

## GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted bacterial disease (STD) caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. In males, it is usually characterized by a purulent urethral discharge and dysuria. In females, initially there is a urethritis or cervicitis often so mild it may pass unnoticed. Depending upon sexual practices, pharyngeal and anorectal infections can occur. In males, the urethral infection is usually self-limiting; however, it may progress to epididymitis, and in rare cases, it can disseminate into an arthritis-dermatitis syndrome, endocarditis, and meningitis. Twenty percent of women infected with gonorrhea may progress to uterine infection, which may lead to endometritis or salpingitis (PID-Pelvic Inflammatory Disease) and the subsequent risk of infertility.

### Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

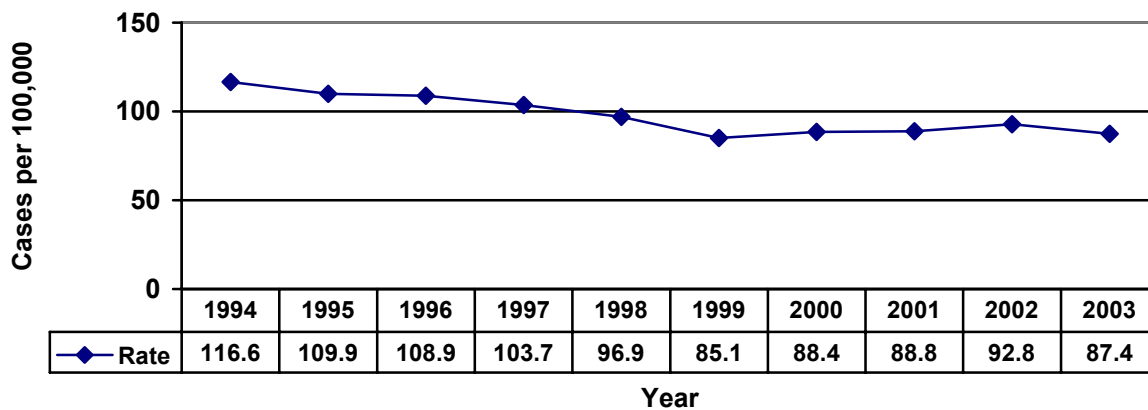
- Isolation of typical Gram-negative, oxidase-positive diplococci (presumptive *N. gonorrhoeae*) from clinical specimen, **OR**
- Demonstration of *N. gonorrhoeae* in a clinical specimen by detection of antigen or nucleic acid, **OR**
- Observation of Gram-negative intracellular diplococci in a urethral smear from a man.

### Case Classification

*Confirmed:* A case that is laboratory confirmed.

*Probable:* a) Demonstration of gram-negative intracellular diplococci in an endocervical smear obtained from a female or b) a written morbidity report of gonorrhea submitted by a physician.

**Gonorrhea Incidence, Kentucky  
1994-2003**



## Epidemiology

<b>Kentucky 2003</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>	<b>U.S. Rate (2003) per 100,000*</b>
Cases 3565	88.2	114.7

### Cases by Gender

Female	1839	88.9
Male	1720	87.1

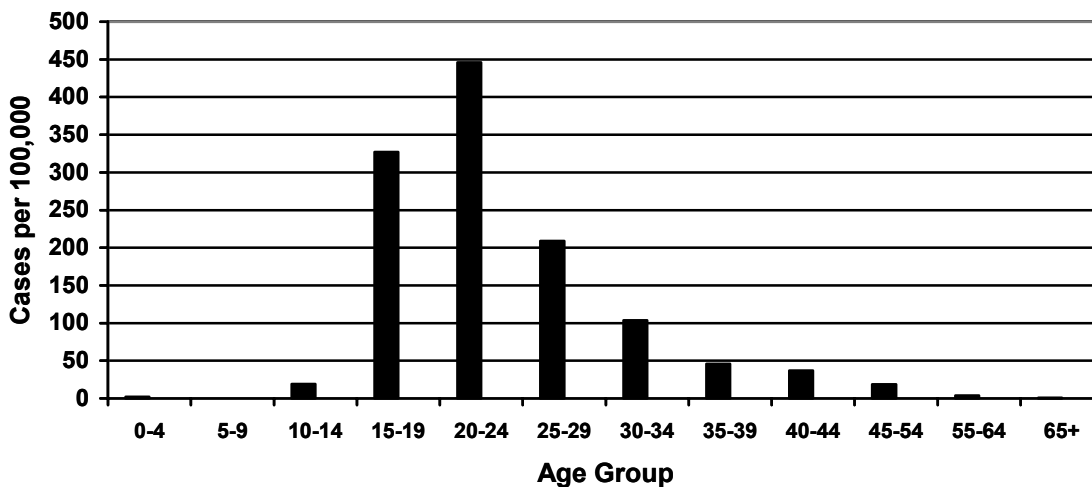
Gender not specified on six cases.

The highest incidence of gonorrhea by race was 635.8 cases per 100,000 in African-Americans. The Caucasian rate was 26.5 cases per 100,000. The combined rate for all other races was 57.2.

Race was not specified on 18.3% of the reports.

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**Gonorrhea, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky  
2003**



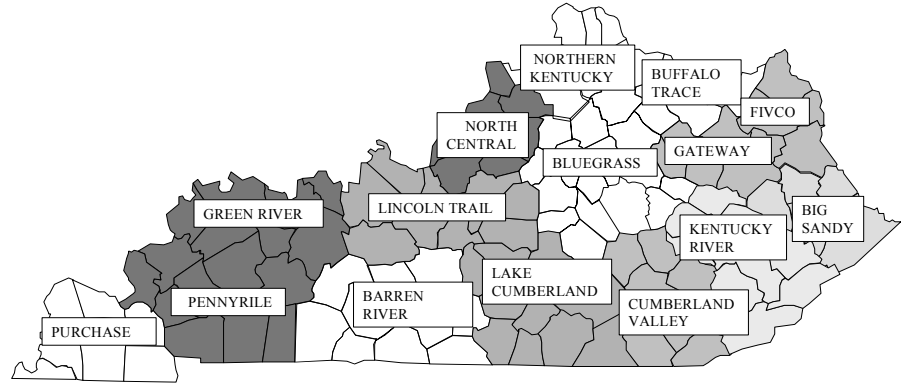
The 20-24 year age group reported the highest number of cases, 445.9 per 100,000 followed by the 15-19 year age group, 327.3 cases per 100,000. This is a slight decrease from 2002 rates for these two age groups. Age was not specified for 23 cases.

\*from Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2003. CDC-HHS.

## Gonorrhea Incidence by District , Kentucky 2003

Cases per 100,000

0-15	
16-40	
41-100	
101-180	



**The highest reported incidence occurred in the North Central District (172.7 cases per 100,000), followed by the Pennyrile District (135.5 cases per 100,000).**

District	Annual Incidence Rate
Purchase	94.6
Pennyrile	135.5
Green River	121.5
Barren River	74.1
Lincoln Trail	34.3
North Central	172.7
Northern Kentucky	78.9
Buffalo Trace	43.5
Gateway	22.3
Fivco	15.5
Big Sandy	5.0
Kentucky River	9.9
Cumberland Valley	18.0
Lake Cumberland	17.6
Bluegrass	87.0