E. UNSAFE SEX

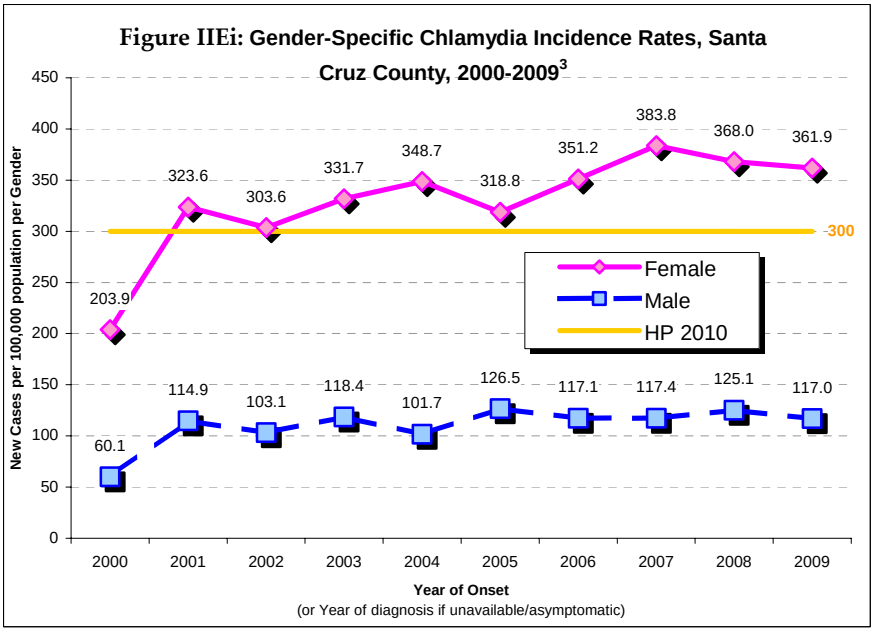
Importance	Unsafe sexual behavior increases the risk of such adverse outcomes as unintended pregnancy and transmission of sexually transmitted infections, which are associated with increased risk of cervical cancer, involuntary infertility, and premature death.
Healthy People 2010 Objectives[1]	▪ Chlamydia: Reduce rate to **300** cases per 100,000 population per year ▪ Teen Birth Rate (Age 15-17): Reduce rate to **43** births per 1,000 population per year

i. CHLAMYDIA RATES

Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted infection in North America and is one of the major causes of tubal infertility, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, and chronic pelvic pain. On top of the negative health outcomes, the economic burden on society is high. The cost of managing chlamydia and its complications in the U.S. was approximately 2 billion dollars in 1994.[2]

From 2006 to 2009, an annual average of **646** infections with chlamydia were reported for Santa Cruz County residents.[3] Since 2000, chlamydia rates have been roughly **three** times as high among females as males (see Figure IIEi). One reason is that females typically have more occasion than do males to access health care services and be tested. In addition, the majority of chlamydia infections among men are asymptomatic, and currently there is no recommendation for screening males without symptoms. In Santa Cruz County, 2008 rates of chlamydia were highest among persons aged 19-24 for females (partly due to screening recommendations), and ages 25-29 for males. During the same year, the overall incidence rate in Santa Cruz County was 249.7 cases per 100,000 residents, much better than the rate of 390.8 statewide.[4] A national monitoring study of young adults (age 18-26) found a prevalence rate of 4.2% from 2001 to 2002,[7] indicating that most cases go undetected and untreated.

