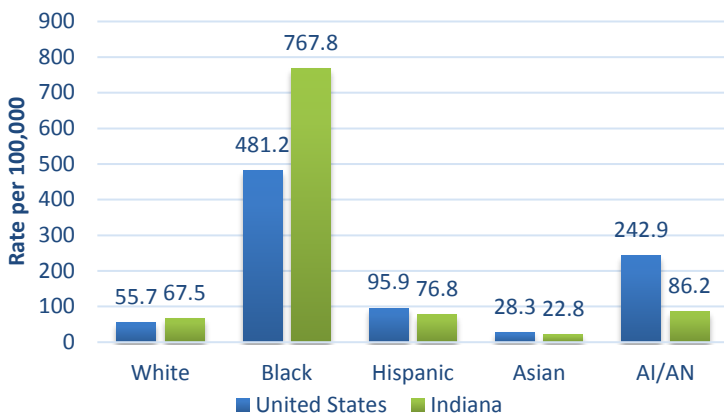




What are health disparities?

According to Healthy People 2020, a health disparity is “a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.”¹ One of the most important goals of public health is reducing health disparities in favor of health equity, where everyone is in a position to be as healthy as possible, regardless of background.

Figure 2. Gonorrhea Rates by Race, United States and Indiana, 2016



Expedited Partner Therapy

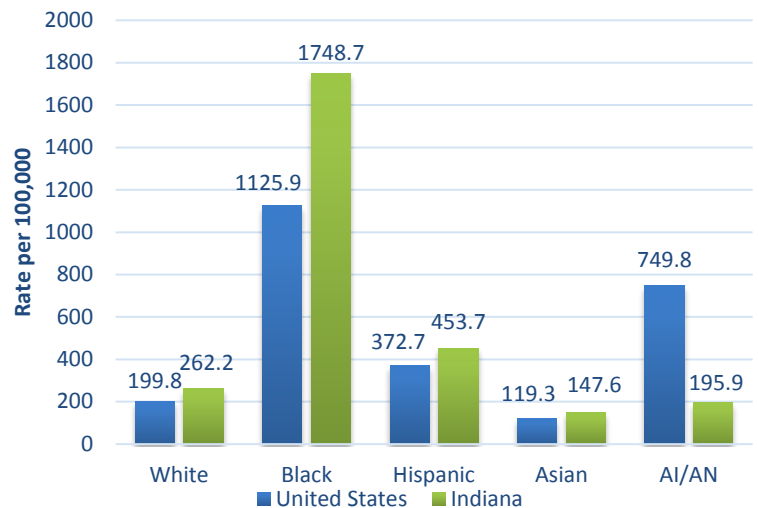
For populations that have difficulty accessing health care, EPT can be a critical asset to disrupting disease transmission within the population. Indiana practitioners may legally prescribe antibiotics to any exposed sex partners who are unable to seek treatment.² Prescriptions are to be given to the infected patient for distribution to partners. For more information, visit the Indiana State Department of Health website:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/17440.htm>.

Fast Facts

- Health disparities are not due to ethnicity or heritage, but social conditions such as poverty, race- and sex-based discrimination, and income inequality.¹
- Many racial and ethnic groups have STD rates higher than those of white Americans.⁴
- Latex **condoms** used the right way every time will greatly reduce the chance of infection.¹

Figure 1. Rates of Chlamydia by Race, United States and Indiana, 2016³



STD Disparities in Indiana

Both nationwide and in Indiana, minority populations face a disproportionate burden of the number of reported STDs. The rate of reported chlamydia infections among blacks is 5.6 times that of whites in the United States and 6.7 times higher in Indiana [Fig. 1].^{3,4} For gonorrhea, blacks have a rate 8.6 times whites across the country, and 11.4 times higher than white Hoosiers [Fig. 2].^{3,4} In the United States, race and ethnicity are correlated with determinants of health including high poverty rates, lack of education, unequal access to healthcare, stigma, and racism. These factors can impede the ability to access such services as STD screening.¹

Gonorrhea and HIV Co-infection

Transmission of HIV during sex with an HIV-positive partner is 3 – 5 times more likely when a skin disruption caused by gonorrhea or another STD is present. Black men who have sex with men and black heterosexual women are diagnosed with HIV at rates higher than their counterparts of all other races and ethnicities.⁵

It is recommended that anyone diagnosed with gonorrhea also be tested for HIV.



References

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