

Broward Regional Health Planning Council Fact Sheet

Sexually Transmitted Infections

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are more than **30 different** bacteria, viruses and parasites known to be transmitted through sexual contact (otherwise known as sexually transmitted infections or STIs). Of the most prevalent STIs, there are **only 4 that are currently curable: syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia and trichomoniasis.**

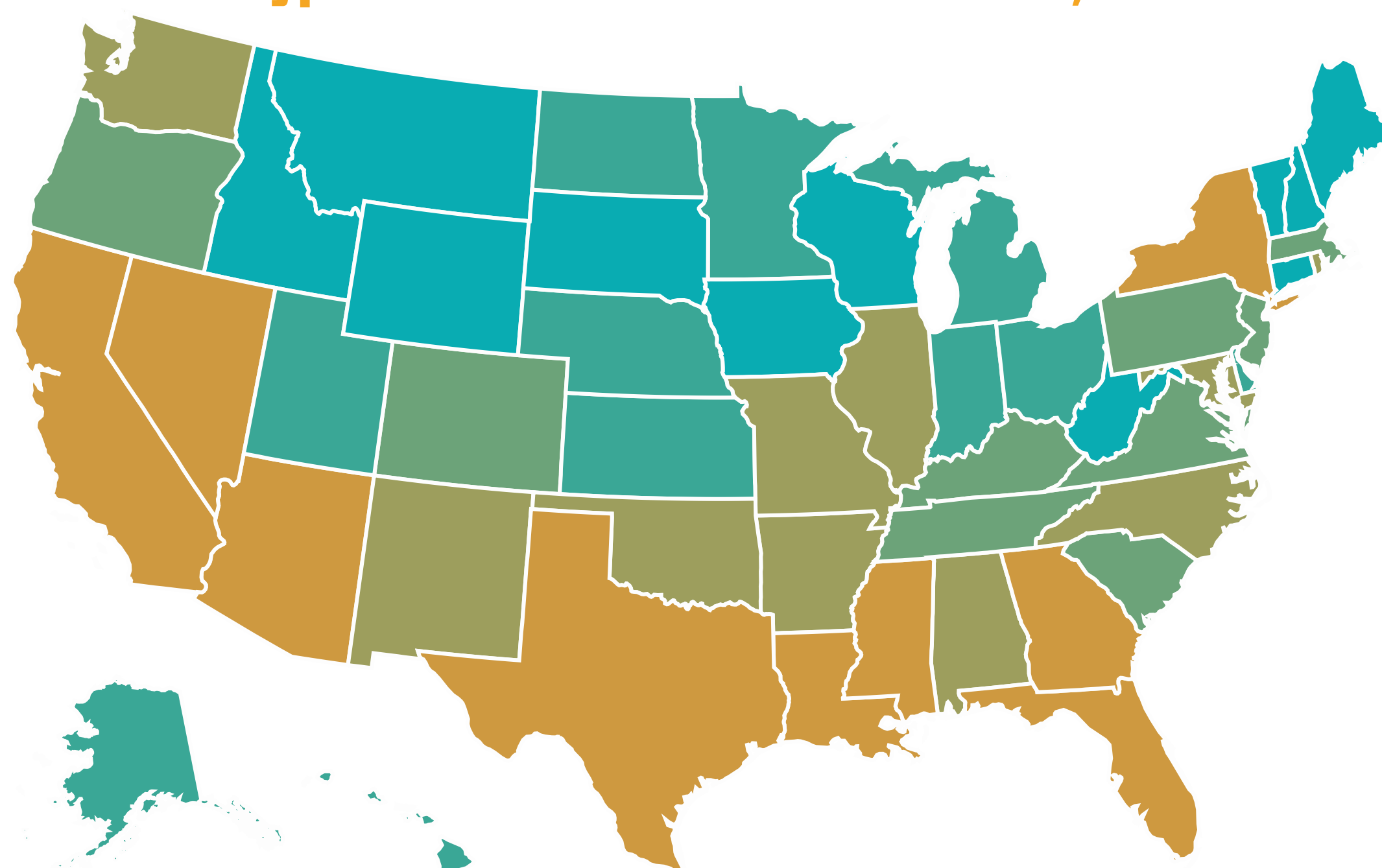
Although STIs are predominantly spread through sexual contact, they can also be spread through blood or from mother to child during pregnancy. ¹

