



Department of Health and Social Services
Karen Perdue, Commissioner

Division of Public Health
Karen Pearson, Director

Section of Epidemiology
John Middaugh, MD, Editor

3601 C Street, Suite 540, P.O. Box 240249, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249 (907) 269-8000
24-Hour Emergency Number 1-800-478-0084

Bulletin No. 3 March 9, 2001

<http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us>

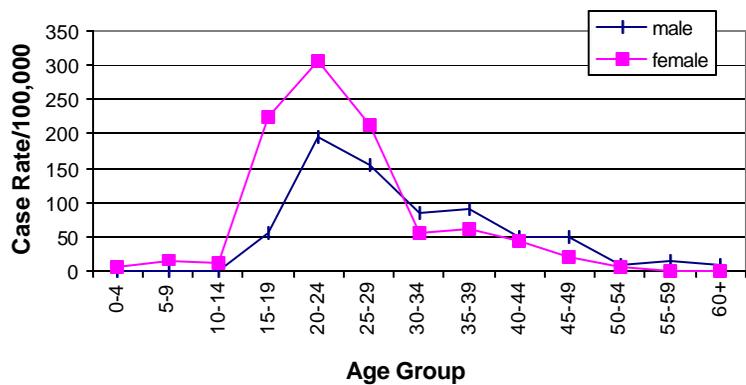
Gonorrhea in Alaska, 2000

Although gonorrhea rates in Alaska have declined dramatically from the highs of the late 1970s, the 362 cases reported in 2000 constituted a 20% increase over the 302 cases reported in 1999. Females age 29 years and younger had higher age-group specific gonorrhea rates than males; and males older than age 29 years had higher age-group specific rates than females. Highest rates in both sexes were among persons age 20-24 years. The increase in gonorrhea cases in 2000 is most likely due to increased screening and partner notification activities throughout the state.

Gonorrhea Cases-Alaska, 1990-2000

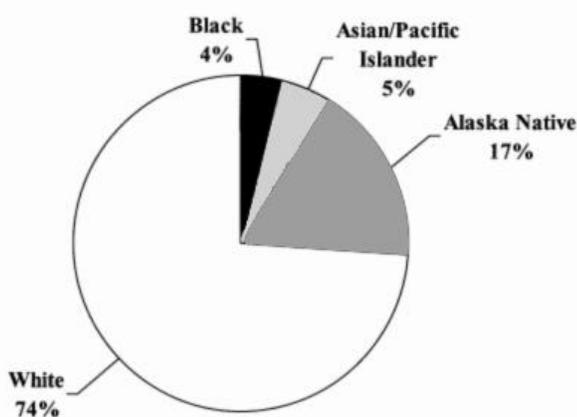
Year	Reported Cases	Case Rate (per 100,000)
2000	362	58
1999	302	49
1998	331	53
1997	383	63
1996	466	76
1995	660	107
1994	920	152
1993	676	113
1992	651	111
1991	880	154
1990	1182	214

Gonorrhea Rates in Alaska, 2000 Male vs. Female (n=362)

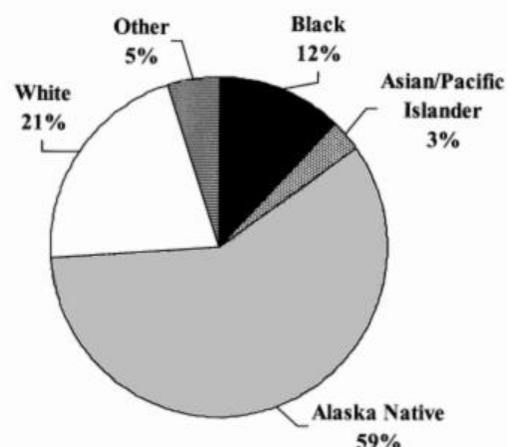


Minorities were most heavily impacted by gonorrhea. Alaska Natives accounted for 59% of gonorrhea cases, but comprised only 17% of Alaska's population. Similarly, Blacks accounted for 12% of gonorrhea cases and 4% of the State's population. The overall Alaska Native case rate of 201/100,000 and the overall Black case rate of 163/100,000 were over 10 times and 9 times (respectively) greater than the corresponding White case rate (17/100,000).

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



Gonorrhea Cases by Race Alaska, 2000 (n=362)



Partner Notification:

The goal of STD partner notification (PN) activities is to prevent clinical disease and reduce disease transmission. PN activities increased throughout the state in 2000, and significantly increased in Anchorage. The number of patients interviewed for partners increased 28% from 665 in 1999 to 851 in 2000 and the corresponding number of partners identified for each patient interviewed (partner index) increased from 1.48 in 1999 to 1.89 in 2000¹. These data indicate that the number of patients offered PN services has increased and the number of partners elicited from each patient increased in 2000. Therefore, more individuals are offered STD screening, and consequently, previously undiagnosed STD are identified and treated appropriately.

¹ These data are limited to the public health agencies that regularly submit CDC Partner Notification forms to the Section of Epidemiology. These agencies include The Municipality of Anchorage Reproductive Health Clinic, Section of Epidemiology, Southcentral Foundation and Fairbanks Regional Public Health Nursing Centers.