Overview

Why is this indicator important?
Nearly half of the gonorrhea cases reported in Minnesota are among Hennepin County residents. In men, epididymitis (a painful condition affecting the testes) and in women, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), may develop as a result of untreated gonorrhea. These conditions can lead to infertility in both sexes. Although treatable, gonorrhea continues to persist in the population because people may fail to recognize the symptoms or attribute their condition to other causes.

How are we doing?
- In 2016, the gonorrhea rate was higher in males than in females (276 cases versus 148 cases per 100,000 population). Previously, gonorrhea rates were reported about equally in women and men.
- Gonorrhea remains disproportionately high in the American Indian and the Black/African American population.
- Sexually active young adults (aged 20-24 years or aged 25-29 years) are at highest risk for gonorrhea infections.

Data Source: Minnesota Department of Health – Sexually Transmitted Diseases Annual Surveillance Data, 2016
Indicator: Gonorrhea rate per 100,000 population

Hennepin County Gonorrhea Rate Trend Data 2001-2016

2016 Hennepin County Gonorrhea Rate by Sex and Race/Ethnicity

2016 Hennepin County Gonorrhea Rate by Age Groups

Hennepin County Gonorrhea Rate Adolescents and Young Adults Recent trend data 2012-2016
**Technical Notes**

*Definition of indicator:* Hennepin County’s gonorrhea rate per 100,000 population includes people diagnosed within a given calendar year.

*Data source:* Doctors, clinics, and other health services providers are required to report all laboratory-confirmed cases of gonorrhea to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Annually, the Epidemiology unit of Hennepin County’s Department of Human Services and Public Health (HSPHD) receives a database with demographic information about the reported cases. The Epidemiology unit reviews these data and produces case counts and population rates using 2010 US Census Bureau population estimates, except for rates by race. Rates by race are calculated using the US Census Bureau’s Bridged Population Estimates as the base for the rates per 100,000 population. This information is reported in the Hennepin County Annual STD Surveillance Report. Additional information about sexually transmitted diseases in Hennepin County can be found at [http://www.hennepin.us/epiupdates](http://www.hennepin.us/epiupdates).

*Importance of this indicator:* Nearly half of the gonorrhea cases reported in Minnesota are among Hennepin County residents. In men, epididymitis (a painful condition affecting the testes) and in women, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), may develop as a result of untreated gonorrhea. These conditions can lead to infertility in both sexes. Although treatable, gonorrhea continues to persist in the population because people may fail to recognize the symptoms or attribute their condition to other causes.

*Health disparities:* Sexually active adolescents (aged 15-19) and young adults (aged 20-24 and aged 25-29) comprise the age groups with the highest risk for gonorrhea infections. The rates in 2016 for these groups were: 533, 794, and 541 cases per 100,000 population, respectively, compared to 212 cases per 100,000 population for the Hennepin County population overall. In 2016, the gonorrhea infection rate for males was nearly two times higher than for females (276 cases as compared to 148 cases per 100,000 population). Gonorrhea rates in 2016 for American Indian and Black/African American populations were also notably higher than the overall rate for Hennepin County. The rates for these two groups were 540 and 525 per 100,000 population, respectively, compared to 212 per 100,000 population for the Hennepin County population overall.

*Special notes on reporting rates by race/ethnicity:* The rate reported for Black/African Americans combines members from both the US-born and African-born communities; rates would be expected to be different for these two sub-groups.

*Special notes on location of residence:* The number of cases and rates per 100,000 population reported for sexually transmitted infections differs notably by location of residence. For gonorrhea, the rate for Minneapolis was 431 cases per 100,000 population compared to 212 cases per 100,000 population for Hennepin County overall. Minneapolis residents comprised 1,650 of the 2,441 cases of gonorrhea reported in Hennepin County in 2016.

*Special notes on reporting population rates versus numbers of cases for relatively small populations:* Both the rate and the actual number of cases have been reported in the table appearing in this fact sheet. Given the actual size of a particular community or sub-group, the magnitude of the rate reported may be very high, where the actual number of cases is relatively small. Both of these statistics (rate and number of cases) should be compared and taken into consideration in determining the scope of the problem for smaller communities or sub-group.