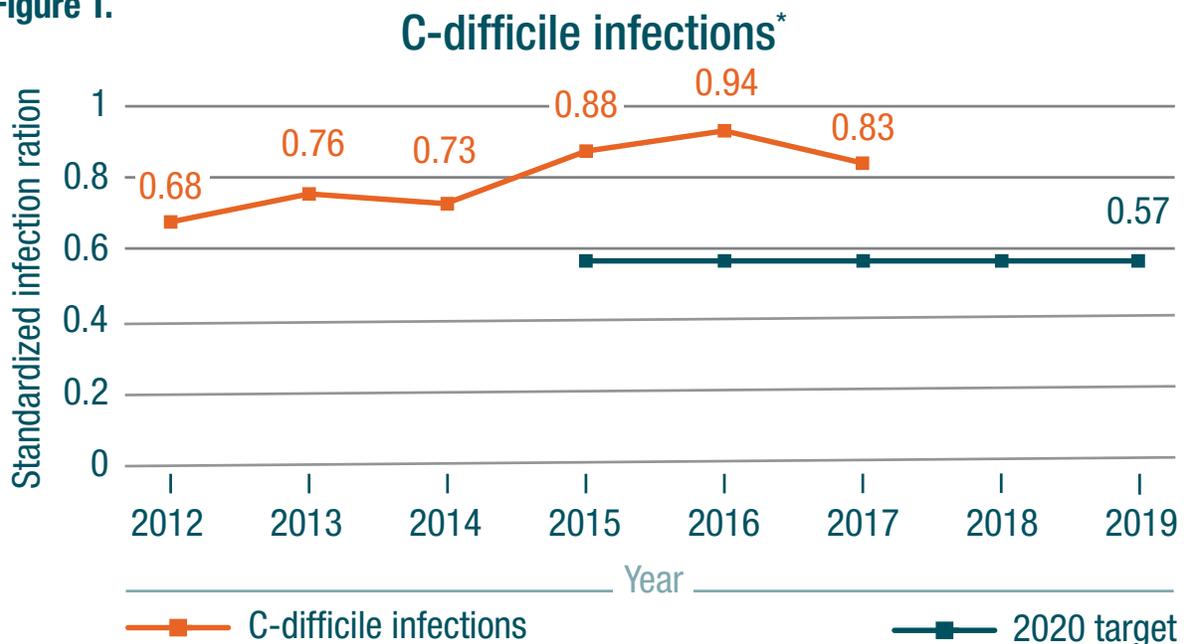


2018 Fact Sheet: Protect the population from communicable diseases

This fact sheet is a summary of progress made in year four of the 2015-2019 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). While gonorrhea infections continue to increase, new HIV infections, infectious syphilis, hospital acquired C-difficile infection (CDI), and E.coli all decreased this past year. Achievements within the priority area of protecting the population from communicable disease include:

- Oregon hospital performance improved since 2016. Strides have been made since 2017 to reduce CDI. Oregon hospitals performed better than hospitals nationally. Improvements reflect development programs to improve antibiotic use as well as effective control practice.
- [Patient education materials about TB](#) were translated into 10 languages.
- The STD program identified several systems-level challenges that slow the development and delivery of patient-delivered partner therapy in clinical settings. In response, the program outlined steps to address these challenges with public health and health systems partners in 2019.
- In December 2017, the Oregon Health Authority awarded public health modernization funding to eight local public health authority partnerships for regional communicable disease control interventions. These interventions address unique needs of each community and emphasize strategies intended to eliminate health disparities. For example, Central Oregon counties hired a regional infection prevention nurse who works with long-term care facilities (LTCFs) to prevent the spread of disease during outbreaks. In 2018, 78 percent of LTCFs received infection prevention training. In addition, after-action reports were completed for 100 percent of outbreaks.

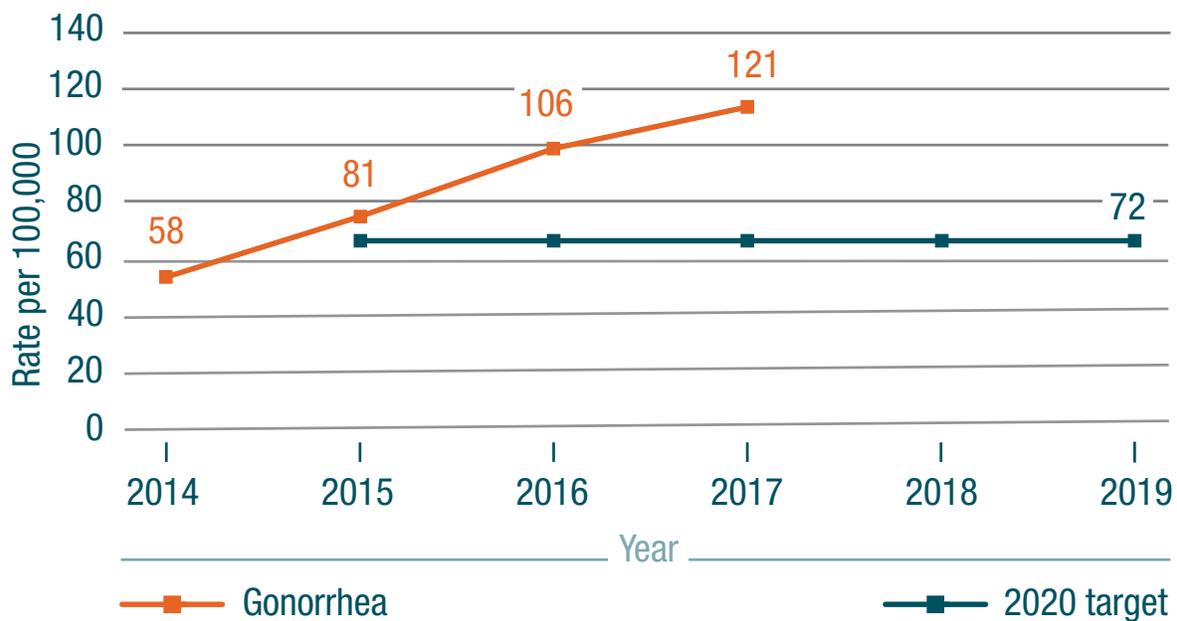
Figure 1.



* Oregon Public Health Epidemiology User System (Orpheus)

Figure 2.

Gonorrhea incidence*



* Oregon Public Health Epidemiology User System (Orpheus)

Challenges

The following challenges may affect the ability of the state to meet goals and achieve priority targets by the end of 2019.

- Oregon continues to see disparities in deaths related to Hepatitis C virus (HCV). The highest HCV related deaths rates occur among American Indians, Alaska Natives and African Americans. People who inject drugs are also at increased risk of HCV. They also face access and quality of care inequities. Oregon lacks primary care clinicians who have the training to provide comprehensive care for HCV. Thus, the clinical infrastructure is not in place to support HCV treatment for everyone who needs it, especially in rural areas.
- CDI standardized infection ratios currently do not meet 2020 goals. Regional CDI prevention requires ongoing and effective communication between all Oregon healthcare facilities. Practice varies for timing of transfer notification for patients with CDI. This can challenge prevention efforts.

You can find complete information, including progress made on specific interventions and strategies online at www.healthoregon.org/ship.