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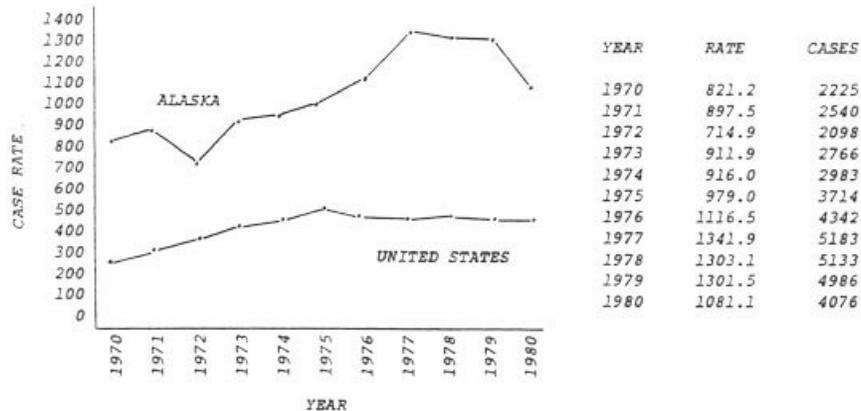
Bulletin No. 5

February 13, 1981

Turning the Tide - Dramatic Decrease in Gonorrhea and Syphilis

Alaska's gonorrhea rate declined in 1980 for the third consecutive year. A dramatic rate reduction of 17% represented a decrease of 910 cases of civilian gonorrhea, the greatest decrease ever in gonorrhea cases in Alaska. In spite of this decrease, Alaska still has the highest gonorrhea rate of any state in the United States - 1081 cases per 100,000 population.

Civilian Gonorrhea Rates per 100,000 Population
1970 - 1980



In addition to the 4076 civilian gonorrhea cases reported in 1980, there were an additional 245 military cases reported in 1980, fewer than the 258 military cases reported in 1979.

The prevention of 910 cases of gonorrhea in 1980 resulted in saving at least \$161,678 in direct medical costs.

688 males - uncomplicated gonorrhea at \$77/case*	\$51,436
206 females - uncomplicated gonorrhea at \$77/case*	\$15,862
<u>36 females**</u> - gonococcal P.I.D. at \$2600/case*	<u>\$94,380</u>
910 cases	\$161,678

* Based on treatment costs provided by CDC, Atlanta, GA ** Based on a projection that 15% of Alaska's female gonorrhea patients will develop P.I.D.

The number of Alaskan cases of early syphilis (including primary, secondary, and early latent cases under one year's duration) decreased 42%, from 45 cases (including 4 military cases) in 1979 to 26 cases (including 5 military cases) in 1980. The 21 civilian cases reported in 1980 represented a rate of early syphilis cases of 5.5 per 100,000 population compared to the U.S. rate of early syphilis cases of approximately 20 per 100,000 population.

At this time we would like to acknowledge and thank all the private physicians, public health nurses, village health aides, PHS facilities, private hospitals and clinics, local and state VD clinics and investigators, military medical specialists, and laboratory personnel who have cooperated with, participated in, and supported our statewide VD Control Program activities.

(Reported by Tom Kelly, Senior Public Health Advisor, Venereal Disease Control Program, Section of Communicable Disease Control)