



3B.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Every state requires physicians to report cases of, and/or laboratories to report test results 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.

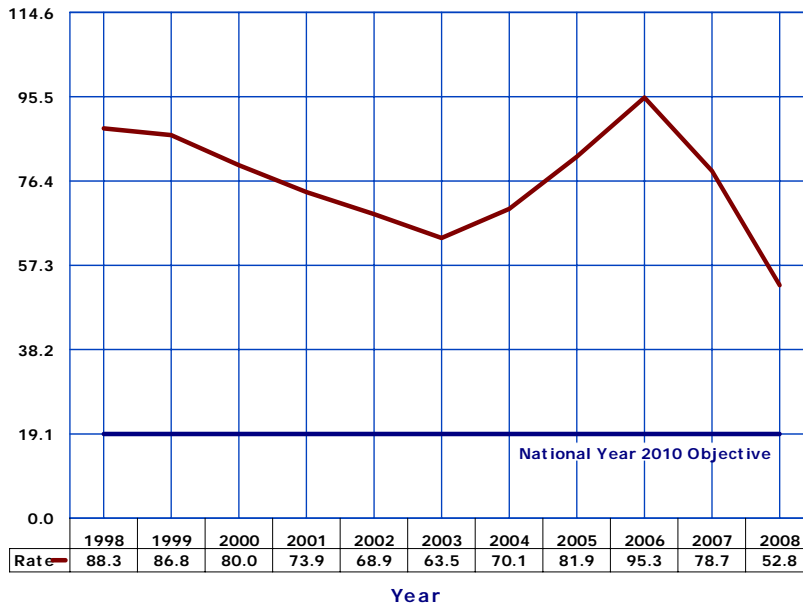
It is important to note, that disease reporting is likely incomplete, and completeness may vary depending on the disease. Moreover, changes in methods for public health surveillance, or implementation of new diagnostic tests can cause changes in disease reporting that are independent of the true incidence of disease.*

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

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Summary of notifiable diseases – United States, 2007. Published July 9, 2009, for 2007; Vol. 56 (No. 53). Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5653a1.htm>

3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Figure 3B-1
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea by Year, Arizona, 1998-2008



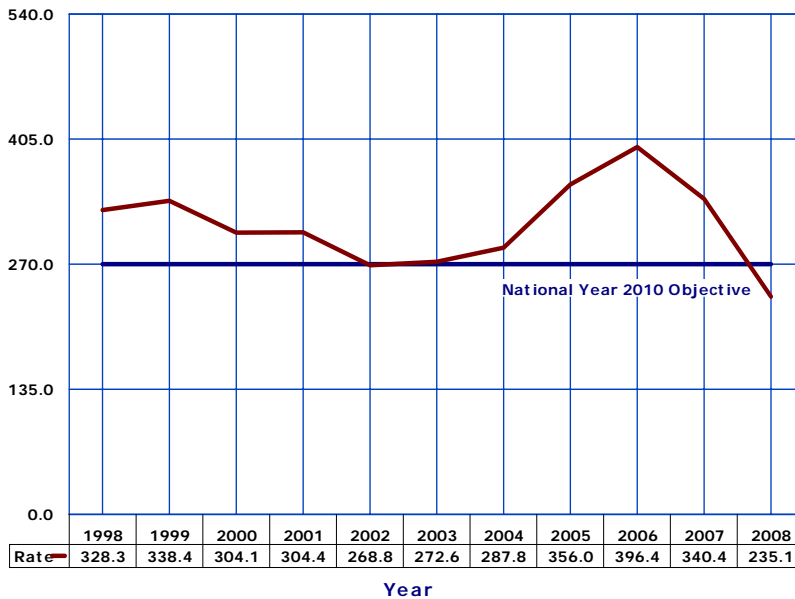
Number of reported cases per 100,000 population.

Neisseria gonorrhoeae infection is the second most commonly reported notifiable disease in the United States. In Arizona, the incidence rates of gonorrhea steadily declined each year after 1998 up to and including 2003 (Figure 3B-1). The 50.1 percent increase in the incidence rate of gonorrhea from 63.5 cases per 100,000 population in 2003 to 95.3/100,000 in 2006 likely resulted from a combination of factors, such as changes in surveillance, increases in the number of tests performed, and actual increases in disease occurrence. (Figure 3B-1).

The number of reported cases of gonorrhea decreased for the second consecutive year from 5,949 cases in 2006 to 3,449 cases in 2008.

The *Healthy People 2010* objective 25-2 defines the target rate for gonorrhea as equal to or lower than 19.1 cases per 100,000 population. The Arizona latest incidence rate of 52.8/100,000 requires a 63.8 percent reduction by the year 2010 to meet this health objective (Table 6A-2).

Figure 3B-2
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea among Females 15-24 Years, Arizona, 1998-2008



Number of reported cases per 100,000 females ages 15-24 years.

