

Table 1. Types of data collection systems for monitoring sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), by type of provider, and proportion of diagnosed STD cases that are estimated to be reported by official statistics, all according to country, 1998

Country	National coverage			National sentinel network			Estimated reporting rate	
	Physician	Laboratory	STD clinic	Physician	Laboratory	STD clinic	Syphilis and gonorrhoea	Chlamydia
Belgium	S, G*	No	No	No	G, C†	No	Low*	Low
Canada	S, G, C†	No	No	No	No	No	High	High
Denmark	S, G, C	S, G, C†	u	No	No	No	High	High
England & Wales	No	No	All†	No	All	No	High	Medium
Federal Republic of Germany	S, G†	No	No	S, G	No	No	Low	u
Finland	S, G, C†	No	No	u	S, G, C	u	High	High
France‡	S, G*	No	No	C	G, C	No	Low*	Low
German Democratic Republic§	S, G†	u	u	S, G	u	u	Probably high	u
Netherlands	S, G†	No	No	No	No	No	Low	u
Norway	S, G, C†	S, G, C	u	u	u	u	High	High
Romania§	S, G†	No	No	u	u	No	Probably high	u
Russian Federation§	All†	No	All	u	u	No	Probably high	Probably high
Slovak Republic§	S, G†	No	No	u	No	u	Probably high	u
Sweden	S, G, C†	No	No	u	S, G, C	No	High	High
Switzerland	S, G*	S, G, C†	No	All	No	All	Medium*	Low
United States	S, G, C†	No	No	No	No	No	S: High; G: medium	Medium

*Formal declaration by physicians exists, but is not used as a source of statistics because underreporting is too high to produce reliable data. Other sources (national sentinel network of laboratories for France and Belgium, national laboratory reporting for Switzerland) are used instead in these countries. †Official statistics from this type of data collection system are the basis of estimates presented here for all STDs listed. ‡None of the available sources of data for France have been used directly, as they represent a very low proportion of diagnosed cases. Instead, national estimates are presented for gonorrhoea (1990 and 1996) and chlamydia (1996). Completeness of these estimates is considered to be high for gonorrhoea and medium for chlamydia (because male cases are probably highly underrepresented). §Political, social and administrative changes in the early 1990s may have negatively affected the completeness of reporting. *Notes:* For estimated reporting rates, completeness is classified as low when fewer than 50% of diagnosed cases are estimated to be reported, medium when 50–70% are estimated to be reported and high when more than 70% are estimated to be reported. S=syphilis. G=gonorrhoea. C=chlamydia. All=all common STDs. u=data unavailable or could not be obtained.