

## HIGHLIGHTS

- About 0.29% of adult male residents in Maricopa County tested positive for Chlamydia and about 0.08% tested positive for Gonorrhea.
- Our analyses indicated alarming rates of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea infection among the arrestee population.
- When we examined whether recently booked arrestee tested positive for Chlamydia or Gonorrhea the results were more pronounced

# Alert on STDs

By David Choate

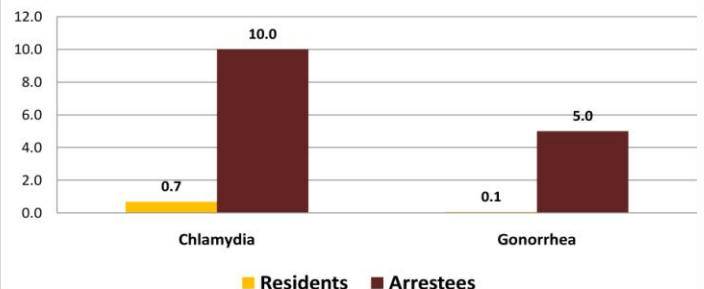
The Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN) collects data from recently-booked arrestees in Maricopa County. Voluntary face-to-face interviews using standardized survey instruments are conducted periodically in local booking facilities, at the conclusion of which a urine specimen is collected. The AARIN project's sampling methodology generates a representative sample of arrestees in Maricopa County.

Maricopa County Correctional Health Services (CHS) receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) to test and treat female arrestees for sexually transmitted diseases (STD), including Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. CHS was concerned that these STD's may be disproportionately present among male arrestees, but budget constraints made it impossible for them to test a sufficient number of male arrestees to accurately assess the scope and nature of the problem.

In consultation with representatives from Maricopa County Correctional Health Services (CHS), AARIN initiated additional urinalyses for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea for both male and female arrestees. These additional tests were implemented during the first collection period of 2011, in addition to its regular testing for drug use. Analyses indicated that recently booked arrestees were substantially more likely to test positive for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea than the general population.

In 2010, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health reported 13,717 (4,015 males and 9,701 females) cases of Chlamydia and 2,052 (1,182 males and 870 females) cases of Gonorrhea among adults aged 18 years or older. Based on 2010 US Census population estimates, we calculated rates of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea among male and female Maricopa County residents.<sup>1</sup> About 0.29% of adult male residents in Maricopa County tested positive for Chlamydia and about 0.08% tested positive for Gonorrhea. Among adult female Maricopa County residents, 0.69% tested positive for Chlamydia and 0.06% tested positive for Gonorrhea. Using these figures as a baseline for the general population in Maricopa County, we compared the rate of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea infection among Maricopa County arrestees.

**Exhibit 1: Percent of Female Maricopa County Residents and Arrestees Testing Positive for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea**



<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Census estimates that in 2010 there were 1,402,345 males and 1,396,617 females over the age of 18 in Maricopa County.

Our analyses indicated alarming rates of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea infection among the arrestee population. About 10% of female arrestees tested positive for Chlamydia and 5.0% tested positive for Gonorrhea (See Exhibit 1). Almost 7% of male arrestees tested positive for Chlamydia, and 4.6% tested positive for Gonorrhea (See Exhibit 2).

Our findings indicate that STD infection among the arrestee population is significantly higher than the general population of Maricopa County. Male arrestees were 23.7 times more likely than the general population to be infected with Chlamydia and 54.4 times more likely to be infected with Gonorrhea. Female arrestees were infected with Chlamydia at a rate 14.5 times the general population and were 80.6 times more likely to be infected with Gonorrhea.

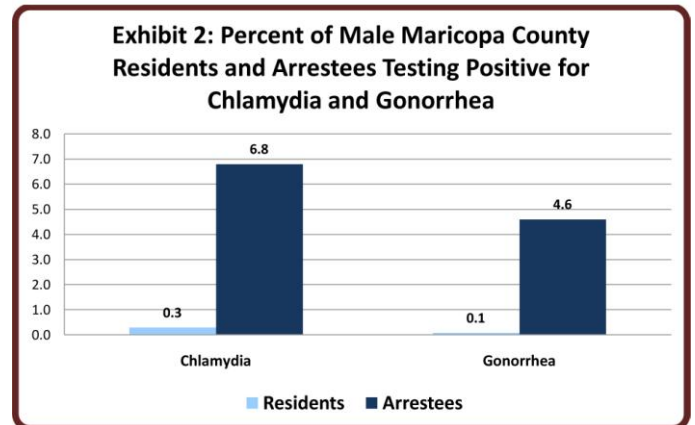
When we examined whether recently booked arrestee tested positive for Chlamydia or Gonorrhea the results were more pronounced. Specifically, our analyses indicated that 10.5% of males and 13% of females tested positive for a Chlamydia or Gonorrhea. These findings suggest that as many as 11,875 male and 2,197 female arrestees who are booked each year in Maricopa County have an STD.<sup>1</sup>

Left untreated, these STDs can lead to serious urethral or cervical infections, infections in other parts of the body, infertility, and neonatal transference. Fortunately, if identified early, both conditions can be treated with common inexpensive antibiotics. Chlamydia and Gonorrhea can be easily identified through urinalysis. If screening and treatment for these STDs were more widely available in the county jail a meaningful impact could be made on the health of Maricopa County residents (due to reduced transmission rates) in general and the Maricopa County arrestee population specifically. Furthermore, given that many arrestees are unemployed and do not have health insurance an early intervention system might reduce costs to the county by detecting and treating these infections before more costly procedures are required to treat the problem.

AARIN conducted an addendum on sexual behavior and activity, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual health in conjunction with the additional screening for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. A more detailed report of these findings is forthcoming.

For more information about the AARIN Project and ASU's Center for

Violence Prevention and Community Safety, visit our website at <http://cvpcs.asu.edu/aarin>. For questions related to this AARIN-Alert contact Charles Katz at (602) 496-1471 or [ckatz@asu.edu](mailto:ckatz@asu.edu), or David Choate at (602) 496-1473 [dchoate@asu.edu](mailto:dchoate@asu.edu).



<sup>2</sup> In 2010, Maricopa County booked an estimated 130,000 (113,100 males and 16,900 females) arrestees.