Gonorrhea in Alaska, 2003

Revised Treatment Recommendations

A total of 573 cases of gonorrhea were reported to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology in 2003 (rate of 89 cases per 100,000 population). This represents an 11% decrease from the 2002 gonorrhea case rate and is the first decrease since 1999. Reported cases in males decreased 19%, from 289 in 2002 to 234 in 2003, and reported cases in females decreased 4%, from 353 in 2002 to 339 in 2003. The 2003 cases included 13 cases of gonorrhea pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in females.

Gonorrhea cases were not evenly distributed throughout the population. Case rates were highest in Blacks (303 per 100,000) and Alaska Natives/American Indians (260 per 100,000). Blacks comprised 18% of the reported gonorrhea cases and 5% of the Alaska population. Alaska Natives/American Indians comprised 52% of the gonorrhea cases and 18% of the Alaska population. These proportions are consistent with previous years.

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