National Trends

Recent reports show that **the rates of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia reached record highs in 2018.** Nationwide, chlamydia increased by 3%, gonorrhea by 5% and syphilis by 15%. Below are maps displaying syphilis and HIV rates by state. **Excluding the District of Columbia which has a rate of 109.9, the five states with the highest syphilis rates are: Nevada (66.7), California (63.9), Louisiana (58.6), New York (51.3) and Florida (51.0).**¹

HIV/AIDS have had a significant impact on the United States particularly in the **south which accounts for more than nearly half of the diagnoses for the country.** Since the first U.S. cases of HIV/AIDS became known in the 1980s, many medical advances have been made to reduce the morbidity and mortality of those inflicted with these conditions through Antiretroviral Therapy to treat and reduce viral loads and preventive measures such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the probability of disease transmission. **Excluding the District of Columbia which has a rate of 46.3, new HIV diagnoses are highest in the following states: Georgia (24.9), Florida (22.9), Louisiana (22.1), Maryland (17.0) and Nevada (16.5).**²

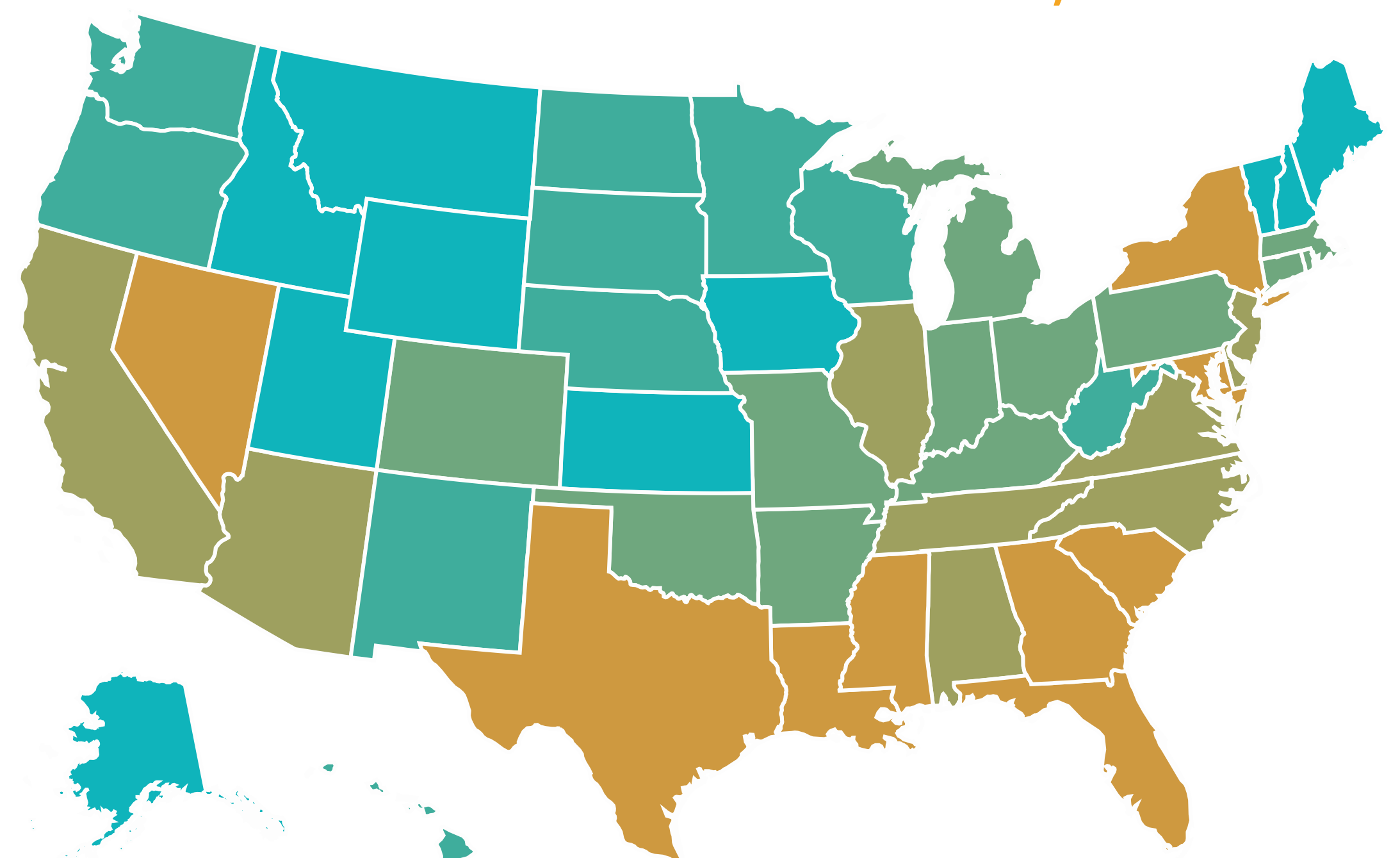
Syphilis Rates in the United States, 2018



