

People's Health

Outcomes • Planning • Evaluation



Know the facts: Gonorrhea afflicts people of all ages

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the United States, 395,216 cases of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* were reported in 2015, but the Centers for Disease Control estimates that more than half of cases go unreported.
- In the United States in 2015, young women ages 15 to 24 and men ages 20 to 29 have the highest rates of reported gonorrhea infection.
- Gonorrhea is a major cause of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). This can cause ectopic pregnancy (a life-threatening condition), infertility and chronic pelvic pain. Gonorrhea infections can also make people more susceptible to HIV.
- Gonorrhea has progressively developed resistance to antibiotics. There is now only one CDC-recommended treatment regimen.

WHERE WE WERE:

Among males ages 15-44 years, there were 44.0 cases of gonorrhea per 100,000 population in 2008. Among females ages 15-44 years, there were 67.2 cases of gonorrhea per 100,000 population in 2008.

WHERE WE ARE:

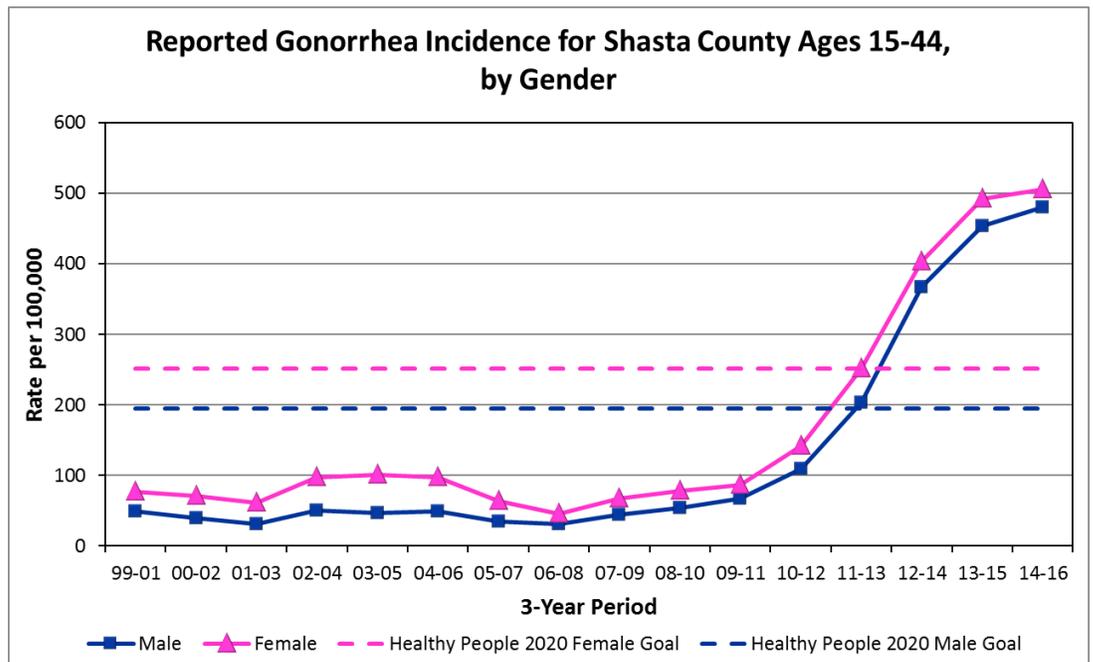
Among males ages 15-44 years, there were 392.2 cases of gonorrhea per 100,000 population in 2016. Among females ages 15-44 years, there were 419.2 cases of gonorrhea per 100,000 population in 2016.

WHERE WE ARE AIMING:

Healthy People 2020 goal: Reduce the rate of gonorrhea to no more than 251.9 new cases per 100,000 population among females aged 15-44 years. Reduce the rate of gonorrhea to no more than 194.8 new cases per 100,000 population among males aged 15-44 years.

DEFINITION:

Information is based on reported number of new gonorrhea cases per 100,000 population in Shasta County among men and women aged 15-44 years.



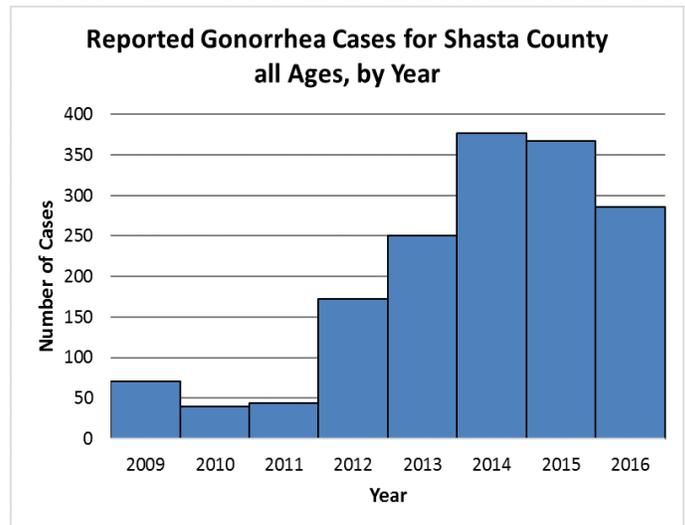
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Find more health information at www.shastahhsa.net. Click on "Health and Safety," then "Current Health Concerns."

Questions? Email shastahealthdata@co.shasta.ca.us.

KEY POINTS:

- The three-year average gonorrhea rate in Shasta County fluctuated between 14 and 30 cases among all ages per 100,000 population between 1992 and 2011. The lowest average rate of 14 cases of gonorrhea was from 2006 to 2008. The highest average rate of 191 cases among all ages was between 2014 and 2016.
- In Shasta County, women ages 20 to 29 represented 28% of the reported gonorrhea cases in 2016 and 27% in 2015. Men ages 20 to 29 accounted for 22% of the cases in 2016 and 18% in 2015.
- About half of cases reported in Shasta County are in women. Most women with gonorrhea are asymptomatic and even when a woman has symptoms, they are often so mild and nonspecific that they may be mistaken for a bladder or vaginal infection.



PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

- Encourage abstinence and develop skills in decision making, communication and negotiation about sex.
- Provide more comprehensive and earlier sex education to youth, including those younger than age 15.
- Use positive role models in the media to reinforce healthful behavior.
- Make barrier contraceptives readily accessible to sexually active people.
- Targeting screening, partner notification/referral, and treatment of high-risk individuals, which will prevent spread of gonorrhea among the core transmitters in the community.
- Educate healthcare providers to take sexual activity histories, to discuss STD prevention, and to order urine screening for gonorrhea with their patients, especially sexually active people aged 15 to 35 who are at the highest risk.
- Any time chlamydia is found, screen for gonorrhea, too.

From the Desk of Andrew Deckert, MD, MPH

*Shasta County Public
Health Officer*



The recent gonorrhea outbreak in Shasta County is cause for alarm. Gonorrhea is a disease that can cause lifelong health problems, and many people don't know that they have it, even when they have symptoms.

It is critically important that community partners promote primary prevention activities, listed to the left of this column. We strongly encourage all Shasta County residents to take control of their sexual health, protect themselves, get tested regularly for sexually transmitted infections, and inform their partners if they test positive for a disease.

To your health!