

Chlamydia-screening for women under the age of 25 years in Germany – how are we doing?

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Introduction

- The prevalence of *C. trachomatis* in Germany is unknown.
- An annual screening test using urine PCR is available to women <25 years attending a gynecologist since 2008. The screening-uptake is estimated to be ~12%.
- Pregnant women are routinely screened for *C. trachomatis*.
- No *C. trachomatis*-screening available for men.

Objectives:

- To estimate the prevalence of *C. trachomatis* in the general population in Germany
- To investigate whether the current *C. trachomatis* screening approach in Germany targets those most at risk

Methods

Data source 1: National health examination surveys

- Population-based samples of adolescents (KiGGS, 2014-2017) and adults (DEGS, 2008-2011)
- Urine PCR for *C. trachomatis* performed

Analysis: Weighted prevalence estimates with 95% confidence intervals (CI)

Data source 2: Laboratory-based sentinel for *C. trachomatis*

- Covers ~1/3 of all tests performed in Germany
- Collects sex, age, test reason and test result for each test

Analysis: Proportion of positive test-results by age and test reason

Results

Figure 1: Weighted prevalence estimates of *C. trachomatis* from national health survey of adolescent women (n=343) and men (n=276)

*Only 95% CI reported as estimates are based on one case only (n=1)

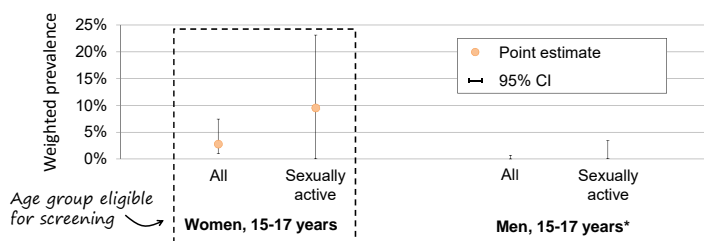
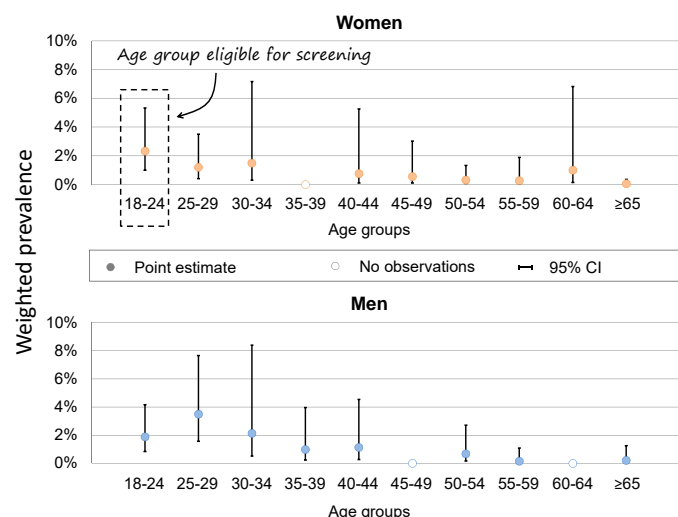


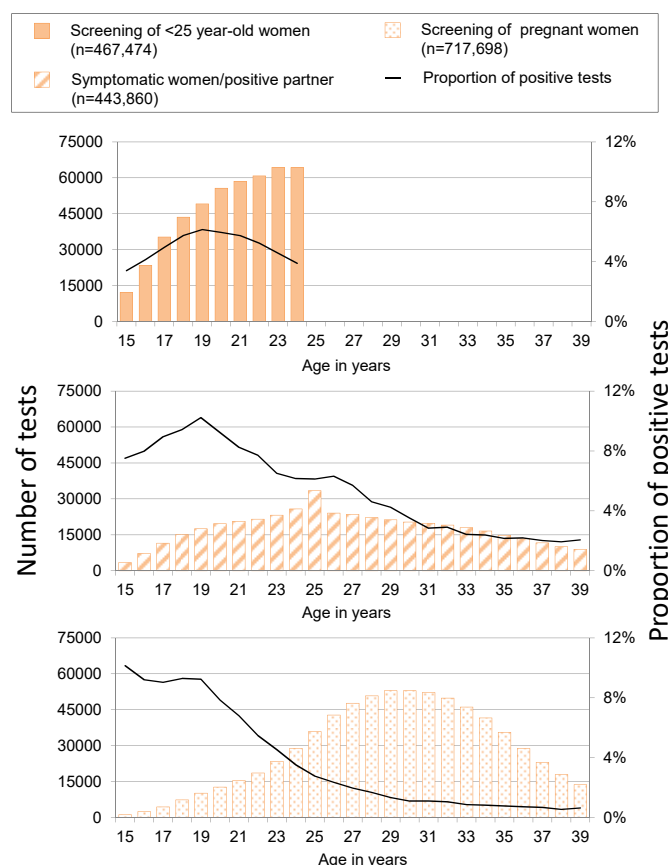
Figure 2: Weighted prevalence estimates with 95% CI of *C. trachomatis* from national health survey of adult women (n=3,535) and men (n=3,264)



Conclusions

- Women aged <25 years in Germany seem to be at highest risk of *C. trachomatis*, but the infection also affects women above this age.
- Men seem to be at least as affected as women, but with the highest prevalence estimates found in slightly older age groups.

Figure 3: Number of tests and proportion of positive tests for *C. trachomatis* in women by test reason, 2014-2016



Recommendations

- Risk-based screening of women ≥25 years of age should be considered (e.g. if new or more than one partner in the last 12 months)
- Screening of men should be considered
- Coverage of screening program for <25 year-old women needs to be improved