Figure IIEi: Gender-Specific Chlamydia Incidence Rates, Santa Cruz County, 2000-2009[3]



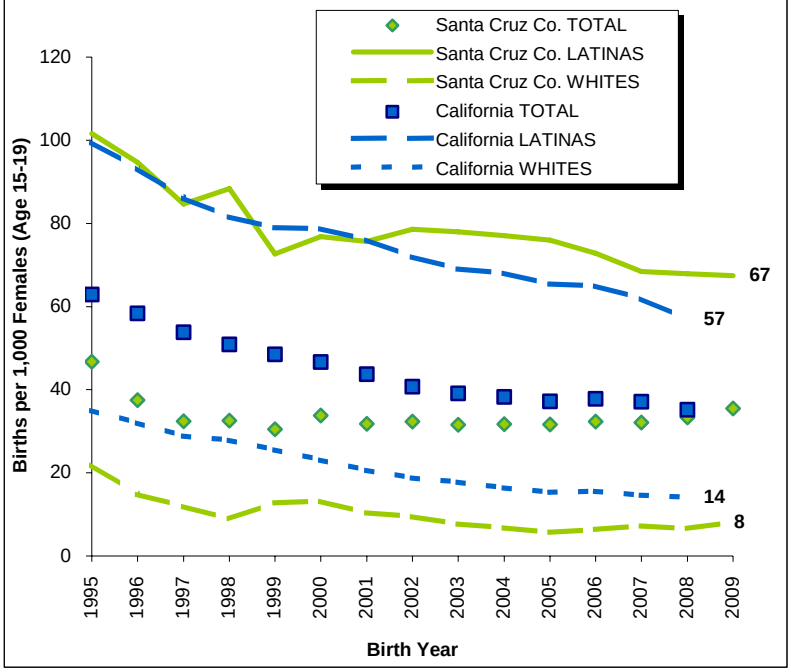
ii. TEEN BIRTH RATE (15-19 YEARS)

There are few social demographics that define a future life for an adolescent girl as significantly as having a baby as a teenager. Teen mothers are significantly less likely to graduate from high school, go to college, and become self-sufficiently employed. Teenage motherhood is a significant contributor to continuing a cycle of poverty from one generation to the next. This is a health outcome for which prevention is crucial for the future of children, families, and society. Santa Cruz County had the **28th** highest teen birth rate among the 58 counties in California, based on average rates from 2006-08 (worse than the ranking of 38th during 2005-07), for an age-specific birth rate of **32.6** per 1,000 teens – which is still better than the state and national rates of 36.6 and 42.5 respectively.[5] In 2009, there were **314** births to Santa Cruz County teenagers ages 15-19, and **5** births to teens age 14 and under.

ii. TEEN BIRTH RATE (CONT.)

It is also important to look at teen birth rates by race/ethnicity. In 2009, **86%** of the teen births in Santa Cruz County were to Hispanic teenagers. Figure IIFii shows the overall and race/ethnicity-specific rates in Santa Cruz County and statewide. Note that rates among White Santa Cruz teens (**8** births per 1,000 teens in 2009) are consistently lower than their statewide counterparts (14 births per 1,000 teens in 2008). *The opposite is true among Hispanic teens in Santa Cruz County, with **67** births per 1,000 Hispanic teens in 2009, compared to 57 births per 1,000 Hispanic teens statewide in 2008.*[6] The vast majority, or **79%**, of teen births in Santa Cruz County are to teens who reside in the southern region of the county, more specifically Freedom or Watsonville. This continues a trend that has been seen for many years.

Figure IIEii: (ages 15-19) Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Santa Cruz County and California, 1995-2009[6]



Primary Prevention Activities	▪ **Communicable Disease (CD) Unit** The CD Unit attempts to interview and confirm appropriate treatment for all chlamydia cases age 19 and under. Education on safe sex is also given. ▪ **Teen Health Outreach (THO) Program** is a school-based pregnancy prevention program providing classroom presentations about reproductive health, individualized counseling, and referrals to various youth-oriented services within the community. The program helps enroll teens in Family PACT and get STD testing. They do pregnancy and HIV testing onsite at the school. These services are provided through grants from the California Wellness Foundation and the Office of Family Planning. ▪ **STD Community Interventions Program (SCIP)** provides STD prevention info, youth development, teen pregnancy prevention, and alcohol, drug use and violence prevention. ▪ **Community Challenge Grant** provides education in the schools and juvenile hall, as well as partnering with PVPSA and Planned Parenthood to provide sex education classes and run groups for high-risk students at some middle and high schools.

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