

## AIDS – HIV – STD’s

Despite the burdens, costs, complications, and preventable nature of STD’s, they remain a significant public health problem, largely unrecognized by the public, policymakers, and public health and health care professionals in the United States. STD’s cause many harmful, often irreversible, and costly clinical complications, such as reproductive health problems, fetal and perinatal health problems, and cancer. In addition, studies of the worldwide human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) pandemic link other STD’s to a causal chain of events in the sexual transmission of HIV infection.<sup>12</sup>

### Data Analysis

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#### AIDS Mortality

Total cases, 2000–2002	
<b>Tompkins</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Cayuga .....	3
Cortland .....	1
Tioga.....	2
Broome .....	11
Jefferson.....	1
Oneida .....	8
Onondaga.....	33

The face of AIDS and HIV in Tompkins County appears to be contradictory when viewed using the county and regional comparisons employed throughout this document — Cayuga, Cortland and Tioga counties, the total for the 11-county Central New York (CNY) region,<sup>13</sup> and the total for New York State (NYS.)

In the comparison, Tompkins County has the lowest death rate from AIDS — half of the rate for Cortland, and one quarter of that for Cayuga, for Tioga and for CNY. Yet the statistics for the comparison group puts Tompkins in the mid-range for AIDS cases, and near the top for incidence of newborns that test positive for HIV antibodies, the latter indicating infection of the mother and possibly the infant.<sup>14</sup> (See *Figure 84 through Figure 87, pages 109–110.*)

#### AIDS Cases

Rate per 100,000 pop, 2000–2002	
<b>Tompkins</b> .....	<b>4.4</b>
Cayuga .....	7.4
Cortland .....	3.4
Tioga.....	1.3
CNY .....	6.0
NYS .....	25.5

The caveat is however that statistics expressed as rates per 100,000 population should always be interpreted cautiously in situations where the actual numbers are low. In the case of AIDS deaths over the 3-year rating period 2000–2002, there were just 23 deaths among the almost 1 million population of CNY excluding Onondaga County. Onondaga, with close to half-a-million residents, tallied 33 AIDS deaths 2000–2002.

One of the CNY AIDS deaths was in Tompkins County, which also recorded 13 AIDS cases and 2 HIV-positive newborns over the 3-year rating period. Over the 10-year period 1993–2002 Tompkins County showed a marked drop in the number of AIDS deaths. This pattern was consistent with the trend across all of Upstate (see *Figure 85, page 109.*)

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<sup>12</sup> Healthy People 2010

<sup>13</sup> CNY region counties are Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Tompkins. Tioga is in the “New York–Penn” region along with Broome and Chenango.

<sup>14</sup> NYSDOH tests specimens from the Newborn Screening Program for HIV antibodies. The seropositive rate is the percent of positive results. The presence of HIV antibodies in newborns indicates infection of the mother and not necessarily infection of the infant.

**Syphilis Incidence**

The incidence of Early Syphilis across Central New York is extremely rare outside of Onondaga County. In the 3 years of 2000–2002, NYS Department of Health (DOH) data shows 21 CNY cases, 15 of which were in Onondaga. This source also shows that CNY had no Early Syphilis cases among youth age 15–19 years. (See *Figure 89 and Figure 90, pages 111 and 112.*)

Congenital Syphilis is expressed as a rate per 100,000 births. In all of CNY 2000–2002, just one case was reported — in Cortland County. (See *Figure 91, page 112.*)

Another source of Syphilis incidence is the Tompkins County Health Department annual report. This data shows that total Syphilis incidence dropped dramatically from 1992–2000, then began an upswing 2001–2003. Again, the numbers are not high — 3 cases in 2003 — but the new trend should be noted. (See *Figure 88, page 111.*)

**Gonorrhea Incidence**

In Upstate New York, Gonorrhea incidence appears to be highest in counties with major urban areas such as Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse and Albany. Monroe County has the highest rate of Gonorrhea incidence statewide, followed by Bronx, Erie and Onondaga. By comparison, the rate of Gonorrhea incidence in Tompkins County is quite low. The pattern is essentially repeated for the age 15–19 population, though the numbers are much higher. (See *Figure 93 and Figure 94, pages 113 and 114.*)

Tompkins County Health Department data shows that locally, Gonorrhea cases have varied widely over the 13 years 1999–2003, from 61 cases in 1999 to 15 cases in 2003. The average during this period was 34 cases per year. (See *Figure 92, page 113.*)

**Chlamydial Infections**

Though state DOH data on Chlamydial infections are not available — Chlamydial infections became a reportable disease in September 2002 — local health department records show a dramatic increase in this STD from 1999–2003. (See *Figure 95, page 114.*)

**Pelvic Inflammatory Disease**

Discharge rate /100,000 females age 15–44.