Legend for Syphilis Rates (per 100,000):
Light blue: < 11.06
Medium blue: 11.06 - 17.38
Dark blue: 17.38 - 25.78
Light green: 25.78 - 43.46
Dark green: > 43.46

*Rate per 100,000


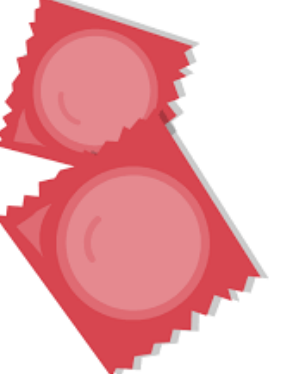

HIV Rates in the United States, 2017







Legend for HIV Rates (per 100,000):
Light blue: < 4.14
Medium blue: 4.14 - 6.56
Dark blue: 6.56 - 9.82
Light green: 9.82 - 13.9
Dark green: > 13.9

*Rate per 100,000

Possible Reasons for National Increase

-  Opioid use lowers inhibitions and makes users less likely to practice safe sex
-  Recent advances to prevent the transmission of STIs, including PrEP, have made people less afraid of contracting STIs and more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviors
-  Funding cuts for STI programs leading to clinic closure, has led to reducing the number of people being diagnosed and subsequently treated.

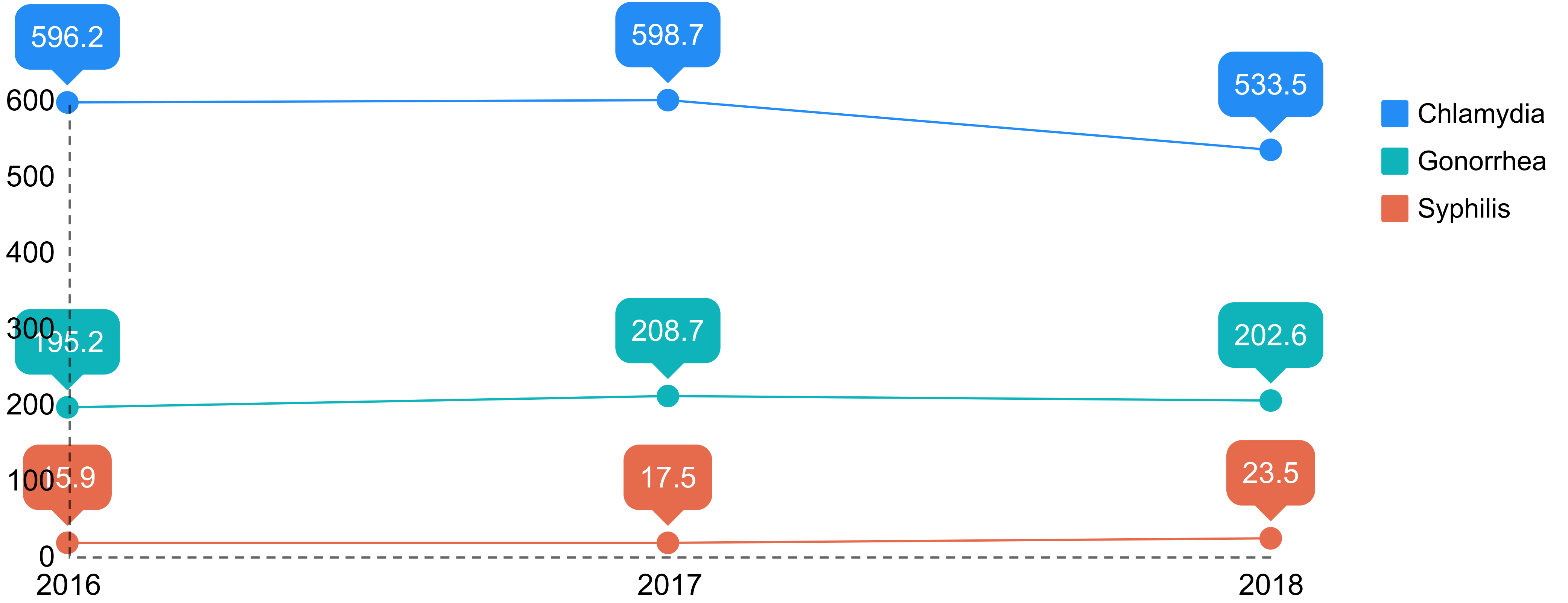
Implications of STI Increases

-  Rise in infertility rates
-  Rise in miscarriage, stillbirths and birth defects
-  Cardiovascular complications
-  Neurological conditions including dementia

Broward Trends

Broward County has had a long history of high rates of sexually transmitted diseases, as well as, HIV/AIDS. Overall, similar to the country, Broward has experienced an increase in the overall rate of STIs from 2016 to 2018 (specifically chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhea) going from **800.4 to 892.2**.³

