

Chlamydial and gonococcal testing during pregnancy in the United States.

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Source: Quest Diagnostics, West Norriton, PA, USA.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the study was to estimate the rates of testing, prevalence, and follow-up testing for chlamydial and gonococcal infection in a nationally based population that is comparable with the US pregnant population in terms of age and race.

STUDY DESIGN:

We extracted laboratory results for 1,293,423 pregnant women tested over a 3-year period.

RESULTS:

During pregnancy, 59% (761,315 of 1,293,423) and 57% (730,796 of 1,293,423) of women were tested at least once for *Chlamydia trachomatis* or for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, respectively. Of those women tested, 3.5% (26,437 of 761,315) and 0.6% (4605 of 730,796) tested positive for chlamydial and gonococcal infection, respectively, at least once during pregnancy. Of those women who were initially positive for the given infection, 78% (16,039 of 20,489) and 76% (2610 of 3435) were retested, of whom 6.0% (969 of 16,039) and 3.8% (100 of 2610) were positive on their last prenatal test for *C trachomatis* and *N gonorrhoeae*, respectively.

CONCLUSION:

Many pregnant women are not tested for *C trachomatis* and *N gonorrhoeae* despite recommendations to test. Follow-up testing to monitor the effectiveness of treatment is also not always performed.