



**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.

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.\*

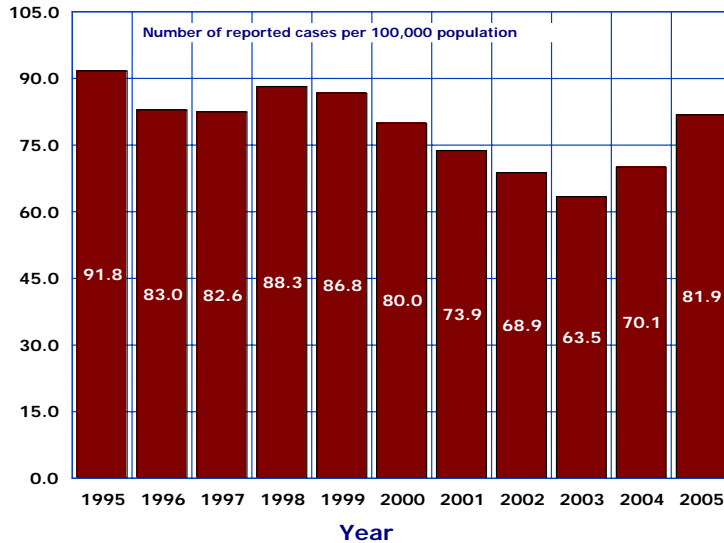
The four sexually transmitted diseases for which reporting is required by administrative rule in Arizona are, *gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia* and *genital herpes*.

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\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Summary of notifiable diseases – United States, 2004. Published June 16, 2006, for MMWR 2004; 53 (No. 53).

3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

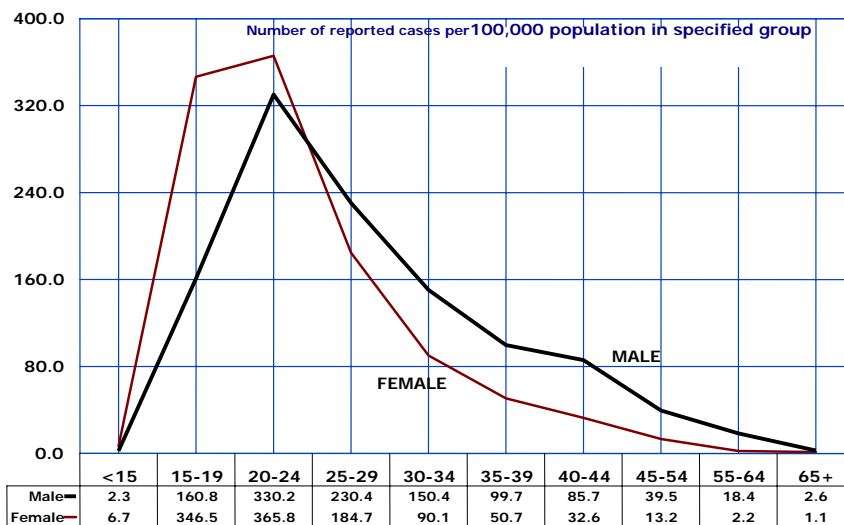
**Figure 3B-1**  
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Gonorrhea  
By Year, Arizona, 1995-2005



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 and 4,951 in 2005 (**Table 3B-1**). The increase in the number of gonorrhea cases reported for 2005 was likely due to changes in surveillance and may not represent a true increase in incidence. The 2005 incidence rate of gonorrhea of 81.9 cases per 100,000 population exceeded the 2004 rate by 16.8 percent (**Figure 3B-1**).

*Gonorrhea* had its highest rate of reported incidence among Blacks or African Americans (395.7 cases per 100,000), with their rate 27.1 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, 2005

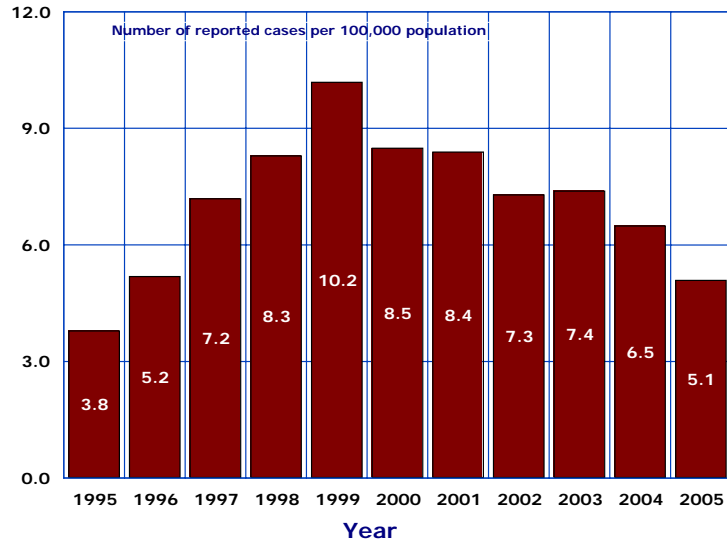


The 2004 incidence rate of *gonorrhea* was approximately 12 percent greater for males than for females (86.6 and 77.3 respectively, **Table 3B-4**). As in prior years, age-specific incidence rates by gender indicated that females acquired this disease at earlier ages than males. The age-specific incidence rates fell below 100/100,000 after age 29 for females but not until age 35 for males (**Figure 3B-2**). During the years from 10 to 14 or preadolescence, the incidence rate of gonorrhea for girls (18.5/100,000) was 4.2 times greater than the incidence rate for boys (4.4/100,000, **Table 3B-4**).

### 3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

**Figure 3B-3**  
Trends in the Incidence Rates of Early Syphilis  
by Year, Arizona, 1995-2005

The incidence rate of *syphilis* decreased for the second consecutive year percent from 7.4 cases per 100,000 population in 2003 to 6.5/100,000 in 2004 and 5.1/100,000 in 2005 (**Figure 3B-3, Table 3B-1**). Thirty-nine out of every one hundred *syphilis* cases reported in 2005 were *early syphilis* (**Table 3B-3**), the stage when the disease is communicable and hence the focus of control efforts. Male cases accounted for 68.3 percent (211 out of 309, **Table 3B-3**) of all reported cases of *early syphilis*. Relative to White non-Hispanics, Blacks had a 5.7 times higher rate of *early syphilis* (**Table 3B-5**).



The incidence of genital herpes changed very little from 1,196 cases reported in 2004 to 1,189 cases in 2005 (**Table 3B-1**). The 2005 incidence rate of genital herpes (19.7 cases per 100,000 population, **Table 5F-2**) was 3.9 percent lower than the 2004 incidence rate of 20.5 cases per 100,000 population.

Females accounted for 68.2 percent of all cases of genital herpes reported in 2004 (811 out of 1,189; **Table 3B-3**). All age-specific incidence rates of genital herpes were greater among females than males (**Figure 3B-4**). Among ethnic groups, Asians/Pacific Islanders had the lowest 2005 incidence rate of genital herpes (5.2 cases per 100,000; **Table 3B-5**).

**Figure 3B-4**  
Age-Specific Incidence Rates of Genital Herpes  
by Gender, Arizona, 2005

