



**3B.**

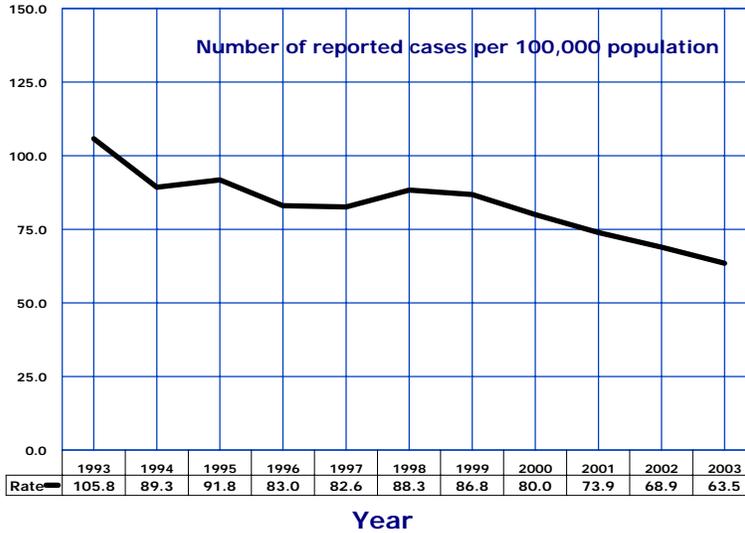
### **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

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*.

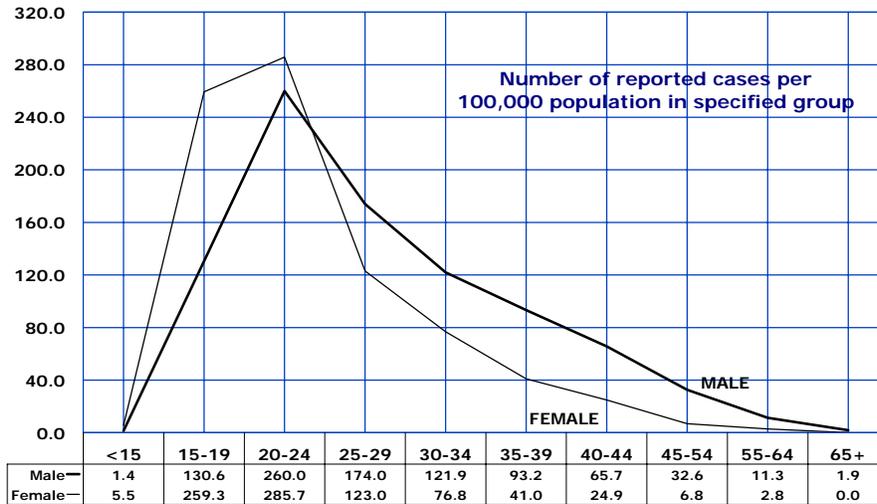
3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

**Figure 3B-1**  
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea  
by Year, Arizona, 1993-2003



The rate of *gonorrhea* declined by 40 percent from 105.8 cases per 100,000 persons in 1993 to 63.5/100,000 in 2003 (**Figure 3B-1**). Gila, La Paz, Mohave, Santa Cruz 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 two cases of gonorrhea reported for Greenlee and one case for La Paz county in 2003.

**Figure 3B-2**  
Age-Specific Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea by Gender,  
Arizona, 2003

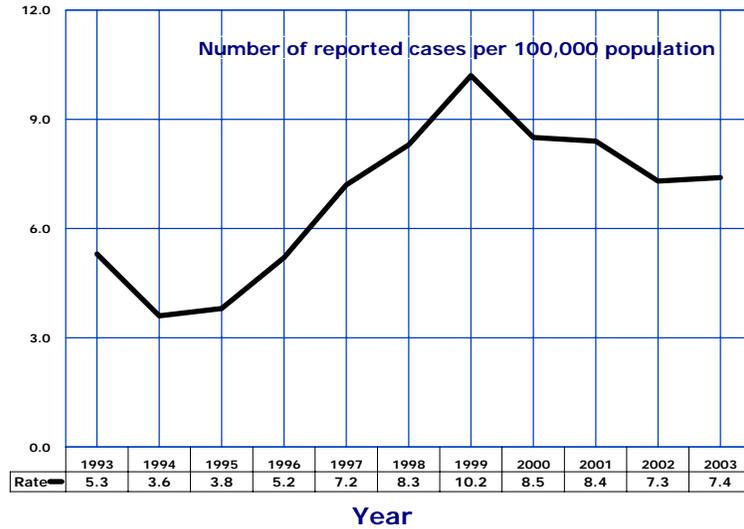


The 2003 incidence rate of *gonorrhea* was approximately 19 percent greater for males than for females (69.0 and 58.0 respectively, **Table 3B-4**). As in prior years, age-specific incidence rates by gender indicated that females acquired this disease at earlier ages than males. The age-specific incidence 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 1993-2003

In 2003, 1,094 cases of *syphilis* were reported, the second highest annual number since 1993 (Table 3B-1). Thirty-eight out of every one hundred *syphilis* cases reported in 2003 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 from 10.2/100,000 in 1999 to 7.3/100,000 in 2002 and then it slightly increased to 7.4/100,000 in 2003 (Figure 3B-3).



**Figure 3B-4**  
Age-Specific Incidence Rates of Early Syphilis by Gender,  
Arizona, 2003

Sixty-eight percent of female cases of *early syphilis* occurred by age 34 compared to 54 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.

