



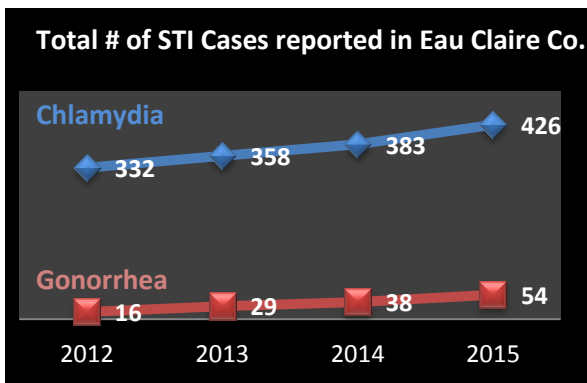
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Talk.Test.Treat
April is STI Awareness Month

Eau Claire, WI, April 5th, 2016- As rates of both chlamydia and gonorrhea continue to rise in Eau Claire County, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department is reminding individuals to pay attention to their sexual health during STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) Awareness Month as part of their *Get Yourself Tested* Campaign. To prevent STIs, individuals need to know how to **talk** about them, when to **test** for them, and how to **treat** them.



STIs are among the most common infectious diseases. Annually, an estimated 19.7 million sexually transmitted infections occur in the United States alone. Recent CDC data for three nationally-reported STIs—chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis—show cases of all three diseases increasing for the first time since 2006. The data for Eau Claire County also reflects the upward trend--the total number of cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea has been on the rise with 332 cases of chlamydia in 2012 to 426 cases in 2015 and 16 cases of gonorrhea in 2012 to 54 cases in 2015.

The good news is that STIs are preventable! The only way to completely avoid getting an STI is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex. If you are sexually active, or thinking of becoming sexually active, there are steps to take to minimize the potential negative, long-term consequences of these infections.

- **Talk-** It is important to talk with your partner about when they were last tested. Knowing you and your partners testing status is important. Suggest getting tested together.
- **Test-** Getting tested is the only way you know for sure if you have an STI. Many STIs can be easily diagnosed and treated.
- **Treat-** If either you or your partner is infected, both of you need to receive treatment (if available) at the same time to avoid getting re-infected.

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department Family Planning Clinic offers STI testing and treatment at low or no cost to you. The clinic also provides clients with a variety of birth control options and pregnancy testing. For more information, please visit www.ehealthdepartment.org or call 715-839-6988 to make an appointment. To learn more about STIs, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/sam/>.

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