

Communicable Disease Control

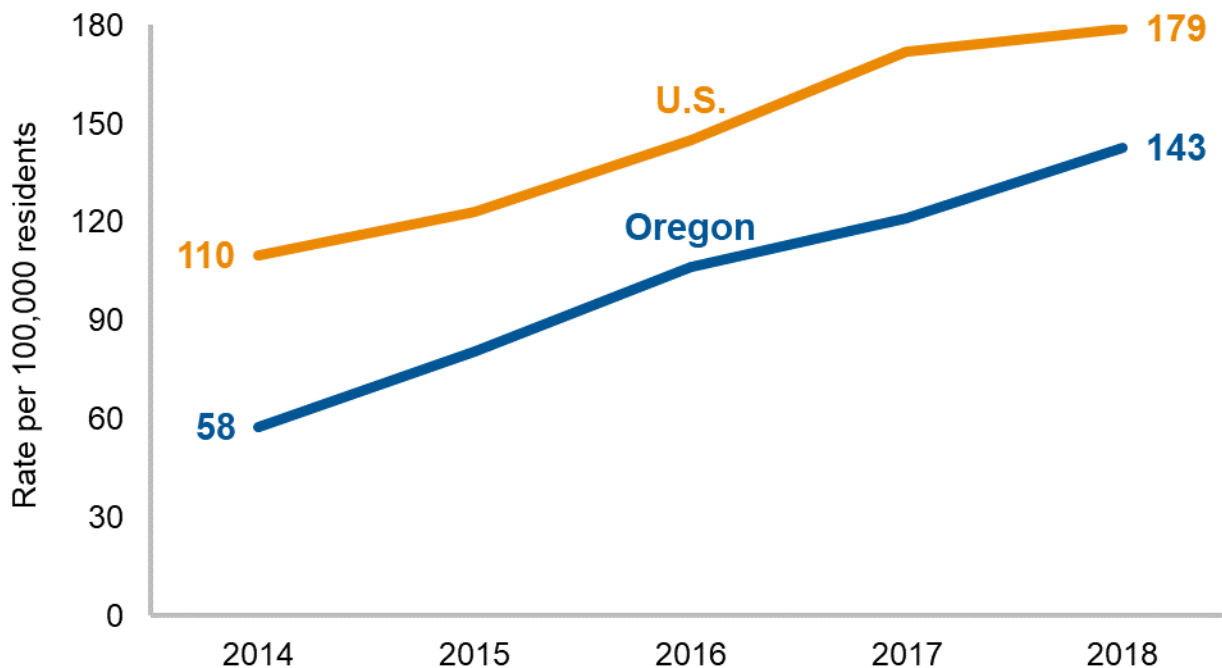
Gonorrhea incidence

Gonorrhea is the third most commonly reported disease in Oregon. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is transmitted sexually, through oral, vaginal, and anal sex, and can also be transmitted from mother to child at delivery. Untreated gonorrhea can result in serious health problems including pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, and infertility. Gonorrhea also increases the likelihood of both acquiring and transmitting HIV.

In 2018, reported gonorrhea incidence in Oregon was 143 cases/100,000 residents. Annual reported cases of gonorrhea have steadily increased over the past 7 years, reaching levels not seen since the 1990s (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1

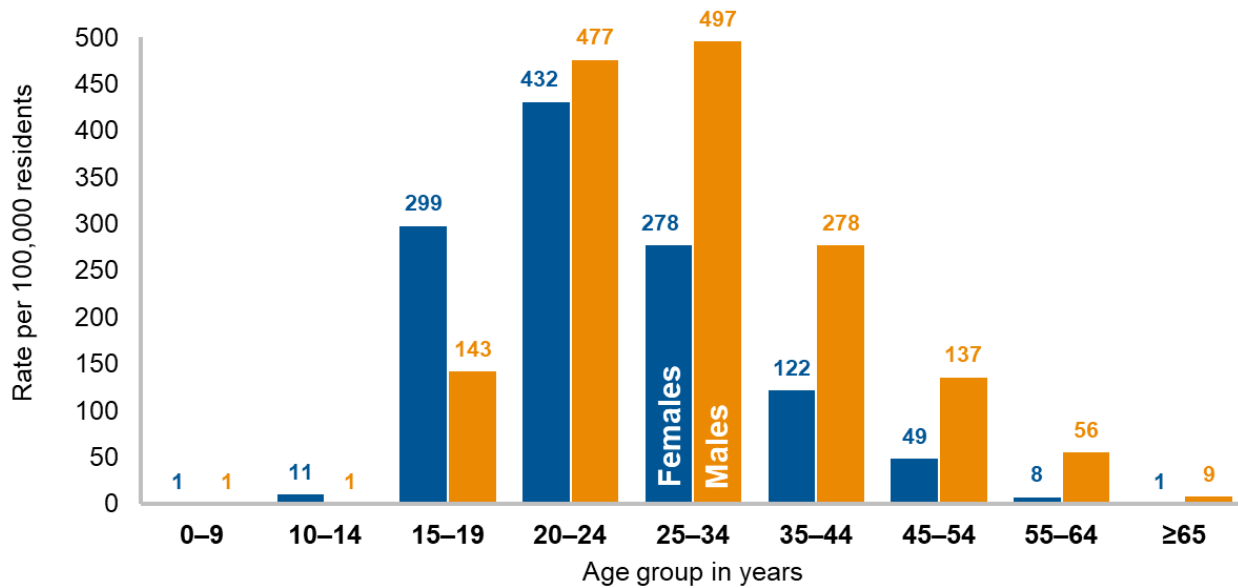
Gonorrhea infection by year, Oregon and U.S.



Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database and CDC (U.S. data)

Incidence was highest among males aged 25–34 years and among females aged 20–24 years (Figure 2). From 2014 to 2018, the rate among males increased 129% (78 to 178 cases per 100,000 males) and the rate among females increased 174% (39 to 107 cases per 100,000 females). Prior to 2013, rates were similar among men and women.

FIGURE 2
Gonorrhea infection by age group and sex, Oregon, 2018



Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database

Several populations were disproportionately impacted by gonorrhea including men who have sex with men and African Americans (data not shown).

Extra-genital screening of gonorrhea is an important public health strategy for clinicians. Gonorrhea can affect the throat and rectum and occurs in both men and women. Clinicians should offer testing at all anatomic sites and allow patients to decline testing that does not apply to them. Among the asymptomatic cases reported in males in 2018, 38% had a rectal infection and 47% had a pharyngeal infection. Studies have shown that infection with rectal gonorrhea is one of the most important indicators of higher risk for subsequent infection with HIV and as a result, provides an important point for public health interventions, such as health department notification of sexual partners (STD Partner Services) and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

Additional Resources: [Oregon STD Statistics](#) [OHA Materials on Expedited Partner Therapy](#)

About the Data: All cases of laboratory confirmed or presumptive *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in Oregon residents are subject to mandatory reporting by licensed health care providers and clinical laboratories. National data are from the CDC Division of STD Prevention, "[Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2018](#)", October 2019. Oregon data are from the state's Reportable Disease Database. Population estimated used in calculated rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

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[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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