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Chlamydia Infections Most Common US Notifiable Infectious Disease

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The National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System is a national passive surveillance system comprising 52 diseases designated by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists as reportable to the CDC. Although 1995 was the first year that genital infections with *Chlamydia trachomatis* were nationally notifiable, this condition was the most commonly reported disease for 1995. The 10 most frequently reported nationally notifiable infectious diseases for 1995 were, in descending order, chlamydia, gonorrhea, AIDS, salmonellosis, hepatitis A, shigellosis, tuberculosis, primary and secondary syphilis, Lyme disease, and hepatitis B. The sexually transmitted diseases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, AIDS, syphilis, and hepatitis B accounted for 87% of cases reported. The most commonly reported infectious disease among children aged <5 years was salmonellosis and shigellosis. Gonorrhea remained the most common disease reported among persons aged 15-24 years. These statistics reflect only those diseases that are reported to state and local health departments, who then report to the CDC. Because resources for conducting surveillance vary widely by disease, patterns of detection may vary widely. As such, the true incidences in the United States probably are underestimated.

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