

Illness & Injury

Gonorrhea incidence

Gonorrhea is the third most commonly reported disease in Oregon. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is transmitted sexually, through oral, vaginal, and anal sex, and can also be transmitted from mother to child at delivery. Untreated gonorrhea can result in serious health problems including pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, and infertility. Gonorrhea also increases the likelihood of both acquiring and transmitting HIV.

In 2015, reported gonorrhea incidence in Oregon was 81 cases/100,000 residents. Annual reported cases of gonorrhea have steadily increased over the past 5 years, reaching levels not seen since the 1990s (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1

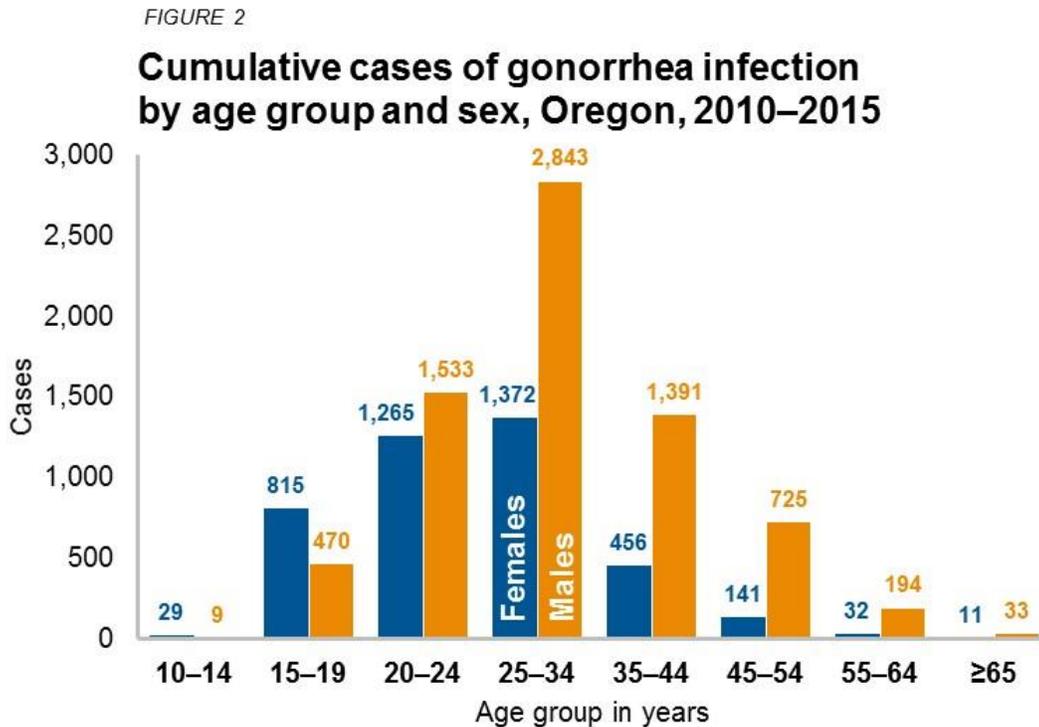
Gonorrhea infection by year, Oregon and U.S.



Notes: 2015 U.S. data are not available

Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database and CDC (U.S. data)

Incidence during 2010–2015 was highest among adults aged 25–34 years old followed by adults aged 20–24 years (Figure 2). Reported rates during that time were approximately twice as high among men (104 cases/100,000 residents) than among women (57 cases/100,000 residents). Prior to 2013, rates were similar among men and women.



Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database

Several populations were disproportionately impacted by gonorrhea including men who have sex with men and African Americans.

Antibiotic resistant gonorrhea is of particular concern. Gonorrhea has become resistant to a variety of treatments including penicillin, tetracycline, and fluoroquinolones over the past several decades. Oregon participates in the national Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) with the Multnomah County STD Clinic serving as the sentinel site for the project.

Extra-genital screening of gonorrhea is an important public health strategy for clinicians. Rectal and pharyngeal gonorrhea infections are often asymptomatic and easily missed. Studies have shown that infection with rectal gonorrhea is one of the most important indicators of higher risk for subsequent infection with HIV and as a result, provides an important point for public health interventions, such as health department notification of sexual partners (STD Partner Services) and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

Additional Resources: [Oregon STD Statistics](#)

About the Data: All cases of laboratory confirmed *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in Oregon residents are subject to mandatory reporting by licensed health care providers and clinical laboratories. National data are from the CDC Division of STD Prevention, "[Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2014](#)", November 2015. Oregon data are from the state's Reportable Disease Database. Population estimated used in calculated rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

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Date Updated: August 15, 2016

[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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