth control pills, and intrauterine devices to prevent pregnancy than their counterparts in the rest of the state. The use of these methods to prevent pregnancy have increased from 2011 to 2016, as 18 percent of youth did not use any method to prevent pregnancy in 2011 compared to just 12 percent in 2016. Despite the use of contraception, teen pregnancy rates in Richland County are still much higher than that of the state and the nation. The number of births to teens in Richland County is almost double that of births to teens in the United States.

	Richland County 2011 ²	Richland County 2016 ²	Ohio 2013 ⁴	United States 2015 ⁵
Have had sexual intercourse	22%	18%	43%	41%
Had intercourse before the age of 13	N/A	2%	4%	4%
Used condoms to prevent pregnancy	61%	53%	51%	57%
Used birth control pills to prevent pregnancy	N/A	23%	24%	18%
Used an IUD to prevent pregnancy	N/A	7%	2%	3%
Used a shot, patch, or birth control ring to prevent pregnancy	N/A	7%	9%	5%
Did not use any method to prevent pregnancy during last sexual intercourse	18%	12%	12%	14%

	Richland County ⁶	Ohio ⁶	United States ⁷
Teen pregnancy	42 per 1,000 females	28 per 1,000 females	22.3 per 1,000 females

Conclusion

It is important to address the sexual health of both adults and youth in Richland County. Education surrounding the use of contraception is essential. Providing safe sex education to Richland County youth will decrease the number of youth who do not use any method of birth control, which has the potential to lower the teen pregnancy rate. In addition, educated youth will be likely to continue making less risky choices in adulthood.

Sources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *STDs in Adolescents and Young Adults* (<https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats16/adolescents.htm>)
- Richland County 2016 Community Health Assessment (https://a6kk35mx1g3hinjwxdui21eb-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/richland_county_final_2016_health_assessment_4-14-17_1.pdf)
- Guttmacher Institute, *Contraceptive Use in the United States*, 2012 (<https://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm>)
- Ohio 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (https://www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/chss/adolescent-health/2013-Sexual-Behavior-revised-6_30_14.pdf?la=en)
- United States 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>)
- County Health Rankings, A Robert Wood Foundation program (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2018/rankings/richland/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Teen Pregnancy in the United States* (<https://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm>)