

Gonorrhea

Agent: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (bacteria)

Mode of Transmission: Sexually transmitted through direct contact with secretions from an infected person.

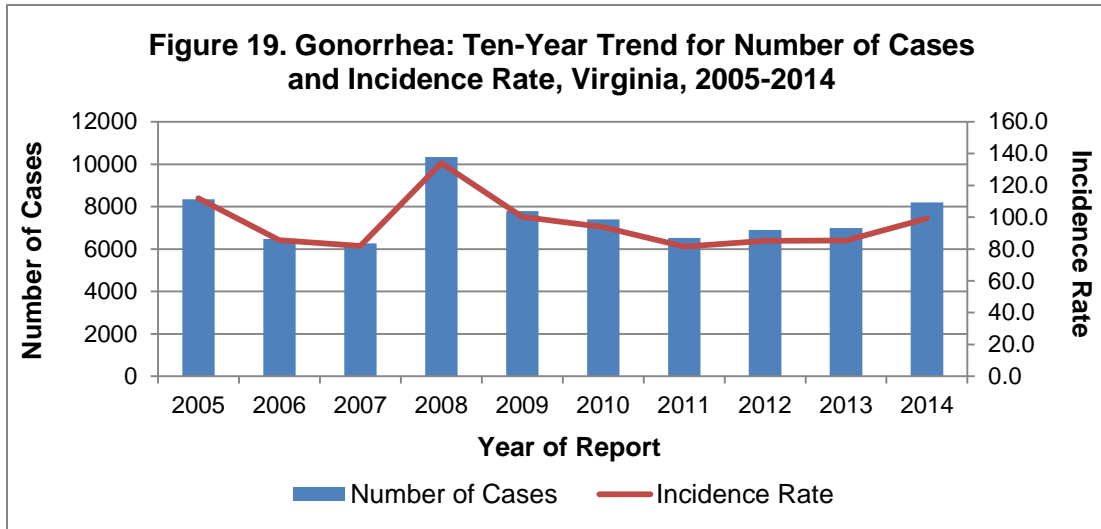
Signs/Symptoms: Infected men may experience a burning sensation while urinating and a yellowish white discharge from the urethra. Infected women are usually asymptomatic, although vaginal discharge, burning while urinating, abdominal pain and/or bleeding after intercourse may occur. Symptoms usually appear within a week, but could take up to 30 days. Untreated gonorrhea among women can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility.

Prevention: Preventive measures include safe sexual practices and ensuring that infected sexual contacts are treated with antibiotics.

Other Important Information: The progressive development of antibiotic resistance continues to hinder gonorrhea prevention efforts. Antibiotic resistance undermines treatment success, heightens the risk of complications and facilitates transmission of infection. Drug resistant *N. gonorrhoeae* is one of only three organisms currently designated by CDC as an antimicrobial resistance “urgent threat.” Since April 2007, CDC has advised against the use of fluoroquinolones for the treatment of gonorrhea, based on data indicating widespread drug resistance in the United States. As of August 2012, CDC no longer recommends cefixime (an oral cephalosporin) at any dose as a first-line regimen for treatment of gonococcal infections. The CDC now recommends combination therapy for gonorrhea with ceftriaxone administered intramuscularly and either azithromycin or doxycycline given orally for seven days.

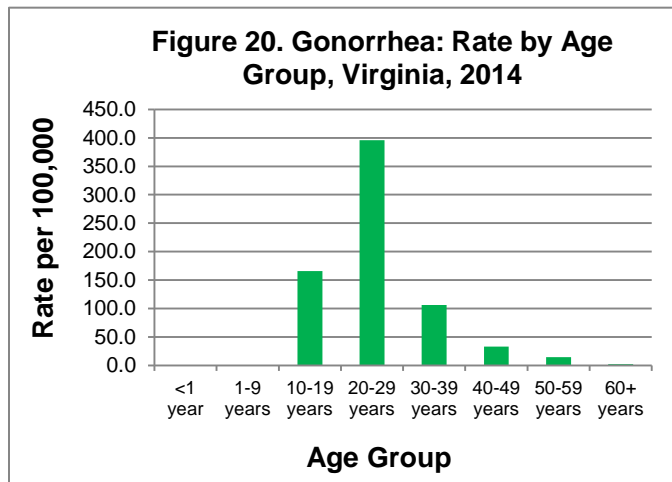
Gonorrhea: 2014 Data Summary	
Number of Cases:	8,196
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	7,119.8
% Change from 5-Year Average:	+15%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	99.2

CDC estimates that up to half of gonorrhea infections go undiagnosed and unreported. Virginia’s gonorrhea incidence rate (99.2 cases per 100,000) continues to stay below the most recently reported national rate of 110.7 per 100,000 in 2014. However, the 8,196 cases reported in 2014 represent a 15% increase when compared to Virginia’s five-year average of 7,119.8 cases per year. Over the last ten years, the annual number of gonorrhea cases in Virginia has fluctuated.



Gonorrhea incidence rates were highest in the 20-29 year age group (395.8 per 100,000), followed by the 10-19 year age group (165.8 per 100,000) (Figure 20). This age distribution is consistent with historical trends. Racial disparity in gonorrhea incidence is more pronounced than any other sexually transmitted infection with black individuals being disproportionately affected in Virginia and nationwide.

In 2014, the incidence rate in Virginia among the black population was 302.8 per 100,000 which was more than 13 times higher than the rate seen in the white population (22.7 per 100,000), and nearly nine times higher than the rate observed in the “other” race population (34.4 per 100,000). Similar to national trends, Virginia gonorrhea incidence rates were slightly higher among females than males (103.1 and 95.0 per 100,000, respectively).



In 2014, 68% of cases reported in 15-19 year olds occurred in females. However, beginning at age 25, infection was reported more frequently in males. Fifty-three percent of cases reported in 25-29 year olds occurred in males. In patients 30 years or older, 63% of reported infections occurred in males.

Since 2008, the eastern region has experienced the largest proportion of reported cases and the highest incidence rates of gonorrhea (see map below). In 2014, 3,302 cases were reported from the eastern region (40% of the statewide total), with an incidence rate of 179.6 per 100,000. The central region had the second highest incidence rate (167.1 per 100,000) with 2,338 cases and 29% of the statewide total. Among the other regions in Virginia, incidence rates ranged from 34.4 to 85.2 per 100,000.

Gonorrhea Incidence Rate by Locality Virginia, 2014

