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Bulletin No. 5 March 4, 2002

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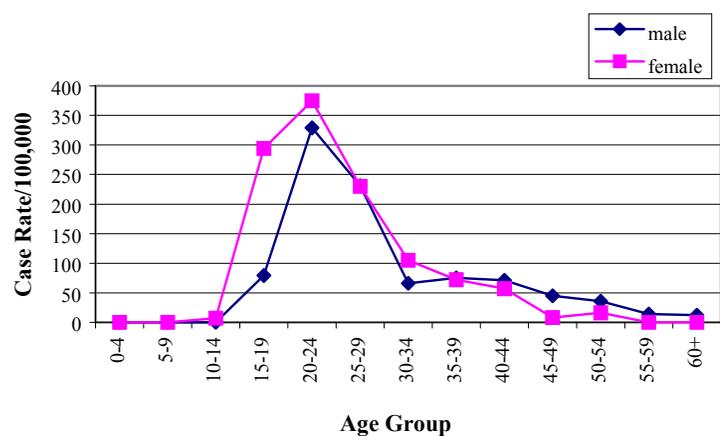
Gonorrhea in Alaska, 2001

Although gonorrhea rates in Alaska have declined dramatically from the highs of the late 1970s, the 455 cases reported in 2001 constituted a 28% increase over the 356 cases reported in 2000 and mark the second consecutive year of increases. Reported cases in males increased 33% (from 160 in 2000 to 213 in 2001) and cases in females increased 23% (from 196 in 2000 to 242 in 2001). The increase in gonorrhea cases in 2000 is most likely attributable both to increased disease, primarily in Anchorage, and to increased screening and partner notification activities throughout the state. Female case rates remain higher than male case rates in most age categories.

Gonorrhea Cases, Alaska, 1991-2001

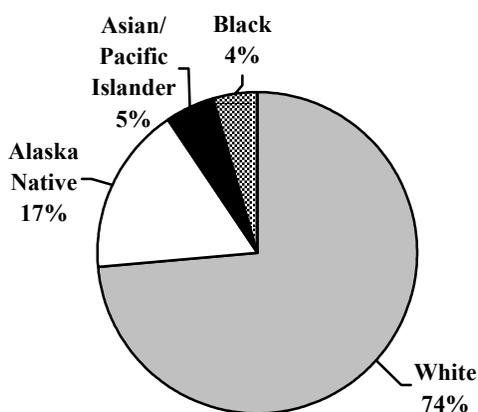
Year	Reported Cases	Case Rate (per 100,000)
2001	455	73
2000	357	57
1999	302	49
1998	331	53
1997	383	63
1996	466	76
1995	660	107
1994	920	152
1993	676	113
1992	651	111
1991	880	154

Gonorrhea Rates in Alaska, 2001
Male vs. Female (N=455)

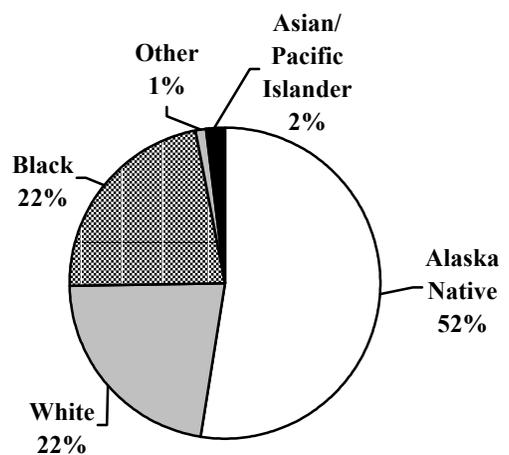


Gonorrhea was not evenly distributed in the population. Case rates were highest in Alaska Native (304/100,000) and Black (281/100,000) females and Black males (432/100,000). Alaska Natives comprised 52% of gonorrhea cases and 17% of the population, and Blacks comprised 22% of gonorrhea cases and 4% of the population. This is consistent with previous years' data.

Total Population Estimate, Alaska, 1999
(N=622,000)



Gonorrhea Cases by Race, Alaska, 2001
(N=455)



Partner Notification Activity for reported cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis:

The goal of STD partner notification (PN) activities is to prevent clinical disease and reduce disease transmission. Public health personnel continued to increase the amount of PN activity, particularly in Anchorage and particularly targeted to more difficult cases. In 2001, 1,370 cases were identified by those agencies* submitting partner notification data to the Division of Public Health's HIV/STD Program and 1,346 (98%) of these persons were interviewed. From these interviews, 1,242 persons named 2,342 partners, providing sufficient information to begin 2,172 investigations involving 1,795 unique partners. Of these 1,795 unique partners, 66% were located, tested, and/or treated; 23% either refused treatment or were not located; and 11% are still under investigation (as of 2/12/02).

*Agencies participating in the partner notification management information system are the Municipality of Anchorage Reproductive Health Clinic, Southcentral Foundation, Fairbanks and Mat-Su Public Health Nursing Centers, and the Section of Epidemiology HIV/STD Program.