



**3B.**

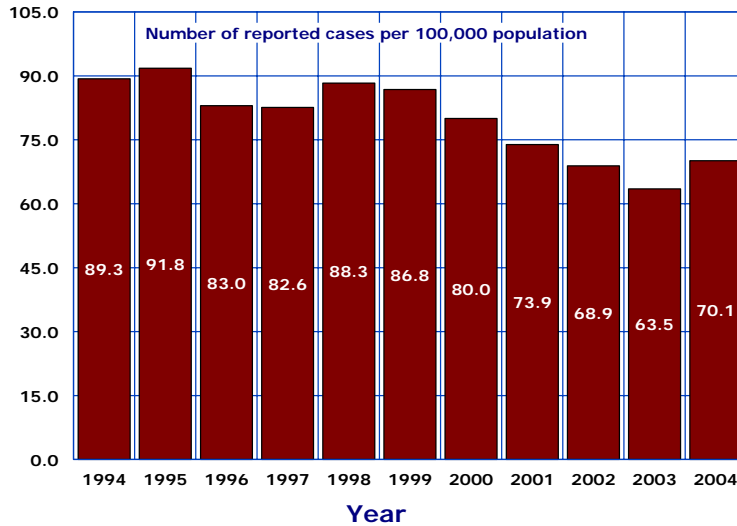
### **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

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

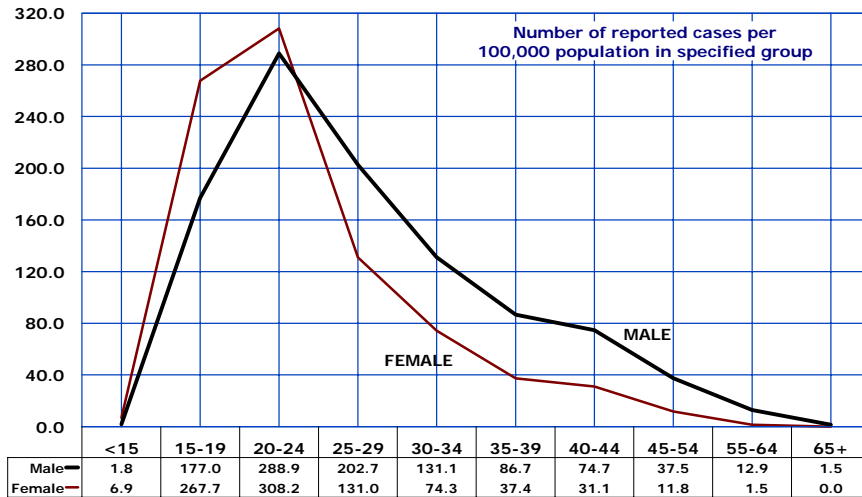
**Figure 3B-1**  
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea  
by Year, Arizona, 1994-2004



Reported cases of *gonorrhea* progressively declined each year after 1999 up to and including 2003. The number of cases of *gonorrhea* increased from 3,576 in 2003 to 4,088 in 2004 (**Table 3B-1**), and the incidence rate rose to 70.1 cases per 100,000 population (**Figure 3B-1**). *Gonorrhea* incidence rates for Navajo, Pinal and Maricopa Counties exceeded the 2004 state incidence rate by at least 20 percent (**Table 5F-2**).

*Gonorrhea* had its highest rate of reported incidence among Blacks (376.8 cases per 100,000), with their rate 30.6 times higher than the 2004 reported incidence rate for Asians (**Table 3B-5**).

**Figure 3B-2**  
Age-Specific Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea by Gender,  
Arizona, 2004

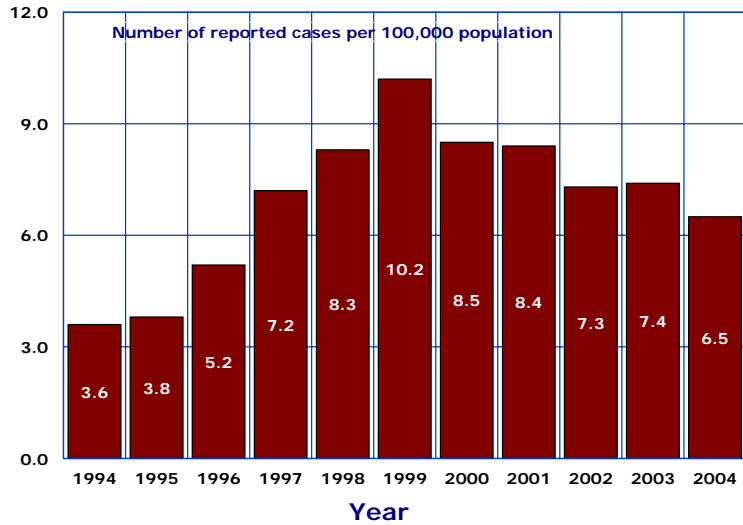


The 2004 incidence rate of *gonorrhea* was approximately 27 percent greater for males than for females (78.5 and 61.7 respectively, **Table 3B-4**). As in prior years, age-specific incidence rates by gender indicated that females acquired this disease at earlier ages than males. The age-specific incidence rates fell below 100/100,000 after age 29 for females but not until age 35 for males. During the years from 10 to 14 or preadolescence, the incidence rate of gonorrhea for girls was 3.8 times greater than the incidence rate for boys.

3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

The incidence rate of *syphilis* decreased by 12.2 percent from 7.4 cases per 100,000 population in 2003 to 6.5/100,000 in 2004 (**Figure 3B-3, Table 3B-1**). Thirty-eight out of every one hundred *syphilis* cases reported in 2004 were *early syphilis* (**Table 3B-3**), the stage when the disease is communicable and hence the focus of control efforts. Male cases accounted for 66.3 percent (252 out of 380, **Table 3B-3**) of all reported cases of *early syphilis*. Relative to White non-Hispanics, Blacks had a 5.4 times higher rate of *early syphilis* (**Table 3B-5**).

**Figure 3B-3**  
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Early Syphilis by Year, Arizona 1994-2004



The number of reported cases of genital herpes increased from 910 in 2003 to 1,196 in 2004 (**Table 3B-1**). The 2004 incidence rate of genital herpes (20.5 cases per 100,000 population, **Table 5F-2**) exceeded the 2003 incidence rate by 26.5 percent.

Females accounted for 67 percent of all cases of genital herpes reported in 2004 (801 out of 1,196; **Table 3B-3**). All age-specific incidence rates of genital herpes were greater among females than males (**Figure 3B-4**). Relative to Asians, American Indian residents of Arizona had a 4.1 times higher incidence rate of gonorrhea (**Table 3B-5**).

**Figure 3B-4**  
Age-Specific Incidence Rates of Genital Herpes by Gender, Arizona, 2004

