COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET: Gonorrhea

Figure 1: Number of Reported Cases of Gonorrhea in Cattaraugus County ¹

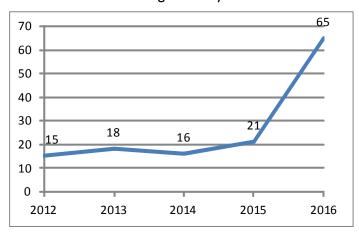


Figure 2: Gonorrhea Rate in NYS per 100,000 excl. of NYC¹

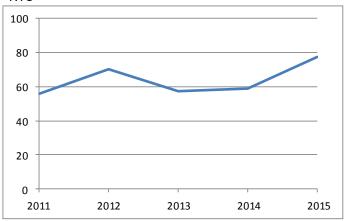
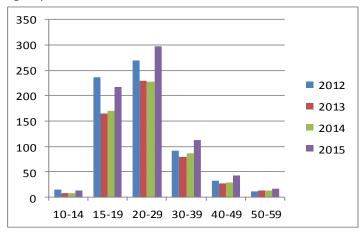


Figure 3: New York State Rate per 100,000 by age group, excl. of NYC ¹



What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that can infect both men and women. It is a bacterial infection that can cause inflammation frequently but not limited to the genitals, rectum, and throat.

Gonorrhea rates soar...

Over the past five years, Cattaraugus County has seen an increase in the number of reported cases of Gonorrhea. The average number of reported cases between 2012—2014 was 16.33. The rate increased slightly in 2015 to 21 cases. In 2016, the rate jumped 68% to 65 reported cases (Figure 1). There has also been an increase in number of reported gonorrhea cases across the state. In 2014, 6,616 cases were reported. In 2015, the rate increased 24% to 8,719 reported cases (Figure 2).

Sexually Transmitted Diseases are more common among young people. Young men and women between the ages of 15—29 (Figure 3) are at greater risk of the disease for several reasons:

- * Young women's bodies are biologically more susceptible to STDs.
- * Some young people do not get the recommended STD tests.
- Many young people are hesitant to talk openly and honestly with a doctor or nurse about their sex lives.
- * Lack of insurance or transportation can make it more difficult for young people to access STD testing.
- * Some young people have more than one sex partner. ²

What are the Symptoms of Gonorrhea?

Not all people infected with gonorrhea have symptoms, so knowing when to seek treatment can be tricky. When symptoms do occur, they are often within two to ten days after exposure, but they may take up to 30 days to develop and are different for men then for women.²

Gonorrhea symptoms in women

- -Discharge from the vagina
- -Pain or burning sensation while urinating
- -The need to urinate more frequently
- -Sore throat
- -Pain upon engaging in sexual intercourse
- -Sharp pain in the lower abdomen
- -Fever

Gonorrhea symptoms in men

- -Greenish yellow or whitish discharge from the penis
- -Burning when urinating
- -Painful or swollen testicles
- -Burning in the throat (due to oral sex)
- -Swollen glands in the throat (due to oral sex)

Talk With Your Partner

Talk with your sex partner(s) about STDs and staying safe before having sex.



If you think you may have Gonorrhea or another STD...

CALL (716) 701-3439 to schedule an appointment at one of our clinic locations in Olean, Salamanca or Machias.

Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Speech Disabled: Call the NY Relay Service at 7-1-1 (Voice or TTY)

Resource

- 1. New York State Department of Health, Data & Reports, Communicable Disease Annual Reports (Provisional Data). https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/diseases/communicable/. Accessed February 6, 2017.
- 2. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Life Stages and Populations, Adolescents and Young Adults (Fact Sheet). https://www.cdc.gov/std/life-stages-populations/stdfact-teens.htm. Accessed February 6, 2017.

How is a Gonorrhea infection treated?

Gonorrhea is a curable disease and is treated with medication. It is very rare that gonorrhea will go away on its own without medication. It is important to take all of the medication prescribed. To avoid reinfection, sex partners should not have unprotected sex for 7 days after they and their sexual partner(s) have completed treatment, and symptoms have gone away. If you still have symptoms after you've completed treatment call your healthcare provider.²

What if I have Gonorrhea and it is left untreated?

An important thing to note is that sometimes there will be no symptoms when a person is infected with gonorrhea. If a person has no symptoms and continues to have unprotected sex, that person will continue to infect other people until he or she seeks medical treatment.

Untreated gonorrhea can lead to serious complications in both women and men. In women, it may cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID may make it harder or impossible for a woman to get pregnant. It may also cause long term abdominal pain. In men, it may cause a painful condition in the tubes attached to the testicles.²

Prevention

Although it can be difficult, talk with your partner before you start having sex. Get tested. Many STD's have no symptoms. Practice safe sex and use a condom or other barrier contraception.

The Cattaraugus County Health Department provides free condoms to the public at each of our clinic locations.

Number of Sexual Partners	SEXUAL EXPOSURE CHART (If every person has only the same number of partners as you)	Number of People Exposed to
1	Ť	1
2	ŤŤŤ	3
3	ŤŤŤŤŤŤ	7
4	† † † † † † † † † † † † †	15
5	***********	31
6	***************************************	63
7	**************************************	127
8		255
9		511
10	and Abditionage Education Streets	1023

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