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Chlamydia in Alaska, 2003

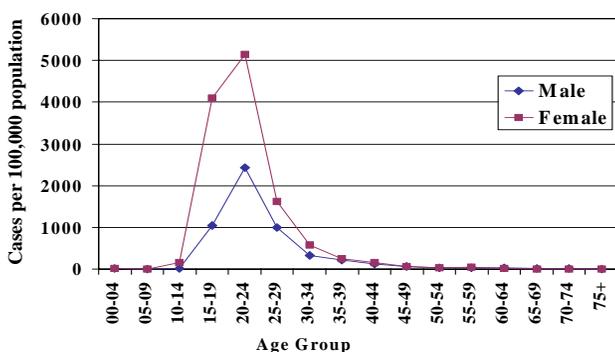
At 606 cases per 100,000 population,¹ Alaska's 2003 chlamydia infection rate was the highest in the United States for the third year in a row. A total of 3,900 chlamydia cases were reported in Alaska in 2003, 2,665 cases in females and 1,235 in males. The 3,900 cases represented an increase of 3% over the 3,803 cases reported in 2002, the smallest annual increase since 1999. There were 43 reported cases of chlamydia pelvic inflammatory disease in 2003.

Chlamydia Cases, Alaska, 1996-2003

Year	Number of Cases	Case Rate	National Ranking
2003	3900	606	1
2002	3803	591	1
2001	2744	437	1
2000	2570	413	2
1999	1888	304	8
1998	1906	307	7
1997	1601	262	6
1996	1358	221	10

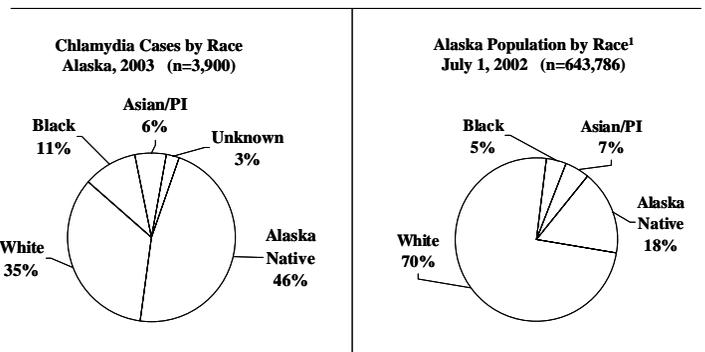
Increases in reported chlamydia cases in recent years are due to intensified Public Health partner notification activities, introduction of noninvasive screening technology, and targeting screening to persons at increased risk of infection.

Chlamydia in Alaska, 2003
Males and Females by Age Group
(n = 3,900)



Highest chlamydia case rates in 2003 occurred in females aged 15-24 years of age (5,147 cases per 100,000 for females aged 20-24 years, and 4,098 cases per 100,000 for females aged 15-19 years). Among males, case rates were highest in males aged 20-24 years (2,430 cases per 100,000). Case rates for males and females aged 24-29 years were each in excess of 1,000 cases per 100,000. Case rates in females were higher than in males in all age groups up to 60+ years.

Chlamydia infections in 2003 were not evenly distributed throughout the population. Case rates were highest in Alaska Natives/American Indians (1,578 per 100,000 population) and Blacks (1,196 per 100,000 population). Alaska Natives/American Indians accounted for 46% of chlamydia cases and 18% of the Alaska population. Blacks accounted for 11% of chlamydia infections and 5% of the Alaska population. These proportions are consistent with previous years.



Partner Notification Activities

Partner notification is a voluntary, confidential process to notify infected persons' sexual partners of their potential infection in order to prevent clinical disease and reduce disease transmission. Public health partner notification activities have increased significantly in Alaska since 1999, greatly increasing case-finding and treatment for infected persons. A high proportion of Chlamydia infections are asymptomatic, and persons unaware of their infections are unlikely to seek treatment. Over time, partner notification activities are expected to decrease the reservoir of infected persons and reduce transmission.

In 2003, 1,753 (45%) of the 3,900 individuals with chlamydia infection were interviewed for partners, identifying 2,626 persons for follow-up. Of these 2,626 persons, 1,542 individuals (59%) were located, notified and received testing and/or treatment; 600 (23%) had been previously diagnosed and treated; 252 (10%) either refused treatment or were lost to follow up; for 184 individuals (7%) there was insufficient information to begin follow-up; and 48 (2%) were referred to public health jurisdictions out of state for follow-up.

Recommended Treatment

The Alaska Section of Epidemiology recommends the following treatment for diagnosed or suspected chlamydia infections, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2002 STD Treatment Guidelines: **Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose, or Doxycycline 100mg orally twice a day for 7 days.** Alternative regimens include **Erythromycin base 500mg orally four times a day for 7 days; Ofloxacin 300mg orally twice a day for 7 days; or Levofloxacin 500mg orally for 7 days.** (Doxycycline and Ofloxacin are contraindicated in pregnant women).

Recommended treatment regimen for pelvic inflammatory disease is **ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose plus doxycycline 100mg orally twice a day for 14 days.**

All diagnosed or suspected cases of chlamydia should be reported to the Division of Public Health. Rapid Telephonic Reporting to 561-4234 (Anchorage) or 1-800-478-1700 (statewide) is available to providers for this purpose.

¹2002 and 2003 rates are calculated using the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Equal Proportion Bridge Series population estimates for 7/1/2002.