<b>Tompkins</b> .....	<b>30.8</b>
Yates .....	81.4
Franklin.....	71.1

The state also tracks Pelvic Inflammatory Disease with STD's. Hospital discharge rates for this condition among women of child-bearing age were in steady decline across Upstate 1993–2002, yet took an upswing locally in the early part of this decade (see *Figure 96 and Figure 97, page 115.*) Interestingly, the highest Upstate rates appear in the very rural Yates and Franklin Counties.

**Safe sex among adults**

One of the questions of the expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2003 survey asked if a medical professional has ever counseled on condom use for STD prevention. Local results

are shown in *Figure 98, page 116*. While the percent of those responding “yes” was higher for Cortland-Tompkins — the BRFSS grouped the two counties as a way to help control for the error inherent in small population samples — than for other counties close-by, it is still quite low, and 25 percent less than for the state as a whole.

The BRFSS survey data also indicates that in the Tompkins-Cortland bi-county region more than 4 out of 5 adults age 18-64 are sexually active. (*See Table 11, page 116.*)

## Community Resources

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### STD testing and treatment

Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes provides STD testing and treatment for men and women. TCHD contracts with the agency to provide those services for its eligible clients. Planned Parenthood also provides confidential HIV testing and counseling.

### HIV testing and counseling

Gannett Health Center at Cornell University and Hammond Health Center at Ithaca College provide STD, sometimes referred to as STI (sexually transmitted infections), testing and treatment for their student populations. The health centers also provides confidential HIV testing and counseling.

TCHD provides free and anonymous testing on site and at sites in the community. There were no positive results in 2003 as reported in TCHD’s annual report.

### HIV case management services

In 2002, AIDS WORK merged with the Southern Tier AIDS Program (STAP). In March of 2005, the agency reported that it was providing case management services to 43 HIV positive clients from Tompkins and Cortland Counties. And 62 participants were enrolled in STAP’s syringe exchange program.

