Neisseria gonorrhoeae (NG) is the bacterium that causes gonorrhea, which is the second most commonly reported sexually transmitted infection (STI) in West Virginia. NG is spread through vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Pregnant people can also spread NG to their baby during childbirth. Gonorrhea often has no symptoms, but it can cause serious health problems if left untreated, such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women or epididymitis in men. NG can be cured with the right antibiotics, but drug-resistant strains of gonorrhea are increasing.

Return to your healthcare provider if symptoms continue a few days after treatment, and wait seven days after treatment before having sex. Using condoms correctly and consistently, as well as mutual monogamy among partners, can reduce the spread of NG among people who are sexually active.

Overview

In 2021, 1634 cases of gonorrhea were reported in WV.

By Sex: Men made up 52.4% (856) of all cases, and women made up 47.6% (779).

By Age: People aged 20-25 accounted for 27.7% of cases (454), which was the most of any age group.

By Race/Ethnicity: White non-Hispanic people had the most cases at 58.3% (954). However, Black people had the highest rate at 480.66 cases per 100,000.

By Geography: The majority (45.1%) of all gonorrhea cases resided in Cabell, Kanawha, or Wood counties.*

*The patient’s county of residency is used to determine infection rates. Institutions such as colleges, prisons, and shelters may affect these numbers, as the patient is a temporary resident of that county.