

Gonorrhea

Agent: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (bacteria)

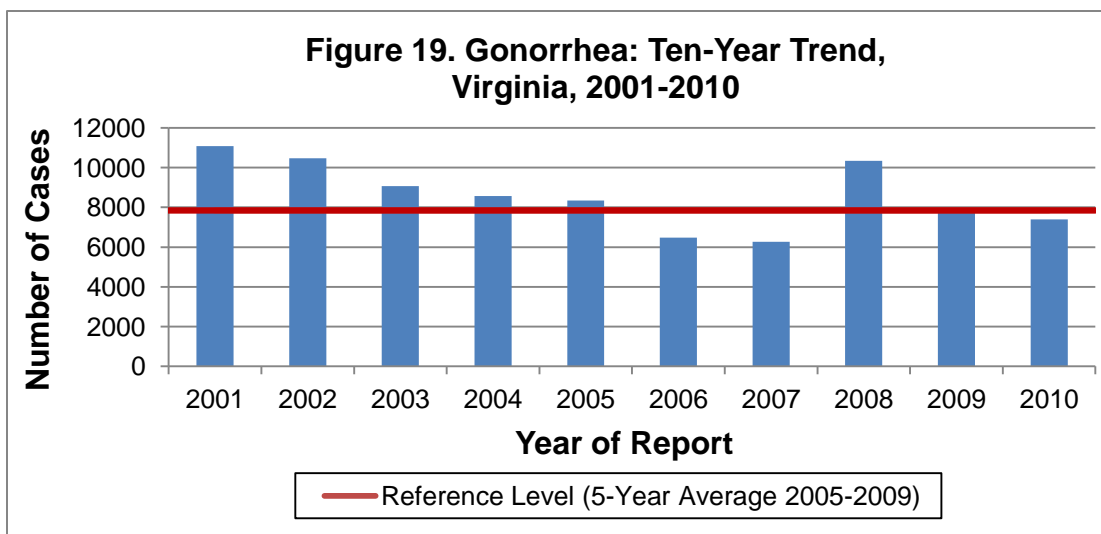
Mode of Transmission: Sexually transmitted through direct contact with infected areas.

Signs/Symptoms: Infected men can have a burning sensation while urinating and a discharge from the urethra. Infected women are usually asymptomatic, although vaginal discharge or bleeding after intercourse may occur. Untreated gonorrhea among women can lead to pelvic inflammatory disorder and infertility.

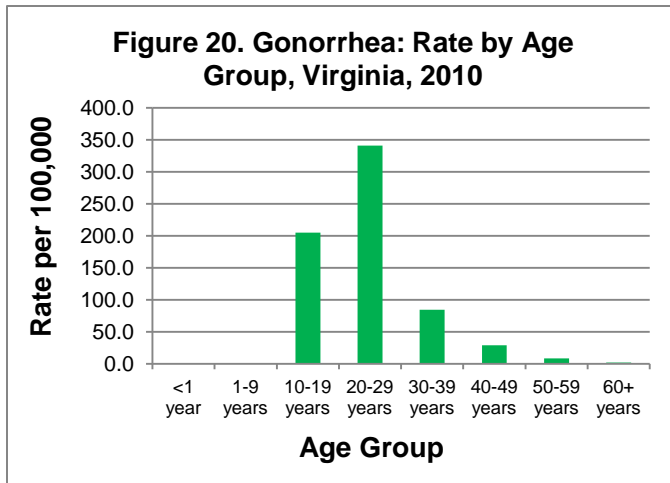
Prevention: Preventive measures include safe sexual practices and ensuring that infected sexual contacts are treated.

Other Important Information: The emergence of antibiotic resistance led CDC, in 2007, to discontinue recommending any fluoroquinolone regimens for the treatment of gonorrhea. CDC now recommends dual therapy for gonorrhea with a cephalosporin (ceftriaxone or cefixime) plus either azithromycin or doxycycline. However, resistance to cephalosporins for gonorrhea treatment is becoming evident. From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of gonorrhea samples from a national sentinel monitoring system showing resistance to cephalosporins increased from 0.2% in 2000 to 1.4% in 2010 for cefixime and from 0.1% in 2000 to 0.3% in 2010 for ceftriaxone.

According to CDC, gonorrhea is substantially under-diagnosed and underreported, and approximately twice as many new infections are estimated to occur as are reported each year. In Virginia, the 7,401 cases of gonorrhea reported in 2010 represent a 5% decrease from the 7,791 cases seen in 2009, and nearly a 6% decrease from the five-year average of 7,842.8 per year (Figure 19). The higher number of cases seen in 2008, following notably low counts in 2006 and 2007, were at least partly attributed to changes in data handling and data entry protocols. Because of the substantial under-diagnosis of this condition, it is not clear whether the declines seen in 2009 and 2010 indicate decreases in disease or in the completeness of diagnosis and testing.



A comparison of age groups indicates that the incidence of gonorrhea is highest in the 20-29 year age group (341.1 per 100,000 population), followed by the 10-19 year age group (204.7 per 100,000 population) (Figure 20). Gonorrhea remains the sexually transmitted disease with the most significant racial disparity in Virginia. The rate in the black population (328.6 per 100,000) was 24 times the rate in the white population (13.6 per 100,000), and nine times the rate in the “other” race population (34.2 per 100,000).



Gonorrhea incidence rates were higher among females than males (103.5 and 83.8 per 100,000, respectively). The eastern region had the highest incidence rate (198.3 per 100,000), followed by the central region (146.1 per 100,000). Among the other regions in the state, incidence ranged from 28.4 to 56.1 per 100,000.