### Syringe exchange program

Figures and Tables

Figure 84 — AIDS mortality, regional comparisons

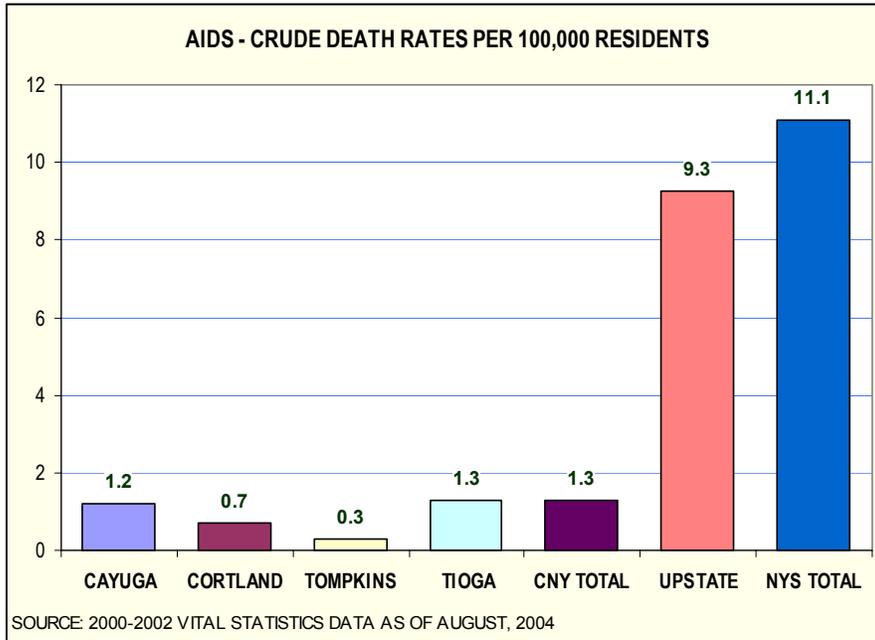


Figure 85 — AIDS Mortality, 10-year trend

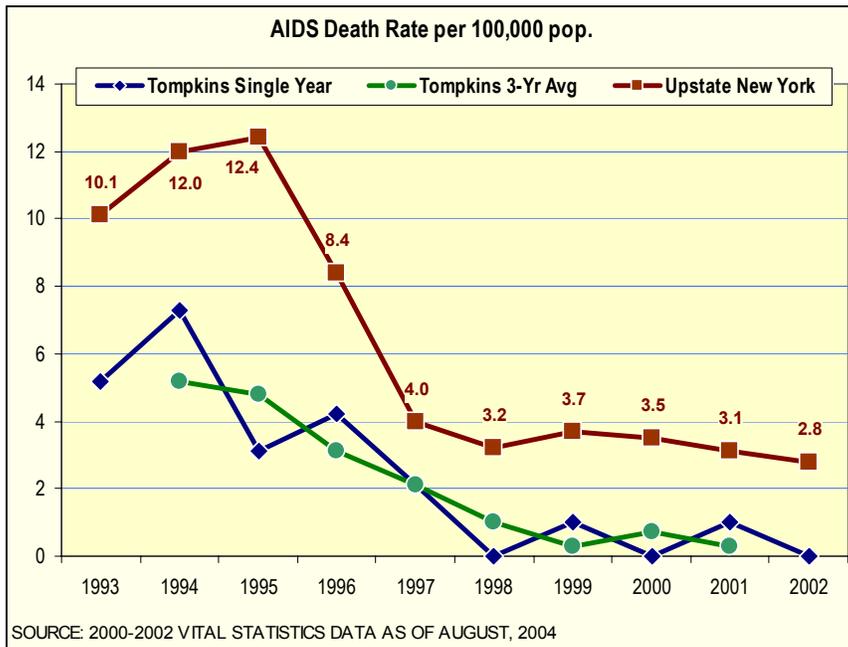


Figure 86 — AIDS Cases, regional comparisons

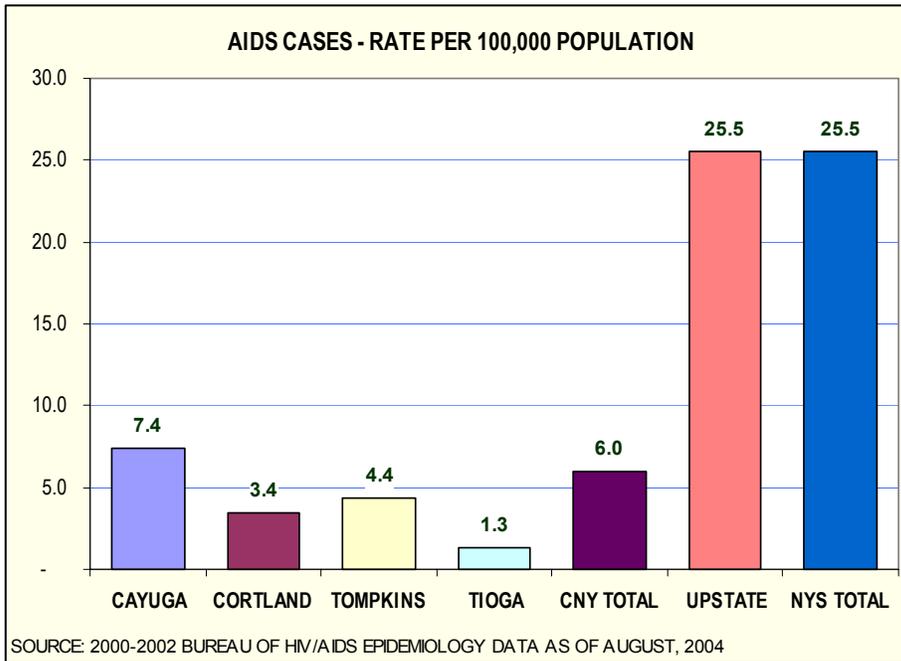


Figure 87 — Newborns testing positive for HIV antibodies, regional comparisons

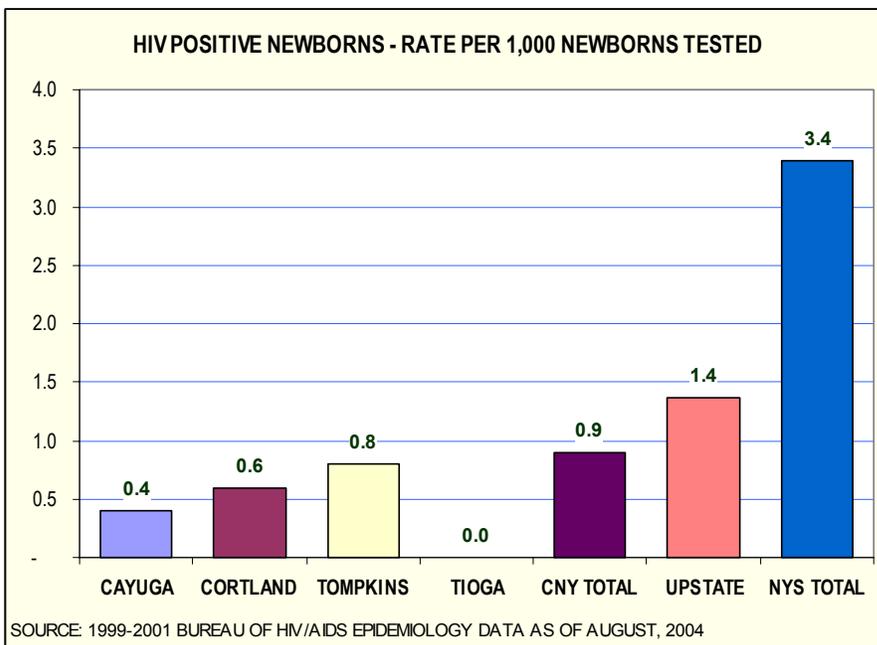


Figure 88 — Syphilis cases, Tompkins County 13-year trend

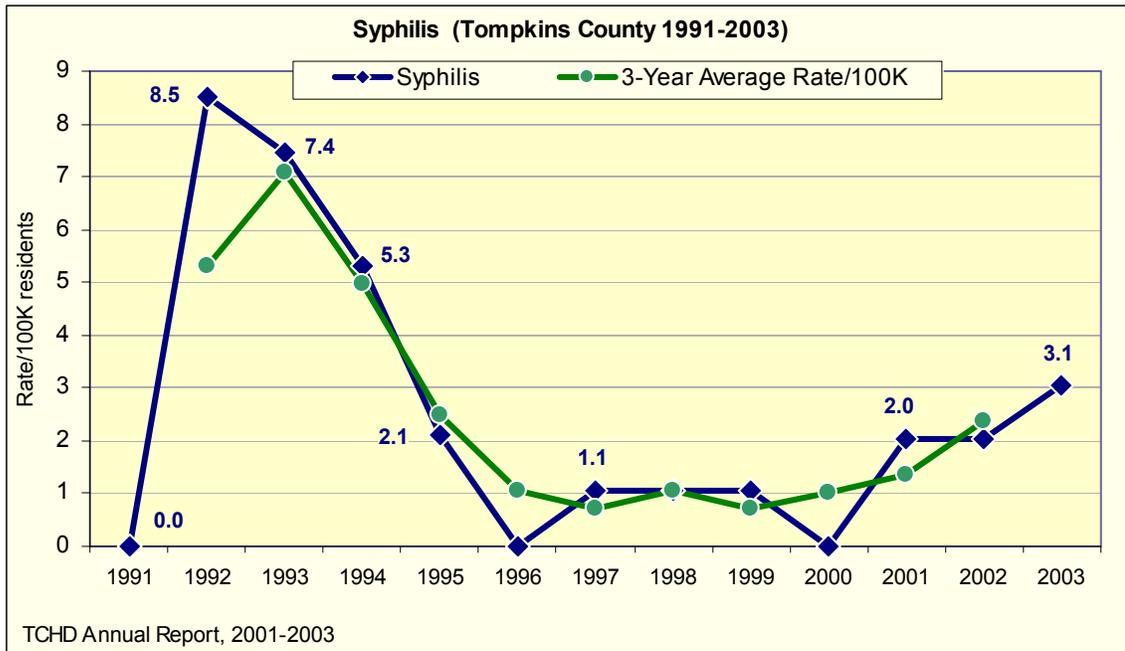


Figure 89 — Early syphilis incidence, regional comparison

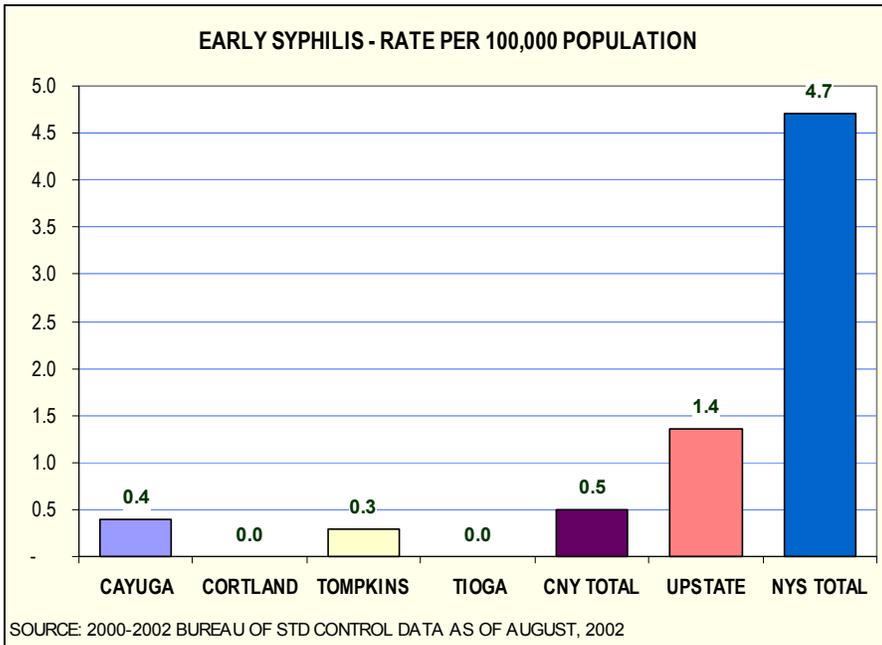


Figure 90 — Early syphilis incidence, Ages 15–19, regional comparison

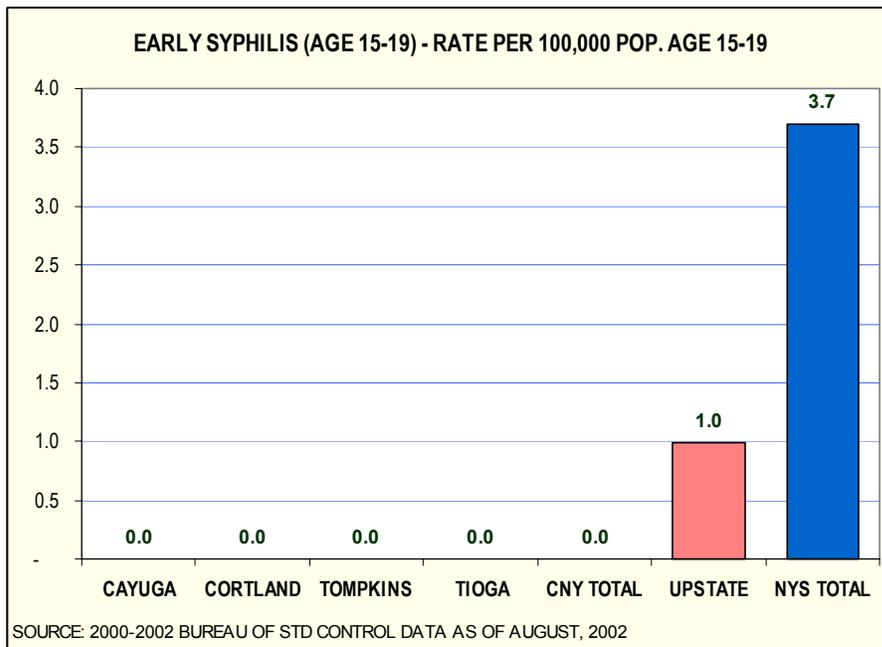


Figure 91 — Cortland County recorded a single case of congenital syphilis in 2002.

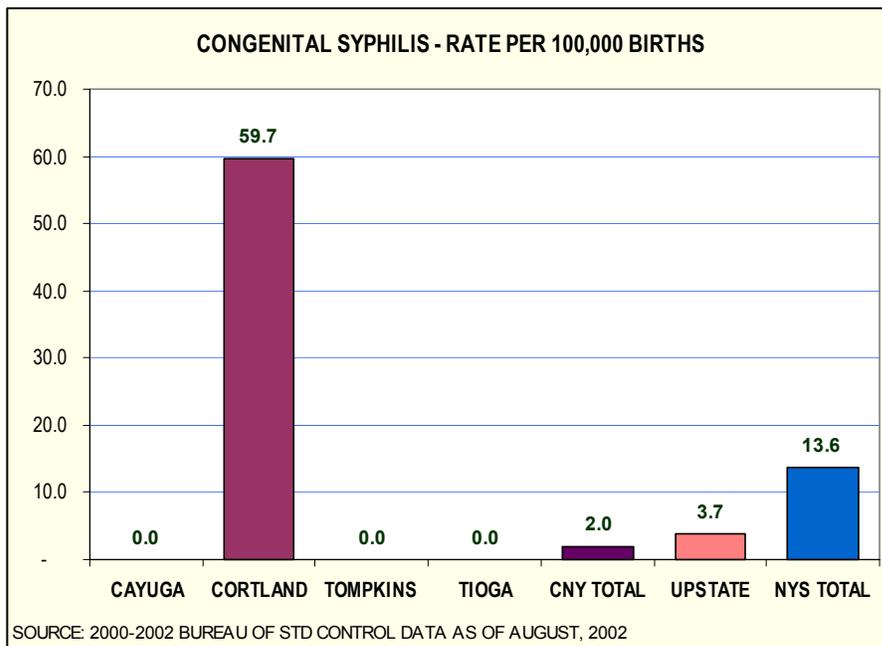


Figure 92 — Tompkins County averaged 34 gonorrhea cases per year 1991–2003.

