



3B.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

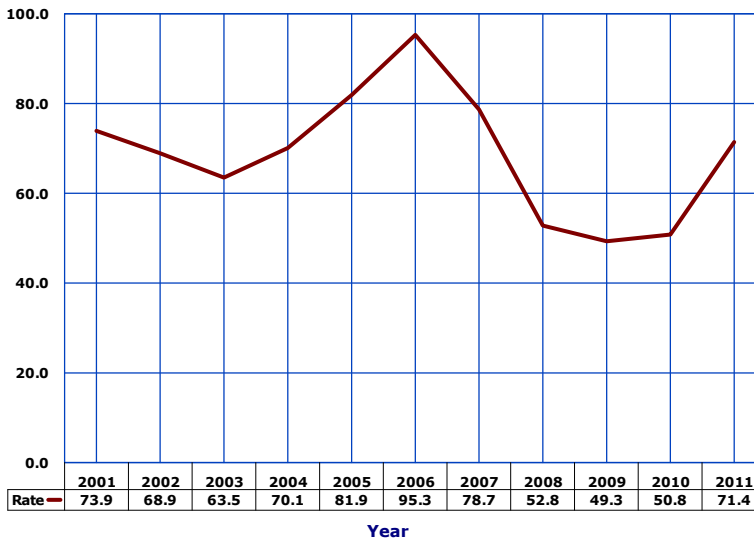
Every state requires physicians to report cases of, and/or laboratories to report test results indicative of, specific diseases. The legal authority for deciding which conditions (and which accompanying case data) are reportable in a given jurisdiction can vary by state, but is usually the state and/or 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, 2008. Published June 25, 2010, for 2008; Vol. 57 (No. 54). Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5754a1.htm>

3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Figure 3B-1
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea by Year, Arizona, 2001-2011

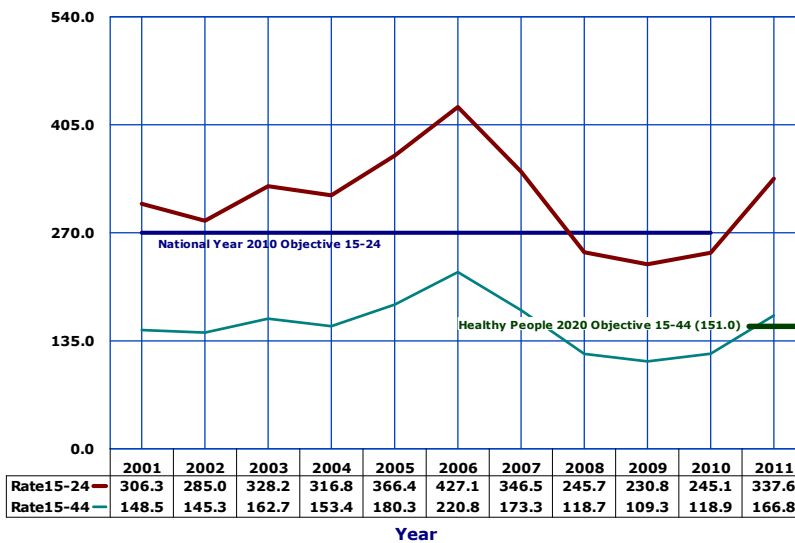


Neisseria gonorrhoeae infection is the second most commonly reported notifiable disease in the United States. (Figure 3B-1). The 44.8 percent increase in the incidence rate of gonorrhea from 49.3 cases per 100,000 population in 2009 to 71.4/100,000 in 2011 likely resulted from a combination of factors, such as changes in surveillance, increases in the number of tests performed, and actual increases in disease occurrence. (Figure 3B-1).

The *Healthy People 2010* objectives 25-2 defines the target rate for gonorrhea as equal to or lower than 19.1 cases per 100,000 population and was specific to ages 15-24. However, the *Healthy People 2020* target is for ages 15-44 and is set at 151.0/100,000.

Number of reported cases per 100,000 population.

Figure 3B-2
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea among Females 15-24 and 15-44 Years, Arizona, 2001-2011



The 2011 incidence rate for gonorrhea was 166.8 per 100,000 for Arizona females age 15-44 years, meaning Arizona's incidence rate was slightly higher than the *Health People 2020* objective. Generally, the trend in gonorrhea incidence rates are similar for women age 15-24 and age 15-44, although the overall incidence rate is consistently higher for women age 15-24.

