

Infectious Tidbits

The Quarterly Infectious Disease Newsletter from Tri-County Health Department (TCHD)

Disease Highlight: Gonorrhea Epidemic in Colorado

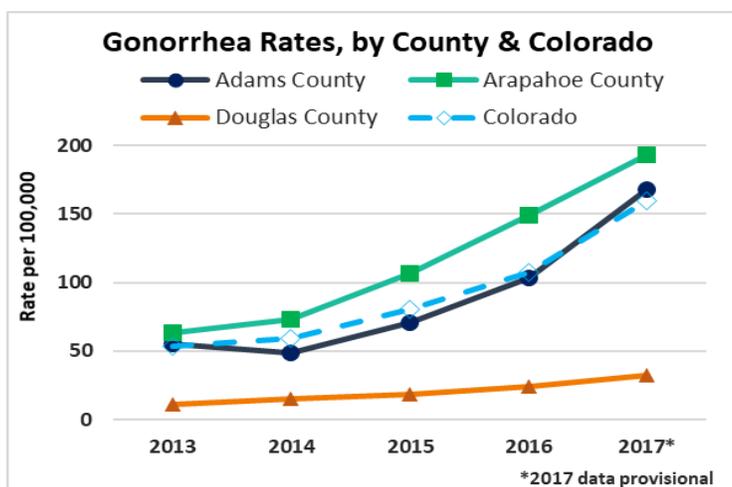
Gonorrhea is spread through sexual intercourse or anal or oral sex, and causes infection in the genitals, rectum, and throat. Gonorrhea can cause serious complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility in women and can increase the risk of acquiring HIV infection. Gonorrhea remains the second most commonly reported sexually transmitted infection in Colorado (after chlamydia). However, unlike chlamydia, statewide rates of gonorrhea have skyrocketed by 198% during 2013 to 2017 (versus 26% increase in chlamydia). Gonorrhea rates in TCHD’s jurisdiction of Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas Counties have increased 205%, 206%, and 188% respectively. Among gonorrhea cases for whom demographic data are available, most persons are male, white non-Hispanic or Hispanic (any race), and aged 15-24 years (Table).

Annual screening for gonorrhea is recommended for all sexually active women younger than 25 years, and older women who have new or multiple sex partners or a sex partner who has a sexually transmitted infection. Men who have sex with men (MSM) should also be screened annually based on sexual behavior (urethral, rectal, and/or pharyngeal specimens). Any person with signs or symptoms of gonorrhea infection must be tested. Testing can be performed using nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), although check the product insert to ensure a NAAT can be used with rectal or pharyngeal specimens (if not, perform a culture). Condoms are highly effective in preventing transmission of gonorrhea and should be recommended for all persons at risk of exposure to a sexually transmitted infection.

Treat uncomplicated gonorrhea infection with ceftriaxone and azithromycin. Men or women previously treated for gonorrhea should be retested 3 months after treatment to rule out reinfection. For information click [here](#).

Did you know?

July 6, 2018 is **World Zoonoses Day!** World Zoonoses Day commemorates Louis Pasteur’s first successful administration of the rabies vaccine 133 years ago. This day brings awareness of zoonotic diseases and the risks they pose to both humans and animals. The CDC reports that 3 out of every 4 emerging human infectious diseases are spread by animals. Zoonotic diseases have a global impact and are a high priority in public health. CDC also reports that disease cases from mosquito, tick and flea bites more than tripled in the US from 2004-2016. For more information visit the [TCHD website](#).



	% of cases
Male	56%
White, non-Hispanic	35%
Black non-Hispanic	25%
Hispanic, any race	34%
Under 15 years	1%
Age 15-24 years	43%
Age 25-34 years	35%
Age 35-44 years	14%
45 years and older	7%

2017 Gonorrhea Cases in Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas Counties

National Immunization Awareness Month

This August event highlights the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. New 2018 immunization schedules and clinic hours at TCHD offices are available on the TCHD [website](#).



Thank you to our community partners, including providers and laboratories, for support in the timely reporting of reportable conditions which is critical to our prompt and effective response to outbreaks to protect the communities we serve!

Contact us at (303) 220-9200 | After hours: (303) 461-2342 | Visit the TCHD website: <http://www.tchd.org/171/Infectious-Diseases>