

Gonorrhoea (genital)

As with chlamydia, genital gonorrhoea infections may be asymptomatic and as a result, reports of gonorrhoea infections are only a portion of the total population burden. If untreated, genital gonorrhoea can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (which can cause infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain) in females and epidymo-orchitis in men.

Since the late 1990s, the provincial genital gonorrhoea rate in BC has increased steadily, consistent with national rates. However, the genital gonorrhoea rate in BC increased over 70% from 2014 to 2015 resulting in the highest number of cases reported in the past ten years. The rate of genital gonorrhoea in 2016 was similar to the rate in 2015 then decreased in 2017. Reasons for the increase in gonorrhoea rates in both 2015 and 2016 are still under investigation. Preliminary findings suggest that a shift in strain-type may account for some of this increase, as well as increased testing. The BCCDC is working in partnership with the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory, National Microbiology Laboratory, and Public Health Agency of Canada to understand the epidemiology of gonorrhoea.

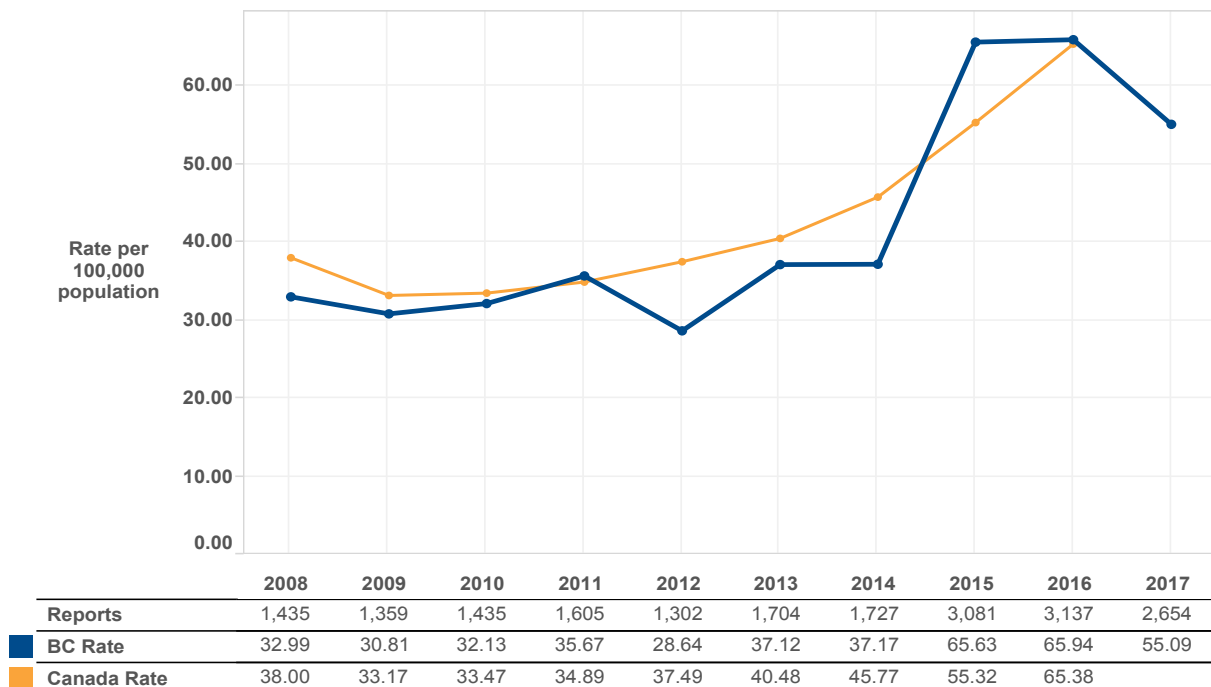
Males continue to have a rate of genital gonorrhoea about two times greater than females.

Gonorrhoea is more likely to be concentrated in sexually active networks and it is likely that the higher rates of gonorrhoea in males is, in part, due to higher rates of gonorrhoea among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM). While provincial surveillance data does not permit identification of MSM cases, this has been observed in other jurisdictions.

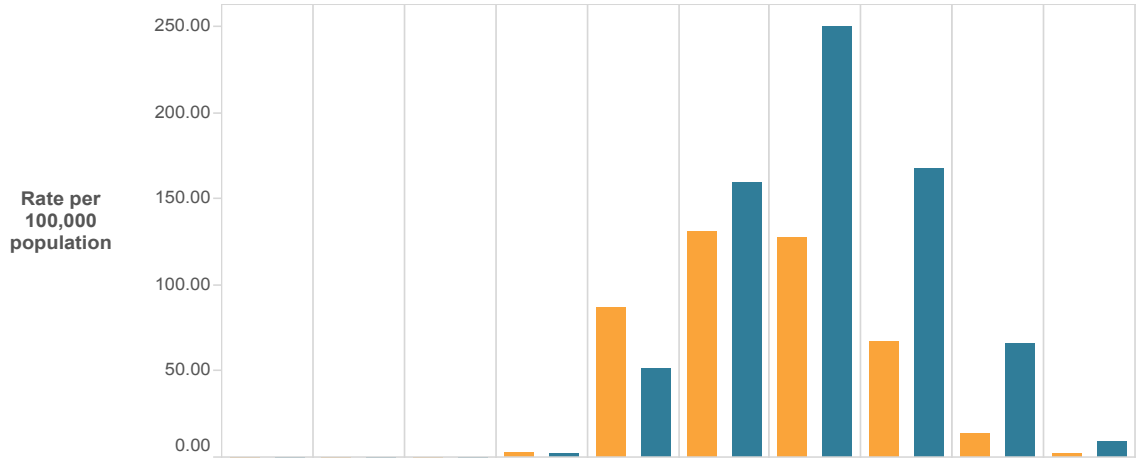
For more information on the epidemiology of genital gonorrhoea, please see the [STI Annual Report](#).



17.1 Genital Gonorrhoea Rates by Year, 2008-2017



17.2 Genital Gonorrhoea Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2017



		<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-59	60+
Reports	Female	0	0	0	3	115	208	206	220	92	11
	Male	0	0	0	2	71	276	411	544	430	53
	Total	0	0	0	5	186	486	617	770	524	64
BC Rate	Female	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.64	86.88	131.30	127.60	66.54	13.60	1.74
	Male	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.65	50.93	159.41	250.64	168.10	65.68	9.22
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.13	68.44	146.58	189.60	117.69	39.37	5.31