

Chlamydia Infection in Youth

Figure 13a: Chlamydia Infection Rate¹, by Income², Males Aged 15-24 Years, Toronto, 2004-2006 Combined

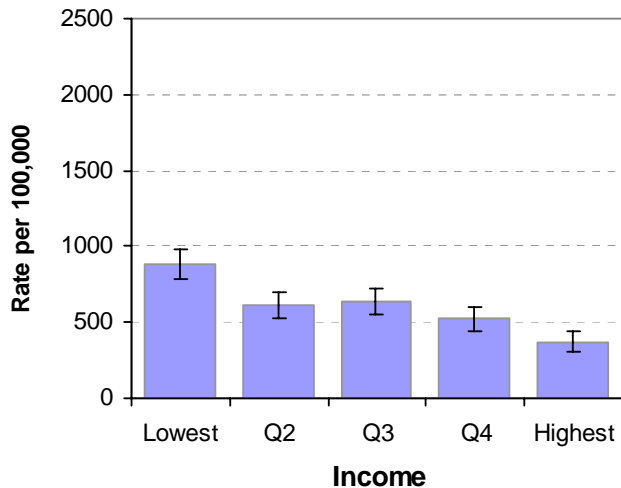
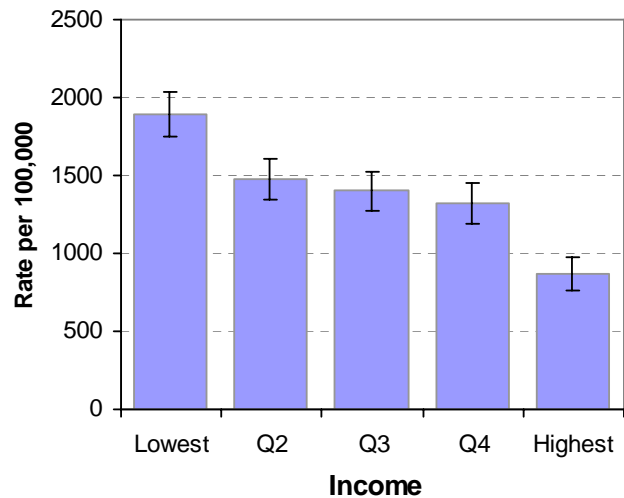


Figure 13b: Chlamydia Infection Rate¹, by Income², Females Aged 15-24 Years, Toronto, 2004-2006 Combined



¹ Rate is per 100,000 population per year.

² Income is the population quintile by proportion of the population below the LICO in census tracts.

Error bars (I) denote 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Integrated Public Health Information System, Toronto Public Health and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Sexually transmitted infections, including chlamydia and gonorrhoea, are important to prevent as they can cause serious complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility. The overall chlamydia infection rate among Toronto youth aged 15 to 24 years was 618 per 100,000 per year for males and 1,418 per 100,000 per year for females.

There was a gradient in chlamydia rates for both males and females aged 15-24 years across income quintiles in Toronto. There was a significant difference in rates between males in the lowest income quintile (883 per 100,000) and males in the highest income quintile (373 per 100,000). Females had a similar pattern and with higher rates. The gradient for females was steep with the highest chlamydia rate (1,889 per 100,000) in the lowest income quintile (Q1) and a step-wise decrease in rates to 872 per 100,000 in the highest income quintile (Q5).

The absolute difference in chlamydia rates for males was 510 per 100,000 in quintile 1 compared to quintile 5. For females it was 1,017 per 100,000. In relative terms, the chlamydia rate in quintile 1 compared to quintile 5 was 2.4 times higher for males and 2.2 times higher for females.

If everyone aged 15-24 years had the rates of the highest income quintile (Q5) there would be 1,236 or 39% fewer cases of chlamydia among youth per year in Toronto.

The chlamydia rates for Toronto males and females in income quintiles 1 to 4 were higher than the rate for the rest of Ontario. In quintile 1 the male chlamydia rate was 90% higher compared to the overall rate in the rest of Ontario and the female rate was 58% higher.