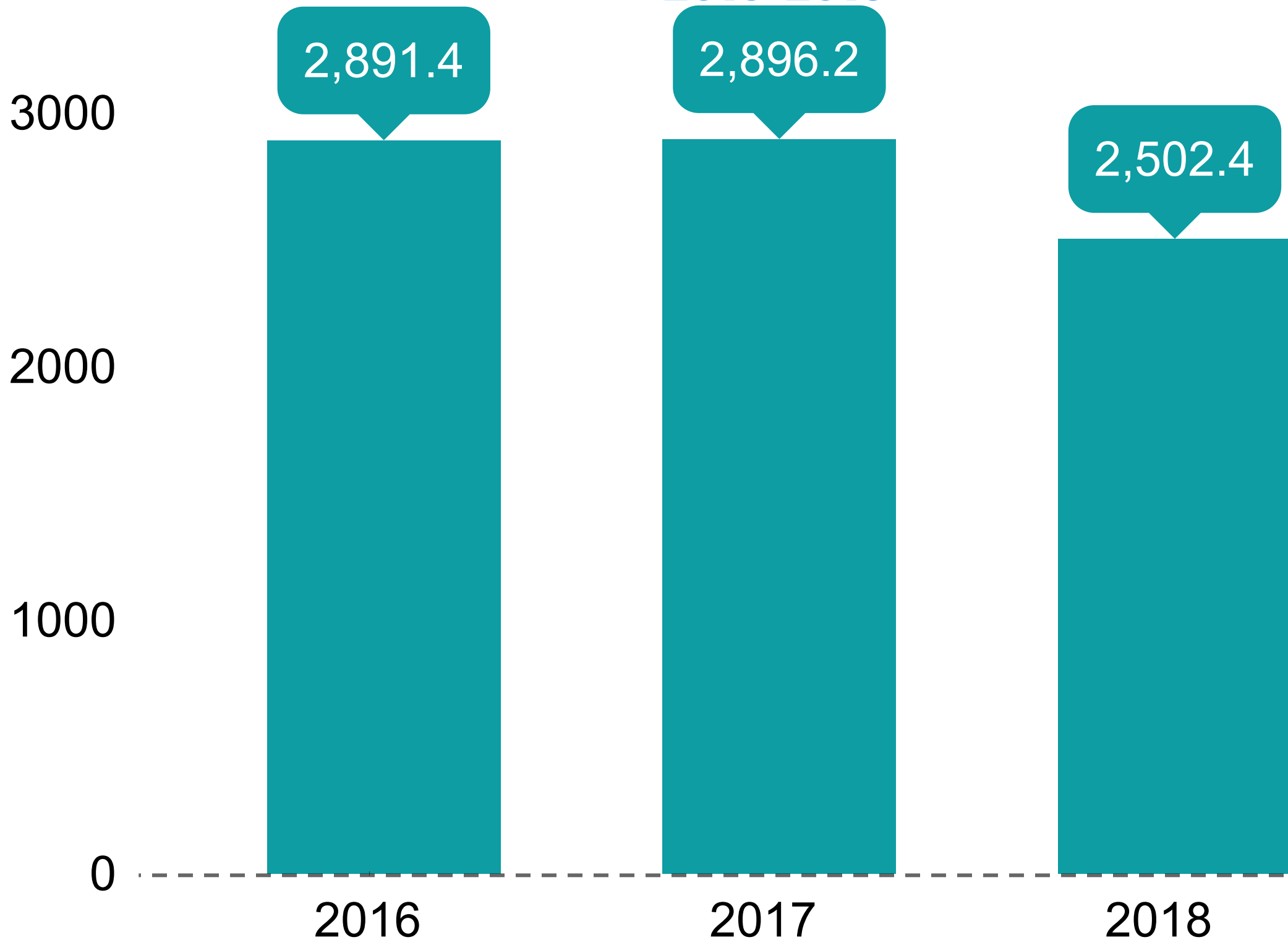
Total Sexually Transmitted Infections in Broward, 2016-2018



