



College Health Surveillance Network

Trends in sexually transmitted infections reporting at student health center clinics, 2011-2015

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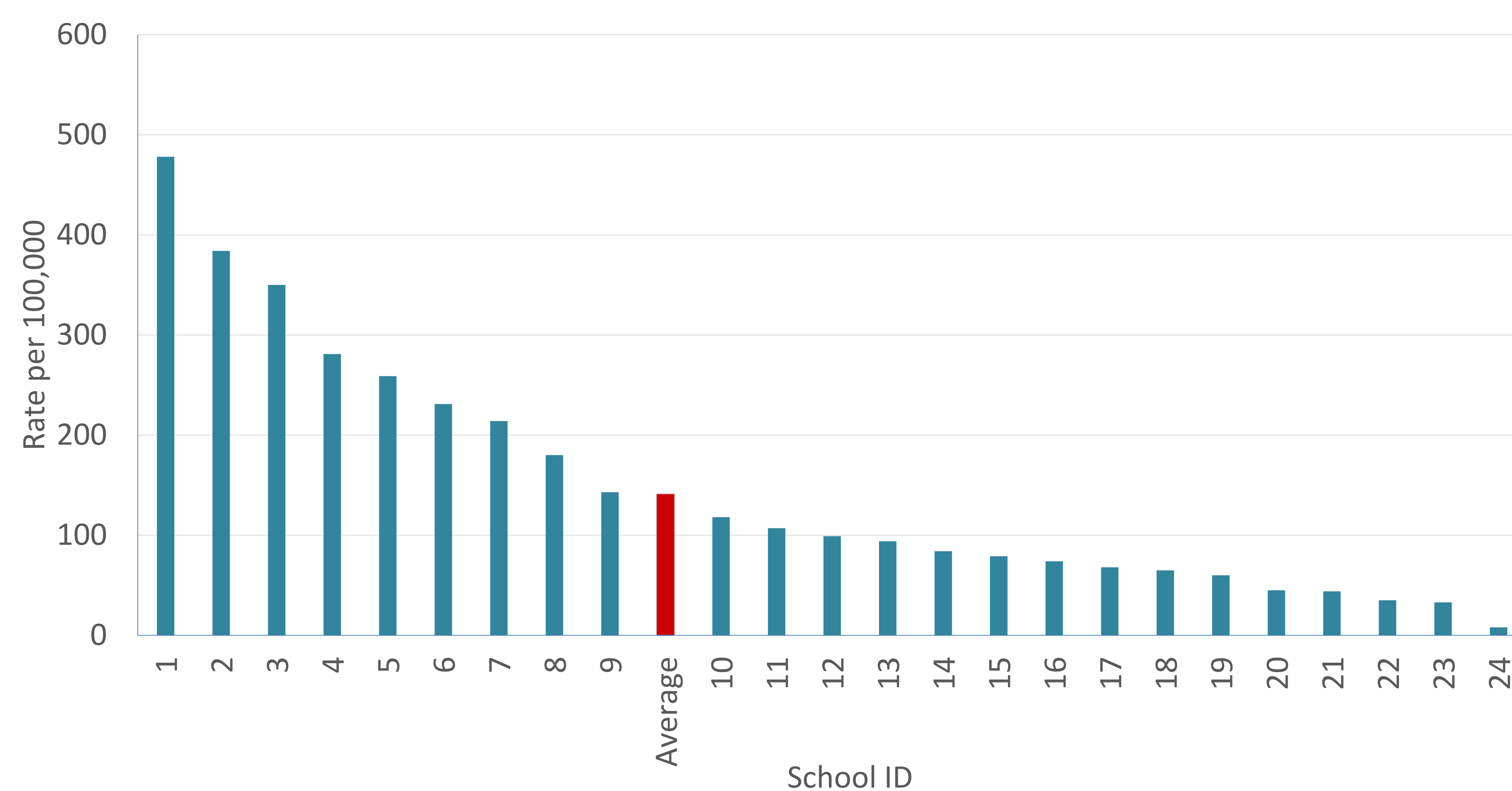
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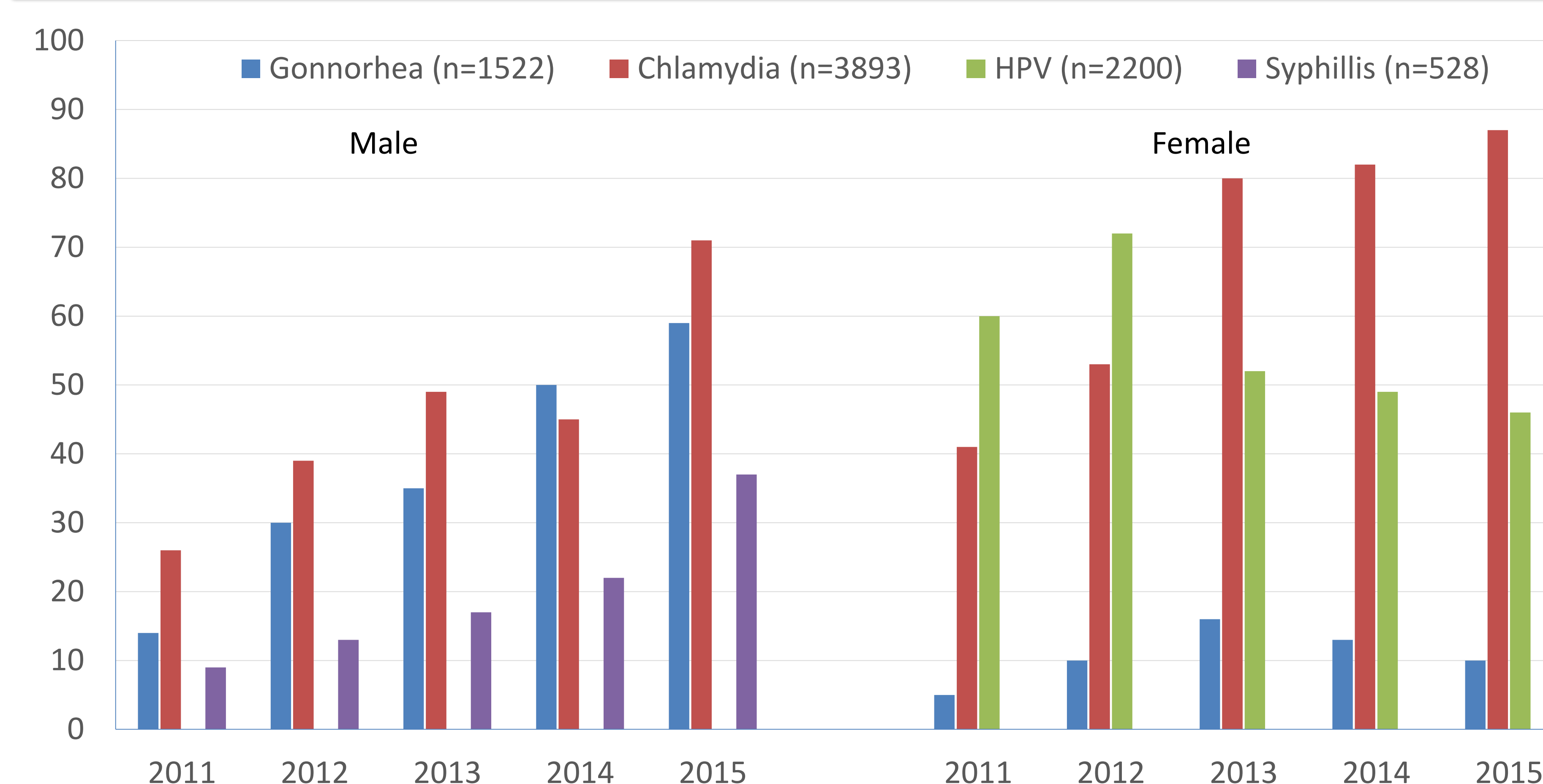
Introduction

- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) present a significant public health problem in the US with a rising trend in STI prevalence from 2010-2014
- Nearly half of the 20 million new STIs diagnosed each year are among people aged 15-24 years
- College students are at risk for contracting STIs
- There have been limited data on STI prevalence among college students
- Routinely collected data from healthcare clinics can be used to monitor the trend in STIs
- This study presents a 5-year (2011-2015) trend in STIs recorded in student health center clinics from 24 schools in the College Health Surveillance Network (CHSN)

STI rate (per 100,000 visits) by school



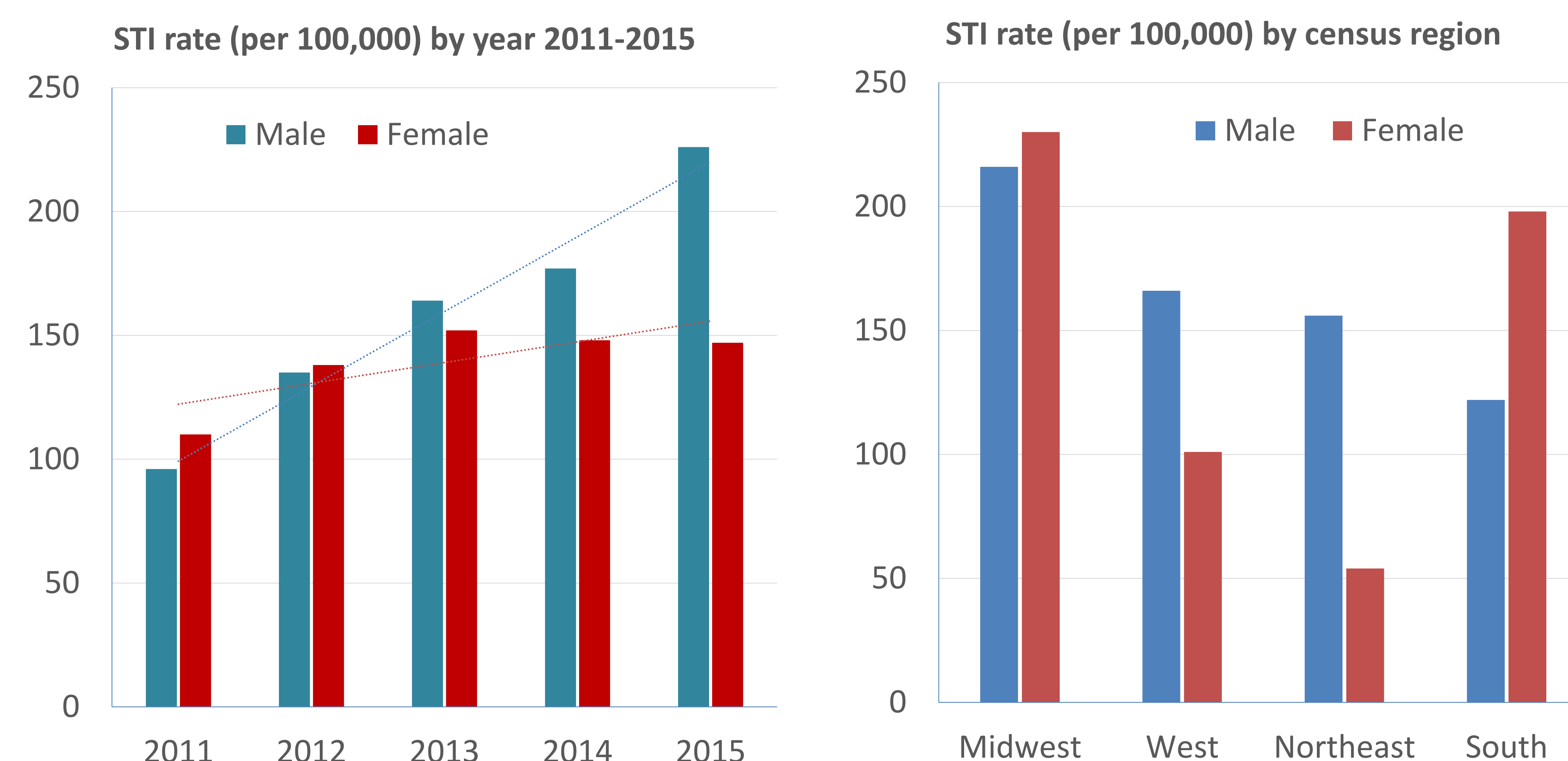
Trend in the rate of specific STIs



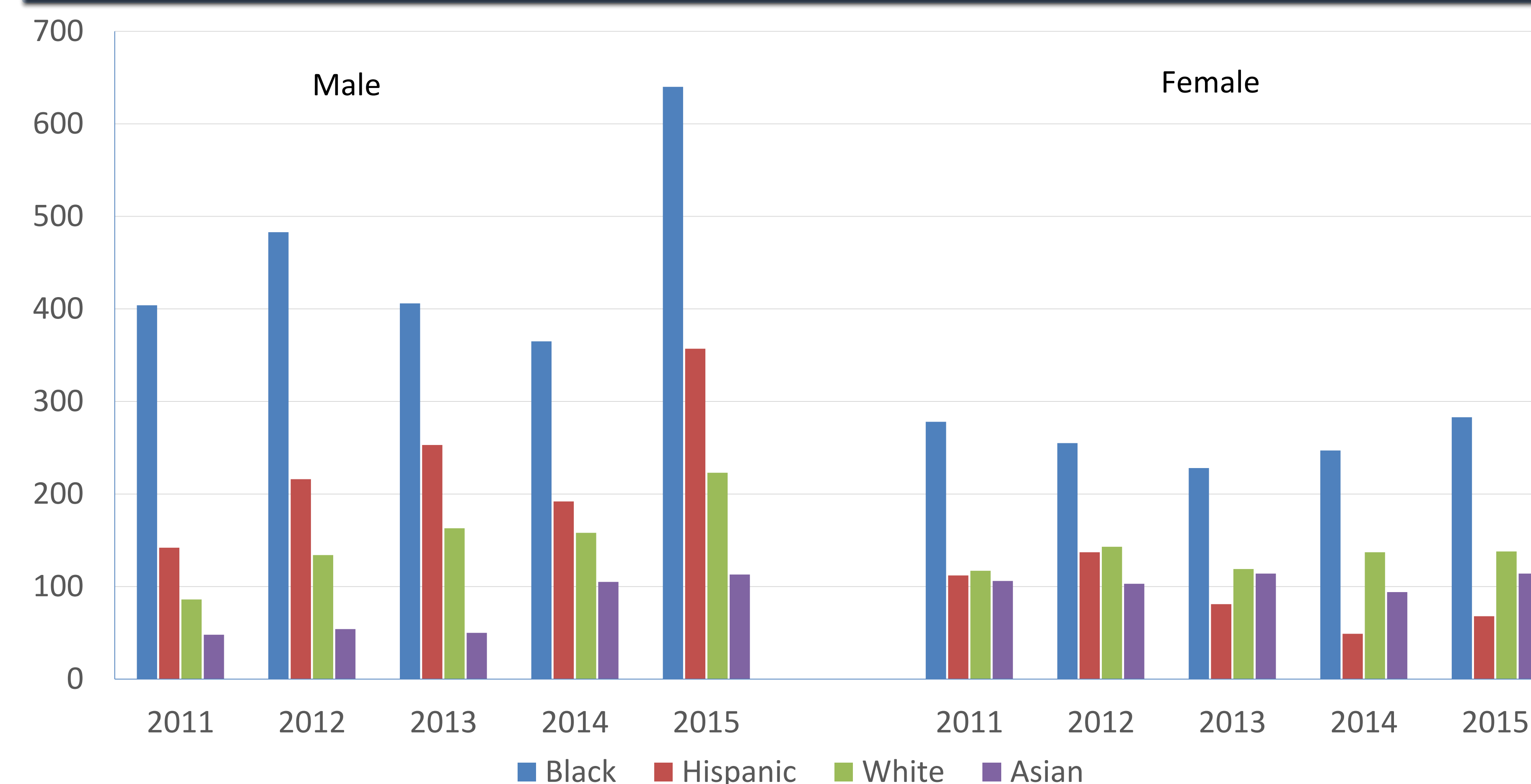
Data source and Methods

- CHSN is a large electronic dataset recording students' visits to student health center clinics from 32 US universities since January 2011 to date
- The dataset contains diagnoses associated with each student visit coded according to International Classification of Disease (ICD)
- This study extracted data from 24 schools that provided data in 5 years from 2009-2015
- STIs were identified by ICD-9 codes defined by AHRQ Clinical Classification Software (CCS)
- Rate (per 100,000 visits) was calculated for each sex in each year then analyzed for trends

Trend in STI rate by gender and census region



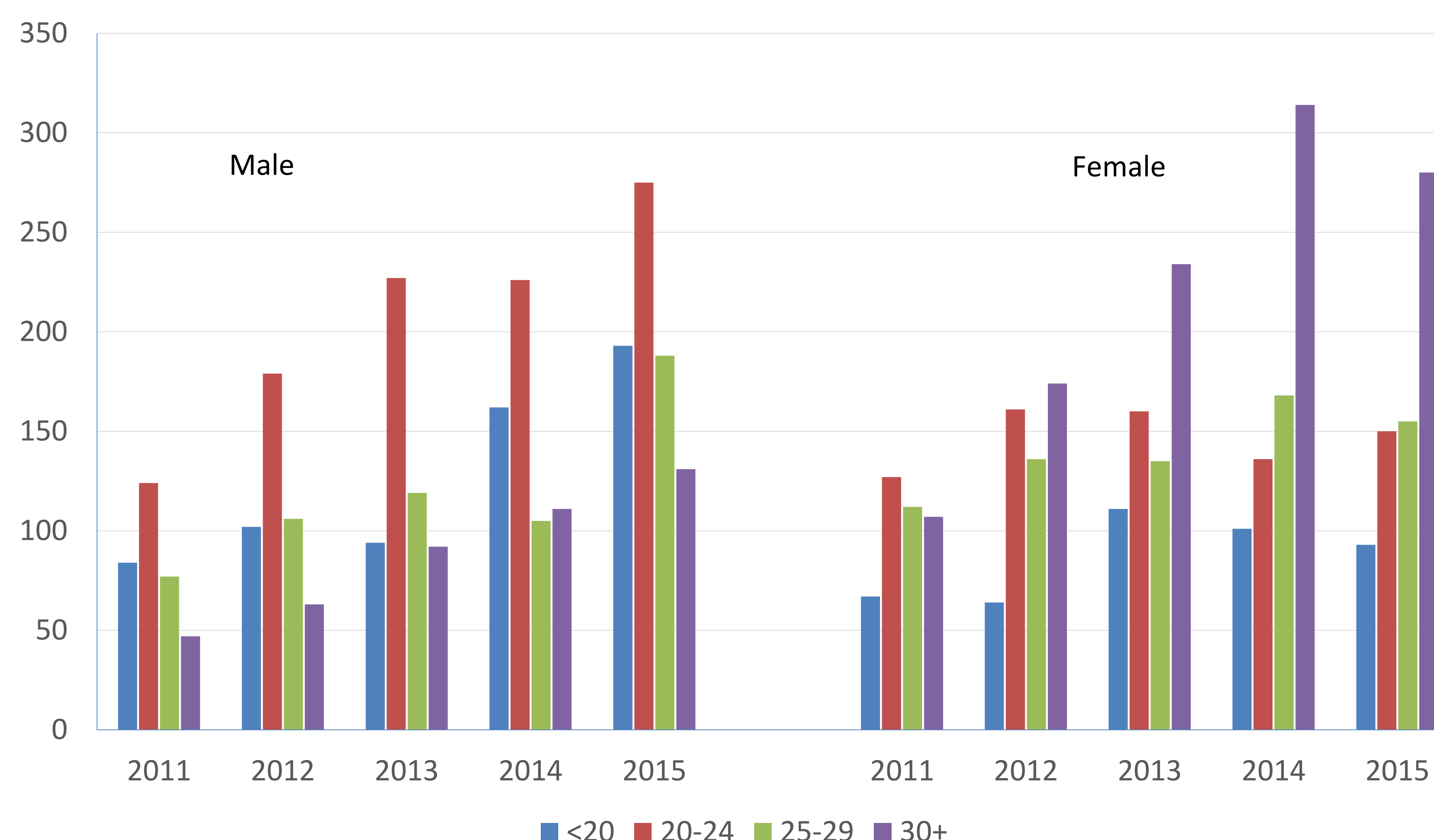
Trend in STI rate by ethnicity



Key findings

- During the study period, there were 6,427,712 visits of which 9620 visits had a STI diagnostic code
- Chlamydia was the most common STI in both males (32%) and females (50%); HPV accounted for 40% of total STI cases among females
- Overall prevalence (per 100,000 visits) was 161 in males and 139 in females, which varied greatly by schools from 8 to 478
- There was a rising trend in STI rate with a steeper increase among males from 96 to 226 compared to from 110 to 147 among females
- Male students aged 20-24 had the highest STI rate while female students aged 30 years or older had the highest rate
- Rate among black students was over 2 times higher than other ethnic groups in both sexes

Trend in STI rate by age group



Comments

- The overall rising trend was consistent with the 2010-2014 national trend
- The distribution of STIs by age, sex, and race were also similar to the national surveillance data: e.g., the rate was highest among the 20-24 age group in males, highest in black students
- The rate was much smaller than the national surveillance data since this data were collected from a single data source, while national data were based on multiple sources: STI and non-STI clinics, Family Planning Clinics, ED
- The rising trend may indicate that more STI tests were performed to screen asymptomatic STI patients (i.e., Chlamydia) or more students had STI symptoms and were given a test, not necessarily indicating an actual increase in STI prevalence among students attending student health center clinics
- There was a great variation in the STI rate among 24 schools suggesting the variation in the capacity of student health centers to provide STI tests or to provide an appropriate diagnostic code when an STI was detected
- There was a great need to standardize coding and recording of STIs at the student health center clinics so that the data can be a reliable measure of STIs