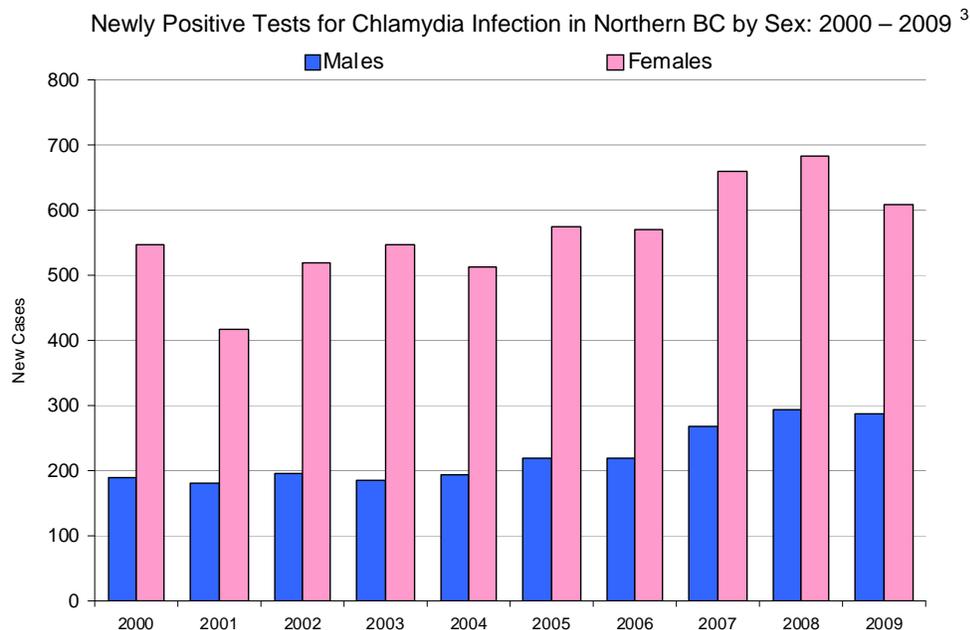


Chlamydia (Sexually Transmitted Infection) Northern BC: 2000 - 2009

Most of the reproductive-health research and service-delivery focus has been framed by women's reproductive needs. Moreover, women have been expected to be responsible for related issues such as contraception, birth and childcare. Men have been relative onlookers. This lack of balance in reproductive services and roles does a disservice to both sexes.

Chlamydia, one of the most common sexually transmitted infections (STI) is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. This STI can be spread from one partner to another during vaginal, anal, or possibly oral sex. An untreated infection can lead to complications that make it difficult or impossible for a woman to become pregnant. While either partner is likely to be infected, it is most often the woman who is tested and treated, as shown below.^{1 2}



“Reproductive health generally has been synonymous with women's health. Clinical training in reproductive health typically has been provided through the specialties of obstetrics and gynaecology. For men, however, there is no comparable clinical practice that addresses their unique reproductive health needs. Moreover, while there are many maternal and child health and women's health centers in both the public and private sectors, there are no equivalents that target men's needs. Indeed, services for men typically are housed in settings where staff lack training in male sexuality and sexual health, where providers' assumptions about men's interest in reproductive health may cause them discomfort and where the environment itself, from the decor to the posters, literature and brochures, may not reflect men's interests or needs.”

From Isaiah Ndong, et al. Men's Reproductive Health: Defining, Designing and Delivering Services Family Planning Perspectives, Volume 25, Supplement, January 1999.

This page is an excerpt from [“Where are the Men: Report on the Health and Wellbeing of Men and Boys in Northern BC.”](#)

¹ BC Centre for Diseases Control: Diseases and Conditions, A – Z: Chlamydia overview. <http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/a-z/default.htm>

² BC Centre for Diseases Control: Diseases and Conditions, A – Z: Chlamydia overview. <http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/a-z/default.htm>

³ BCCDC Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Cubes. Accessed May 28, 2010.