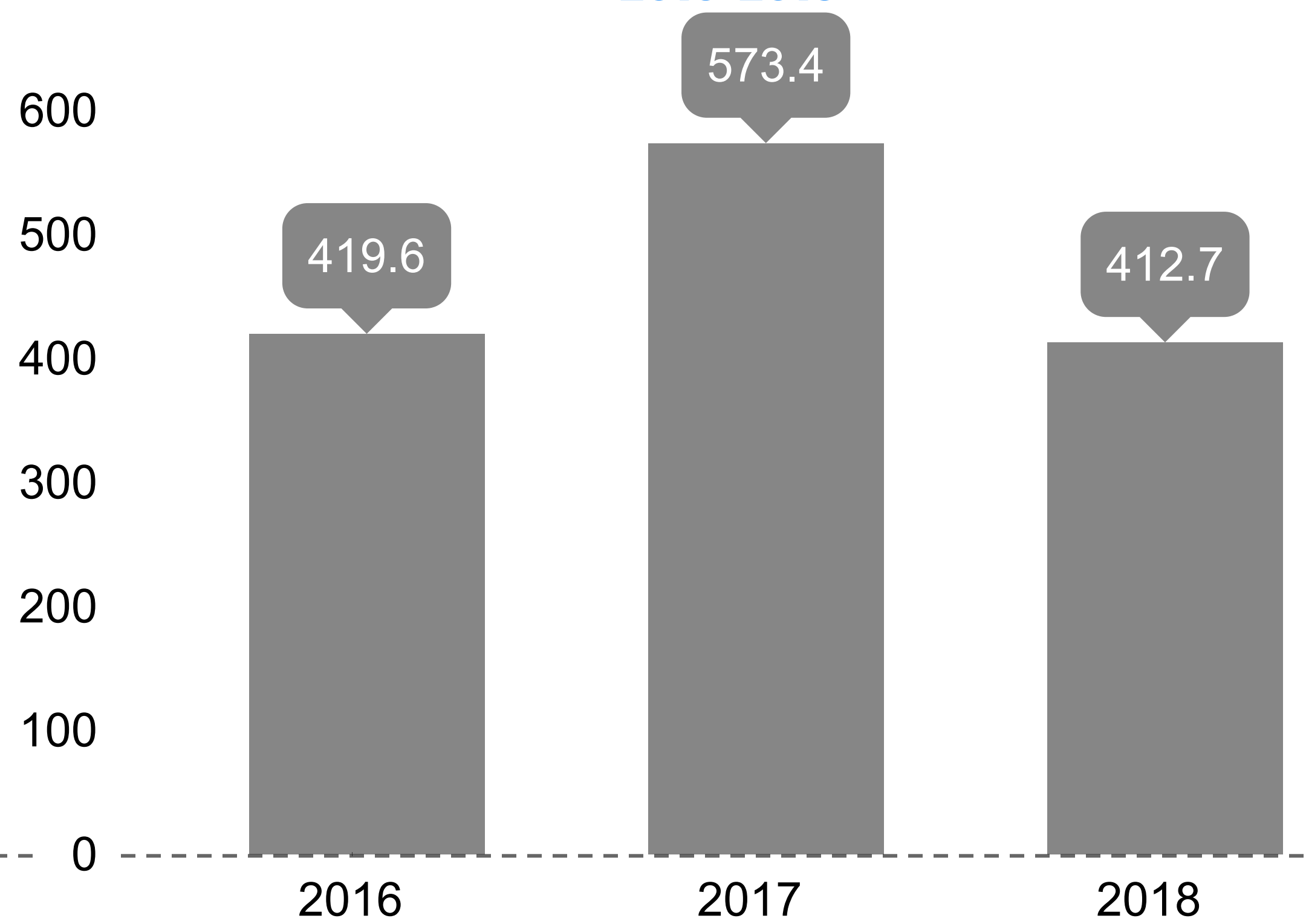
The Most Vulnerable Population: Female Teenagers

The 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that Broward County **high school aged females had a higher rate of not using a condom during their last sexual encounter** compared to high school males (62.1% vs. 25.6%).⁴ This can be a clue as to why the rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea are so much higher among females between 14-19 compared to the total population.