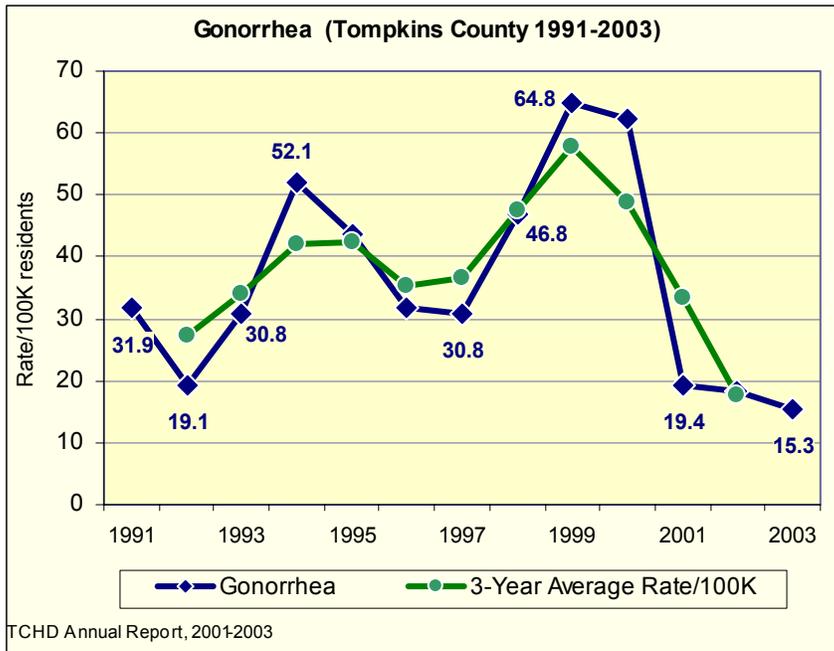


Figure 93 — Gonorrhea cases, regional comparison

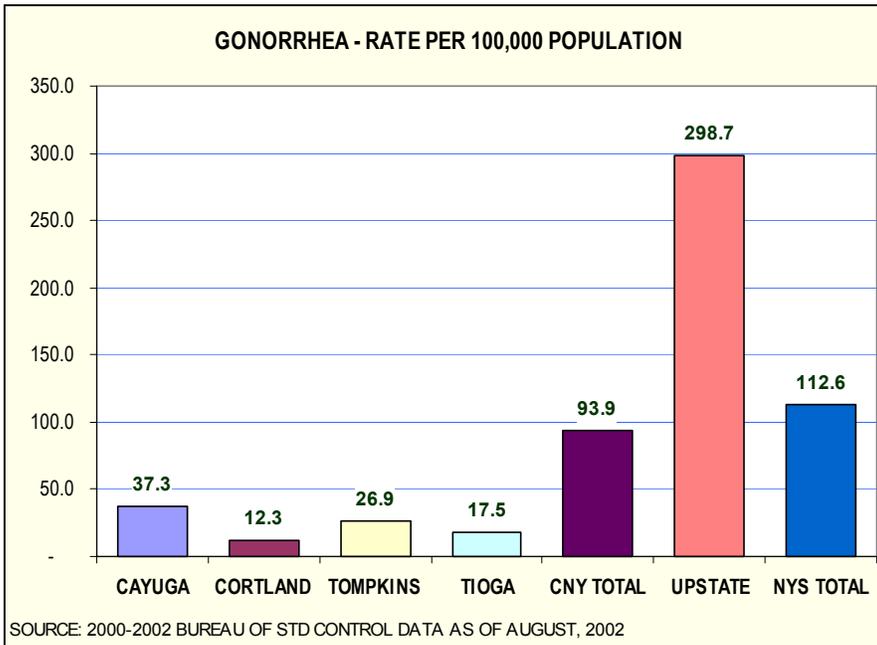


Figure 94 — Gonorrhea cases ages 15–19 years, regional comparisons

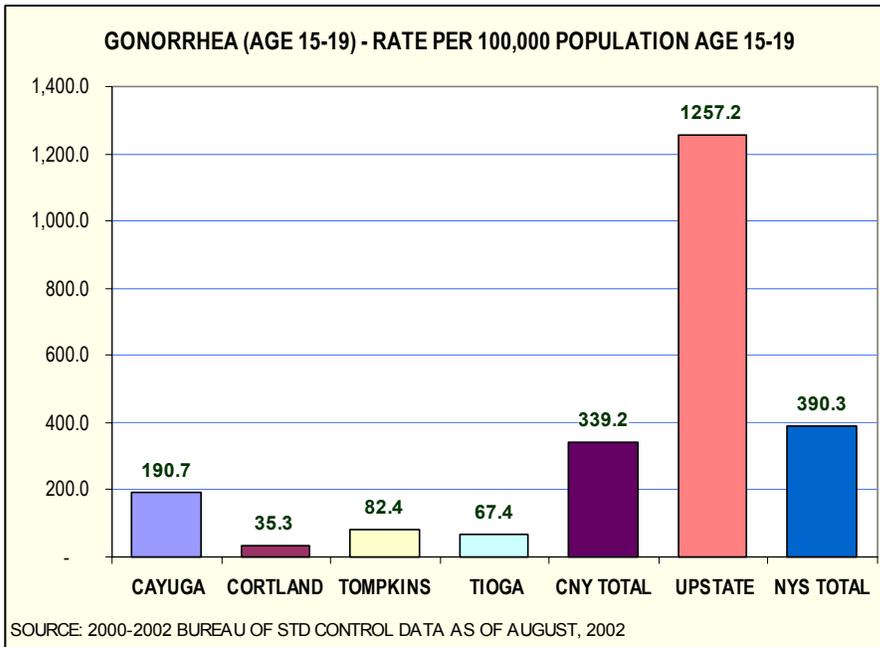


Figure 95 — Chlamydial infections, Tompkins County 1991–2003

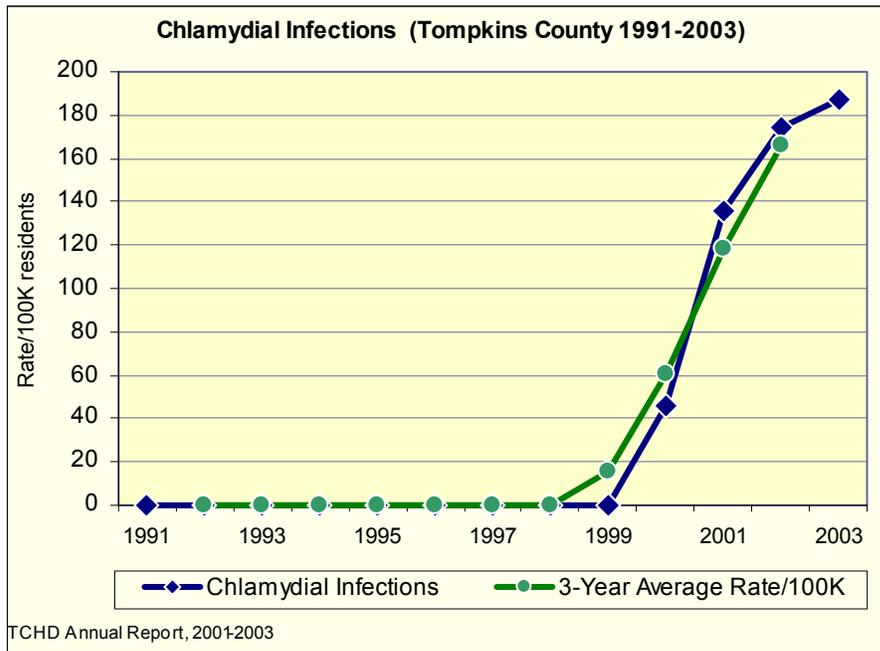


Figure 96 — Pelvic inflammatory disease hospitalizations, regional comparison

