Last update : 24/02/2020

Metadata – Chlamydia – Gonorrhea – Syphilis reported cases

Description	Number of new chlamydia/ gonococcus/ syphilis infections registered in a given calendar year. Rates of new chlamydia/ gonococcus/ syphilis infections registered in a given calendar year per 100,000 population.
Rationale	Chlamydia, gonococcus and syphilis infections can lead to severe long term complication. Those infections are also largely avoidable; the evolution of their incidence reflect somehow the evolution of sexual behaviours, and the results of prevention policies. The detection rate is sometimes interpreted as a proxy of the incidence rate, which is questionable.
Primary Data source	Sciensano , network of the sentinel laboratories Sciensano, surveillance of STI clinical network
Indicator source	Sciensano , Epidemiology of infectious diseases
Periodicity	Yearly
Technical definitions	Case definitions are based on EU standard case definitions https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/surveillance-and-disease-data/eu-case-definitions
Calculations	The detection rates are calculated as the number of cases notified by the sentinel laboratory network divided by the mid-year population of the same year
Limitations	As those infections can be asymptomatic , not all people infected are aware of their status, so only a part of them will search for a diagnostic. Only 50% of the labs participate in the network The screening practice and the awareness have increased over time, as well as the sensitivity of the tests. All those factors contribute to the apparent increase in the detection rate. It is difficult to conclude about change in incidence. The only thing we are sure of is the minimal rate of those infections in a given year
International comparisons	The international comparability of the notification rate for STIs is currently is not interpretable due to different politics of screening and registration