Chlamydia Rates, 14-19 Year Old Females in Broward 2016-2018



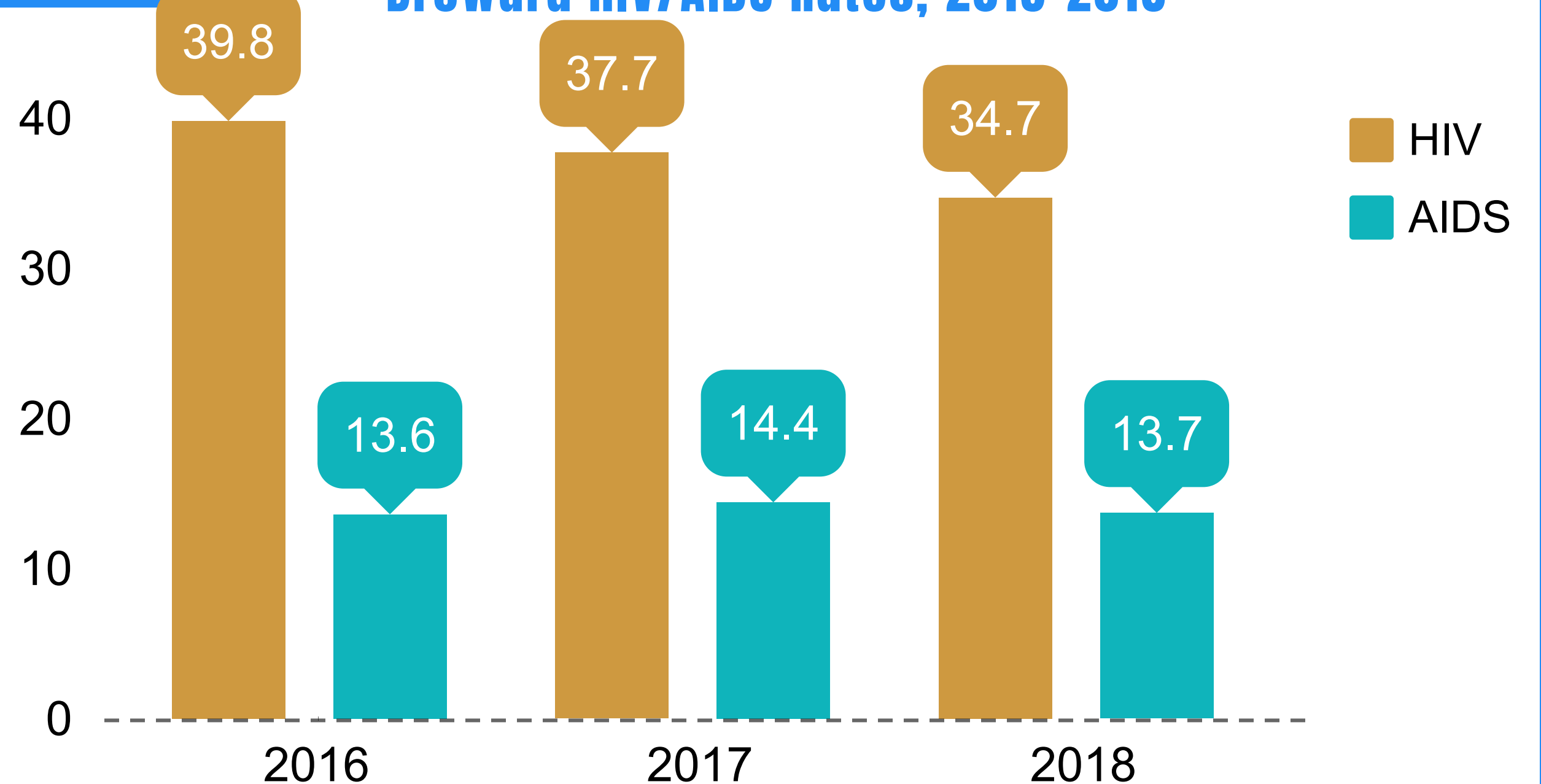
Gonorrhea Rates, 14-19 Year Old Females in Broward 2016-2018



HIV and AIDS

Broward County has a long history of high rates of HIV and AIDS. Despite the high rates compared to the rest of the country, **Broward has had significant decreases in HIV and AIDS in recent years.** There have been a number of programs established locally to decrease the number of new cases of HIV/AIDS through prevention education and campaigns targeted to destigmatize these conditions, promote testing and inform individuals about how to best manage their health.

Broward HIV/AIDS Rates, 2016-2018



For more information, please email: sfowlkes@brhpc.org

Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to delivering health and human service innovations at a national, state and local level through planning, direct services, evaluation and organizational capacity building. For additional information, please visit www.BRHPC.org. The entire **Broward County Health Plan** is available online (www.BRHPC.org).

Sources: (1) Centers for Disease Control, (2) Kaiser Family Foundation (3) Florida Charts (4) CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey