

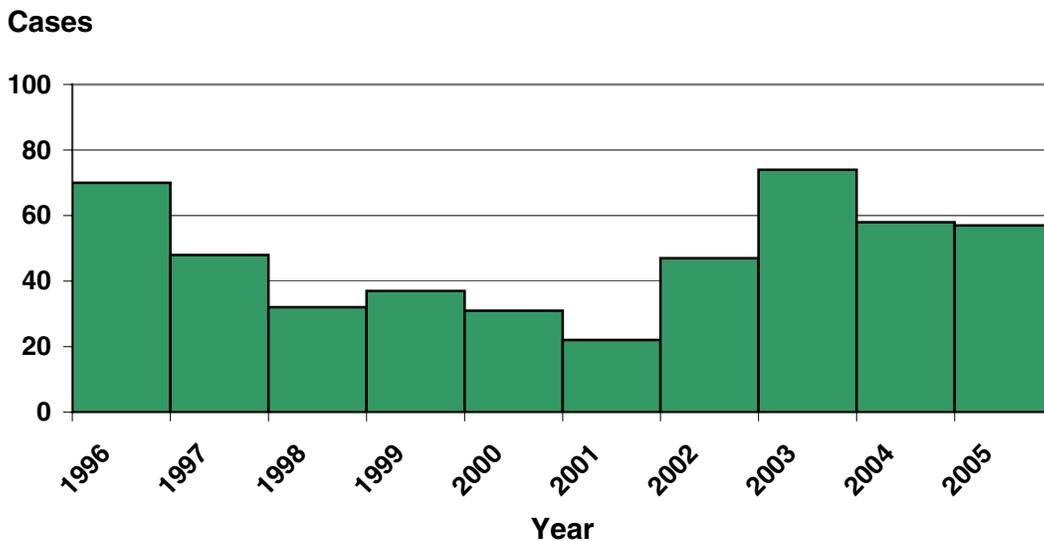
## Early Syphilis

Early syphilis cases represent an aggregate of primary, secondary and early latent cases under-one year's duration. The 57 early syphilis cases reported in 2005 reflect a similar rate to the 58 cases reported in 2004. The main difference between 2005 and 2004 is more primary and secondary syphilis infections were identified in 2005. Primary and secondary stages of syphilis are when the infection can be transmitted to sex partners.

Syphilis is transmitted via vaginal, rectal or oral sex. Syphilis can be prevented by abstaining from sex, or only having sex with an uninfected partner. Those who are sexually active outside of a mutually monogamous relationship can protect themselves by using a condom when engaging in sexual activity.

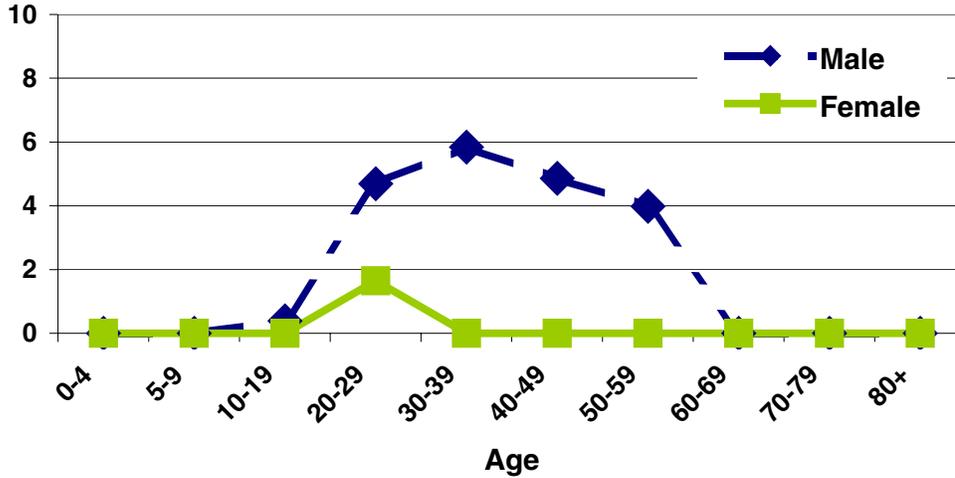
The majority of the early syphilis cases reported during 2005 were among men who have sex with men. It is important to identify and treat persons with early syphilis to prevent late complications, such as brain and heart damage, and to prevent congenital infections. Moreover, people with primary and secondary syphilis more easily acquire and transmit HIV. An effective way to limit the spread of syphilis is to evaluate and treat recent sex partners of people with early syphilis.

### Early Syphilis by Year Oregon, 1996-2005



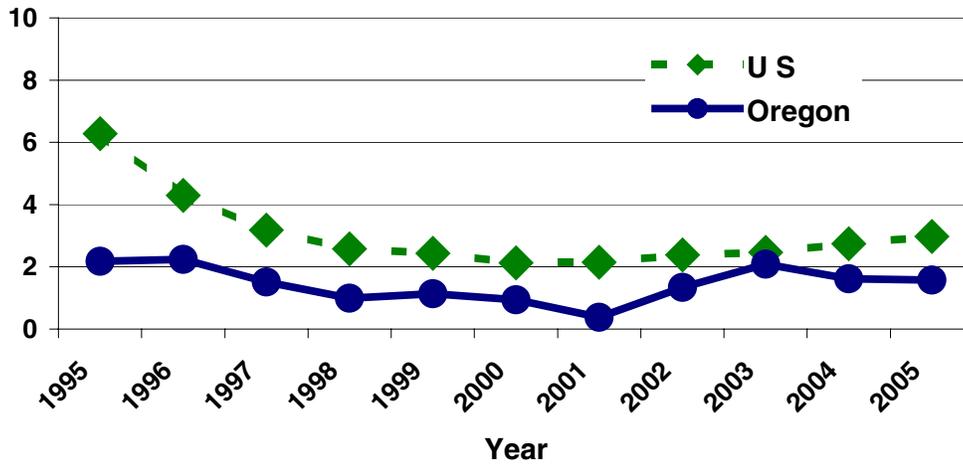
## Incidence of Early Syphilis by Age and Sex Oregon, 2005

Cases/100,000



## Incidence of Early Syphilis Oregon vs. Nationwide Oregon, 2005

Cases/100,000



# Incidence of Early Syphilis by County of Residence Oregon, 2005

