

3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

The rate of *gonorrhea* declined from 86.8 cases per 100,000 persons in 1999 to 80.0/100,000 in 2000 (**Figure 3B-1**). All Arizona counties except Maricopa (**Table 5F-2, Table 6B**) reported gonorrhea rates lower than the national objective, with Maricopa County reporting the incidence rate of 103.1/100,000).

The 2000 incidence rate of *gonorrhea* was approximately 36 percent greater for males than for females (92.3 and 67.7 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 highest female incidence rate occurred in the 15-19 year old age group (319.2/100,000), while the highest incidence rate for males was among 20-24 year old (319.9/100,000). The age-specific incidence rates fell below 100/100,000 after age 29 for females but not until age 40 for males.

The incidence of *penicillin resistant gonorrhea* dropped from 159 cases in 1990 to 3 cases reported in 1998. No cases of *penicillin resistant gonorrhea* were reported in Arizona in 2000.

The incidence of *pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)* declined for the second consecutive year from 71 cases in 1998 to 21 cases in 2000 (**Table 3B-1**). Maricopa County accounted for 90.5 percent of all gonococcal PID cases reported in 2000 (**Table 5F-1**).

The 2000 incidence rate for *chlamydia* among females (386.8/100,000) was 5.7 times higher than rate for *gonorrhea* (67.7). The highest incidence of *chlamydia* in females in 2000 was among 15-19 year olds (2,104.5/100,000). Sixty-five percent of all *chlamydia* cases were reported in women 24 years or younger.

Chlamydia and *gonorrhea* continued to be reported in children younger than 5 years old in 2000. The 2000 incidence rate of *chlamydia* was 8.5 times higher among infants and preschoolers (8.5/100,000) than children 5-9 years old (0.8/100,000; **Table 3B-4**).

In 2000, 847 cases of *syphilis* were reported, the highest annual number since 1990 (**Table 3B-1**). Fifty-two out of every one hundred *syphilis* cases reported in 2000 were *early syphilis* (**Table 3B-3**), the stage when the disease is communicable and hence the focus of control efforts. Sixty-four percent of female cases of *early syphilis* occurred by age 34 compared to 56 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.

The 2000 incidence rate of *total syphilis* in Arizona (16.6/100,000) was 66 percent greater than the national Year 2000 objective of 10.0/100,000. Maricopa County had the highest incidence rate of *syphilis* (24.2 cases per 100,000 population).

The number of cases of *genital herpes* increased from 972 in 1999 to 1,119 in 2000.