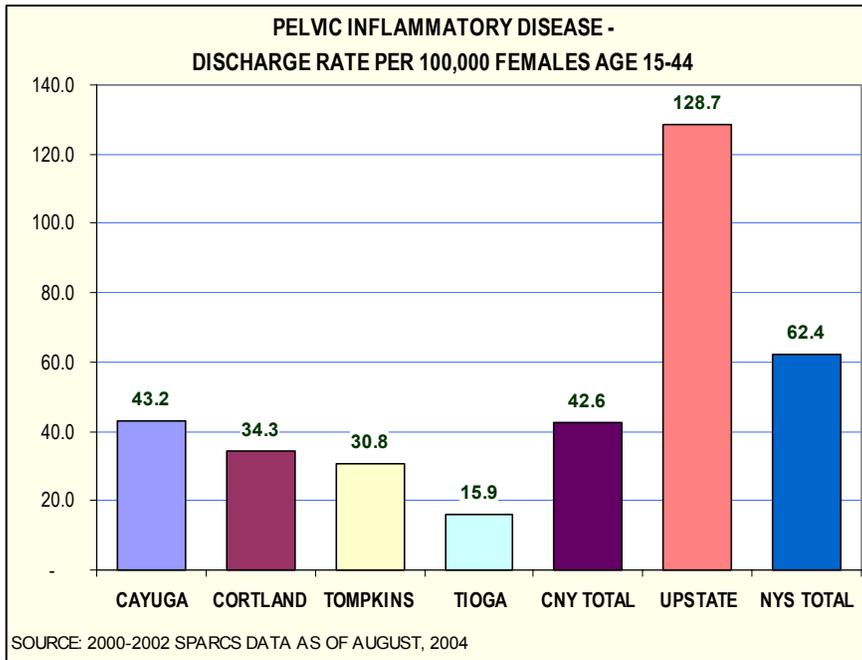


Figure 97 — Pelvic inflammatory disease hospitalizations, 10-year trend

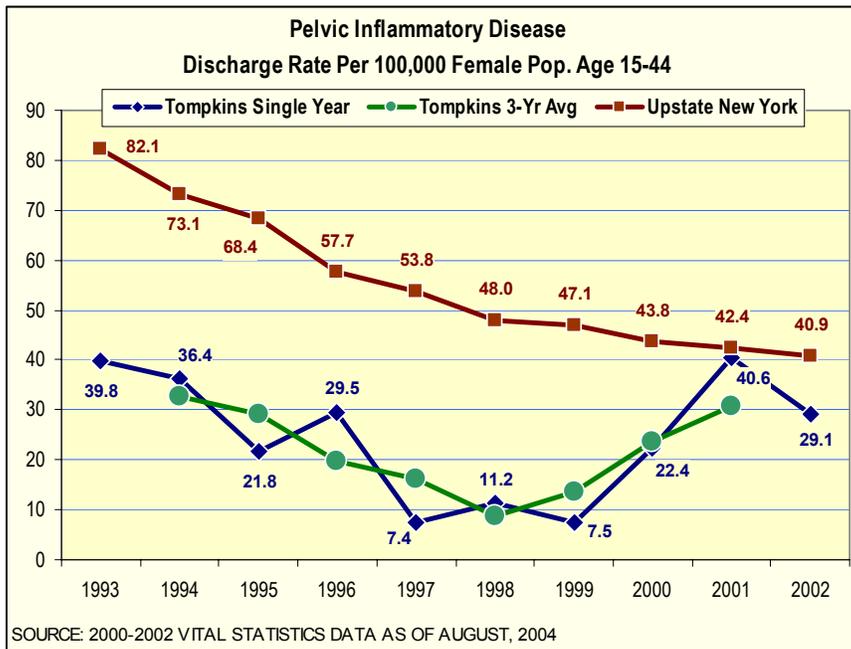


Figure 98 — Occurrence of STD prevention counseling, regional comparison

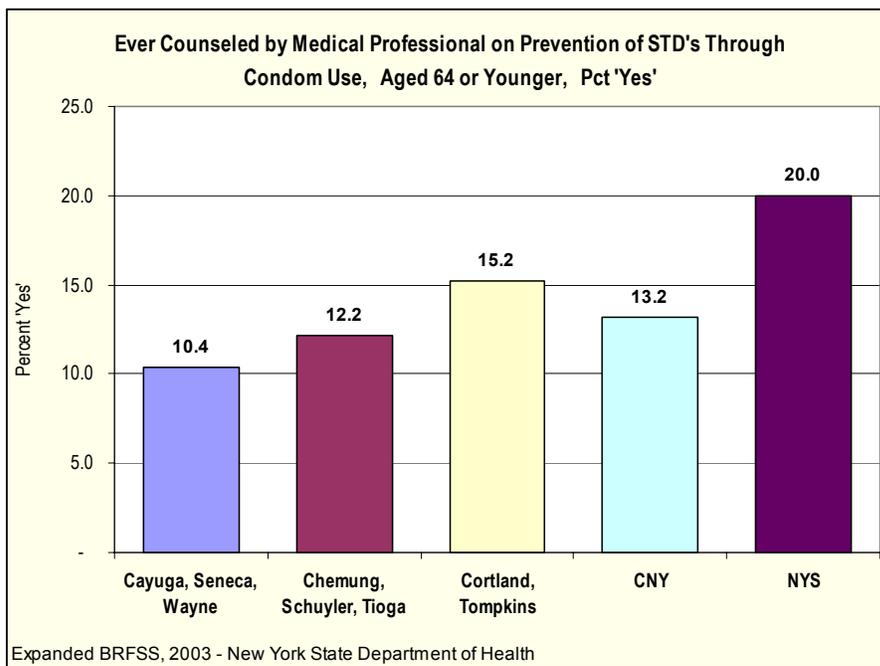


Table 11 — Percent sexually active individuals, Cortland–Tompkins

**Sexually Active, Age 18-64 Years Old****CORTLAND, TOMPKINS 2003**

Dem Groups	n <sup>1</sup>	Yes % <sup>2</sup>	n	No %	C.I. <sup>3</sup>
Total	389	82.7	102	17.3	4.0
Male	175	83.7	40	16.3	5.7
Female	214	81.7	62	18.3	5.5
18-34	141	82.2	32	17.8	6.5
35-54	190	88.2	36	11.8	4.1
55+	58	71.2	34	28.8	9.5
HS or less	113	82.1	33	17.9	7.0
>High School	276	82.9	69	17.1	4.8

Expanded BRFSS, 2003 - NYS Dept of Health

<sup>1</sup>Use pcts based on row denominators <50 with caution<sup>2</sup>Weighted Percent<sup>3</sup>95% Confidence Interval