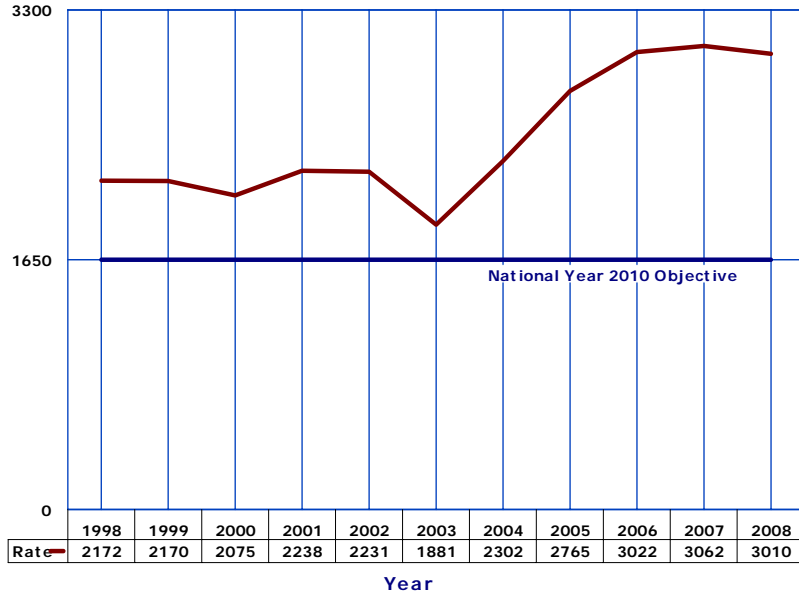
Another *Healthy People 2010* objective is focused on reducing gonorrhea infections to 270 cases per 100,000 females aged 15 to 24 years. In Arizona, following a 30.9 percent decrease in the incidence rate from 340.4 cases per 100,000 females 15-24 years old in 2007, the 2008 rate of 235.1/100,000 was lower than the *Healthy People 2010* target rate (Figure 3B-2, Table 6A-2). Two years earlier, in 2006, the incidence rate of 396.4/100,000, exceeded the *Healthy People 2010* target rate by 46.8 percent.

3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Figure 3B-3
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Chlamydia among Females 15-24 Years, Arizona, 1998-2008

Chlamydia trachomatis is the most prevalent bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States, with the highest rates reported among adolescents and young adults (Table 3B-4). Recent availability of sensitive tests for *chlamydia* using DNA amplification technology undoubtedly contributed to the increase in the number of reported cases in Arizona (Figure 3B-3, Table 3B-1).

The incidence rate of *chlamydia* among Arizona females aged 15 to 24 years decreased by 1.7 percent from 3,062 cases per 100,000 in 2007 to 3010/100,000 in 2008. This latest annual incidence rate exceeded by 82.4 percent the *Health People 2010* target rate of 1,650 cases of *chlamydia* per 100,000 females 15-25 years old (Table 6A-2).



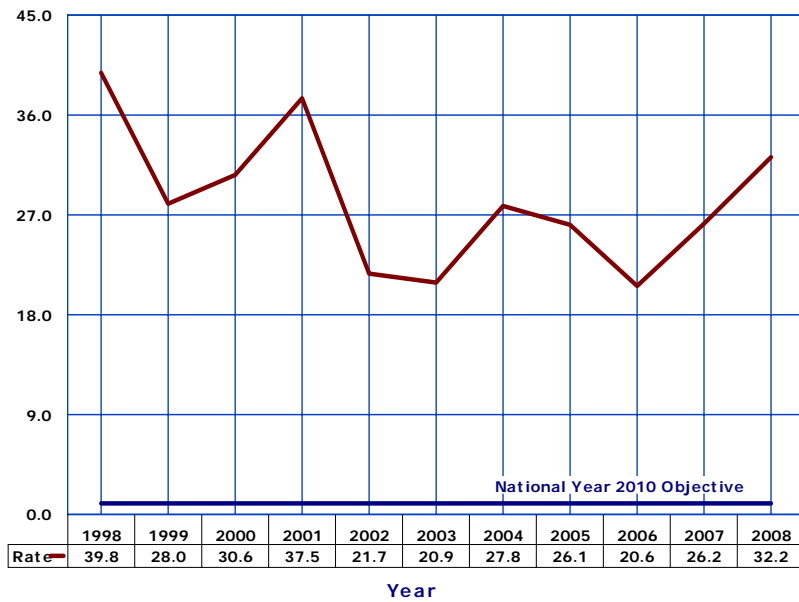
Number of reported cases per 100,000 females ages 15-24 years.

Figure 3B-4
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Congenital Syphilis by Year, Arizona, 1998-2008

Congenital syphilis (CS) is an infection caused by the spirochete *Treponema pallidum*, which can be passed from the mother to child during fetal development or birth. Not all infants born to infected women will be infected.

In 1988, CDC implemented a new CS case definition. It no longer relies on documentation of infection in the infant; rather, it presumes that an infant is infected if it cannot be proven that an infected mother was adequately treated for syphilis before or during pregnancy.

In Arizona, the incidence rate of CS increased by 56.3 percent from 20.6 cases per 100,000 births in 2006 to 32.2/100,000 in 2008. The 2008 rate was 32.2 times greater than the (quite unrealistic) *Healthy People 2010* target rate of 1 (one) case of *congenital syphilis* per 100,000 births (Table 6A-2).



Number of reported cases per 100,000 births.