



3B.

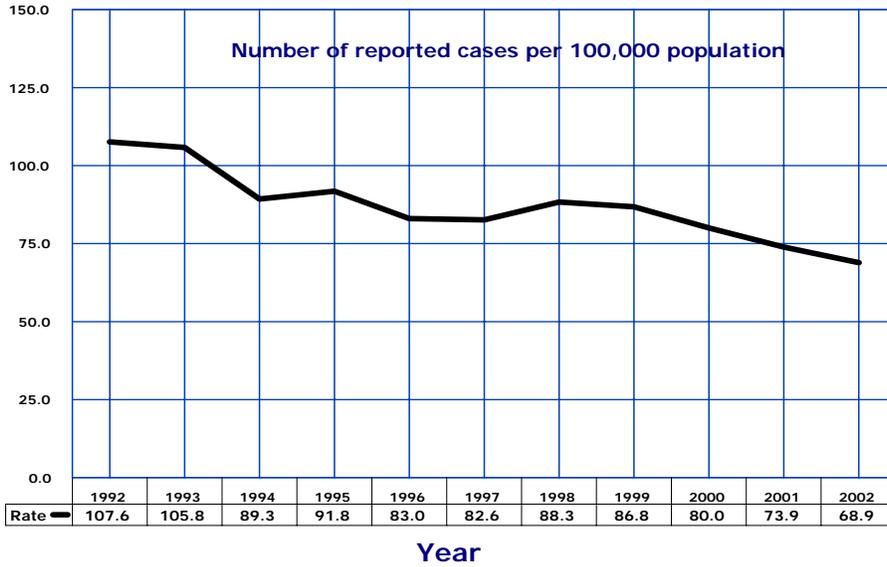
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Every state requires physicians to report cases of, and/or laboratories to report test indicative of, specific diseases. The legal authority for deciding which conditions (and which accompanying case data) are reportable in a given jurisdiction can vary by state, but is usually the state and/or local health department. All states require that certain sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) be reported by physicians and other health care providers when they suspect that a case has occurred or they have laboratory confirmation.

The four sexually transmitted diseases for which reporting is required by administrative rule in Arizona are, *gonorrhea*, *syphilis*, *chlamydia* and *genital herpes*.

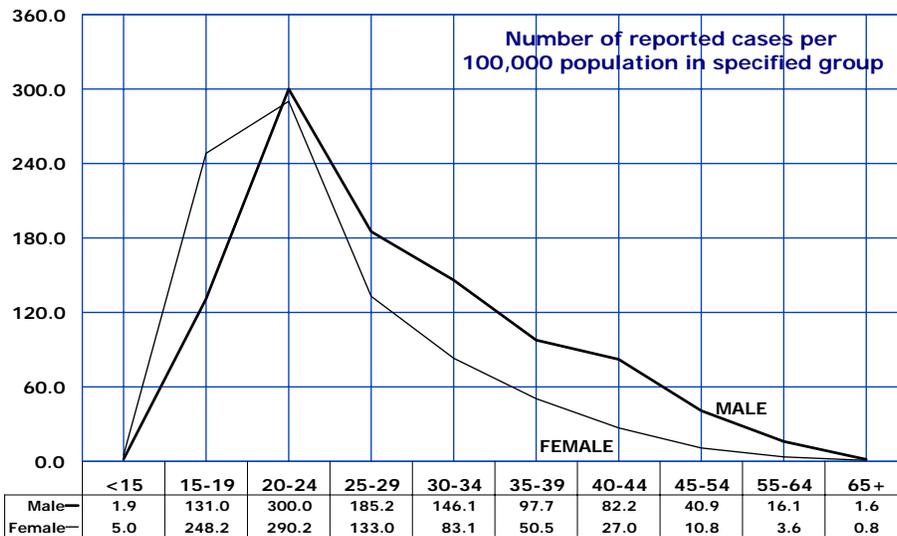
3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Figure 3B-1
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea
by Year, Arizona, 1992-2002



The rate of *gonorrhea* declined by 36 percent from 107.6 cases per 100,000 persons in 1992 to 68.9/100,000 in 2002 (Figure 3B-1). Cochise, Gila, Graham, Mohave and Yavapai counties (Table 5F-2, Table 6B) reported gonorrhea rates lower than the national Year 2010 health objective of 19.1/100,000 (Table 4B, Table 6B). There were no cases of gonorrhea reported for Greenlee and La Paz counties in 2002.

Figure 3B-2
Age-Specific Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea by Gender,
Arizona, 2002



The 2002 incidence rate of *gonorrhea* was approximately 30 percent greater for males than for females (77.8 and 60.1 respectively, Table 3B-4). As in prior years, age-specific incidence rates by gender indicated that females acquired this disease at earlier ages than males. The age-specific incidence rates fell below 100/100,000 after age 29 for females but not until age 35 for males.

3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Figure 3B-3
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Early Syphilis
by Year, Arizona 1992-2002

In 2002, 1,077 cases of *syphilis* were reported, the second highest annual number since 1992 (Table 3B-1). Thirty-seven out of every one hundred *syphilis* cases reported in 2002 were *early syphilis* (Table 3B-3), the stage when the disease is communicable and hence the focus of control efforts. The incidence rate of early syphilis declined for the fourth consecutive year from 10.2/100,000 in 1999 to 7.3/100,000 in 2002 (Figure 3B-3).

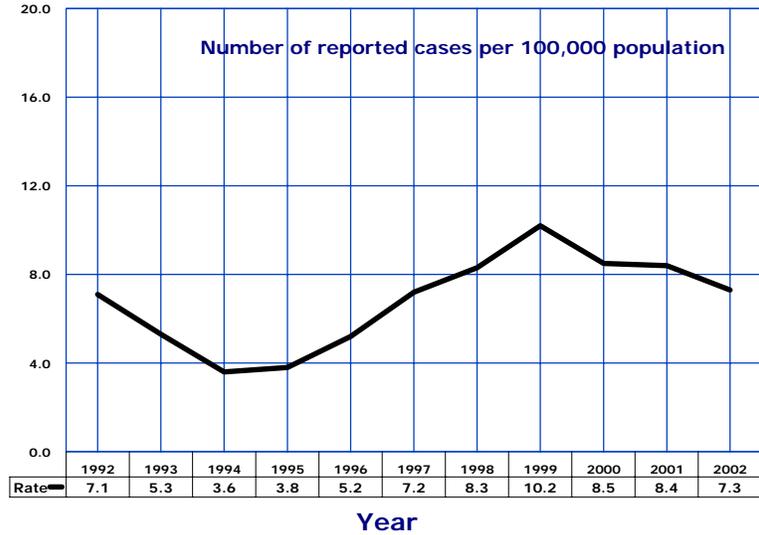


Figure 3B-4
Age-Specific Incidence Rates of Early Syphilis by Gender,
Arizona, 2002

Sixty-five percent of female cases of *early syphilis* occurred by age 34 compared to 49 percent of male cases (Table 3B-3). The skewing of the female distribution of reported cases toward younger ages than in the male distribution resembled the gender distribution seen in gonorrhea.