Number of reported cases per 100,000 females.

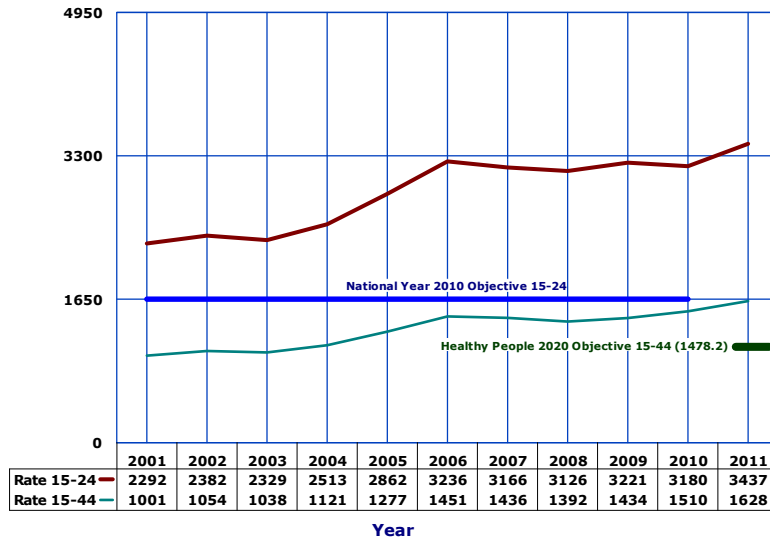
Note: There was a change in target rate and age range For Healthy People 2020 objective. In National Year 2010 objective was for females ages 15-24. In Healthy People 2020 objective is for females ages 15-44.

3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Figure 3B-3
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Chlamydia among Females 15-24 and 15-44 Years, Arizona, 2001-2011

Chlamydia trachomatis is the most prevalent bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States (1,412,791 cases in 2011), 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 incident rate of chlamydia was previously reported for females 15-24 years, however based on changes in *Healthy People 2020*, it would be reported for females 15-44 years. The *Healthy People 2020* goal for chlamydia is set at 1,478.2 per 100,000 females. The incidence rate for Arizona in 2011 was 1,628 per 100,000 for females age 15-44 years (Table 6A-2).



Number of reported cases per 100,000 females.

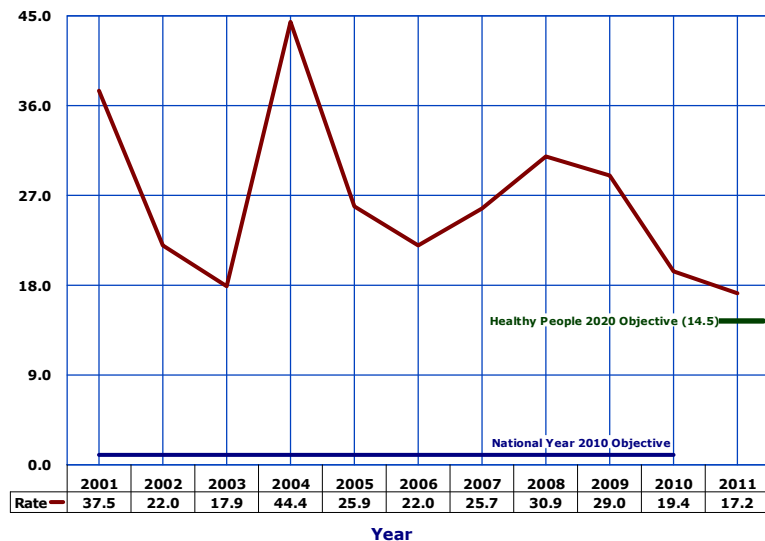
Note: There was a change in target rate and age range for Healthy People 2020 objective. In National Year 2010 objective was for females ages 15-24. In Healthy People 2020 objective is for females ages 15-44.

Figure 3B-4
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Congenital Syphilis by Year, Arizona, 2001-2011

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.

The *Health People 2020* goal for congenital syphilis is 14.5/100,000. In Arizona, the incidence rate of CS decreased for a third consecutive year from 30.9/100,000 in 2008 to 17.2/100,000 in 2011. (Figure 3B-4, Table 6A-2).



Number of reported cases per 100,000 births.