

Gonorrhoea (genital)

As is the case for genital chlamydia infection, only a portion of genital gonorrhoea infections are asymptomatic and as a result, the infection is under-diagnosed and under-reported. If untreated, genital gonorrhoea may lead to complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease (a major cause of infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pain) in women and epididymitis and prostatitis in men.

Rates of genital gonorrhoea have been increasing since the late 1990s across Canada. However, from 2014 to 2015, there was a 70% increase in the rate of gonorrhoea in British Columbia resulting in the highest number of cases reported in over a decade. This increase in gonorrhoea cases was observed in all five regional health authorities and among both genders, with the greatest increase reported among females. As seen in previous years, the age groups with the greatest proportion of cases among females were 20-24 years old and among males 30-39 years old. The diagnosis rate of gonorrhoea among men is approximately twice that among females which is partially due to the greater likelihood of males infected with gonorrhoea to have symptoms. Gonorrhoea is also more likely to be concentrated in sexually active

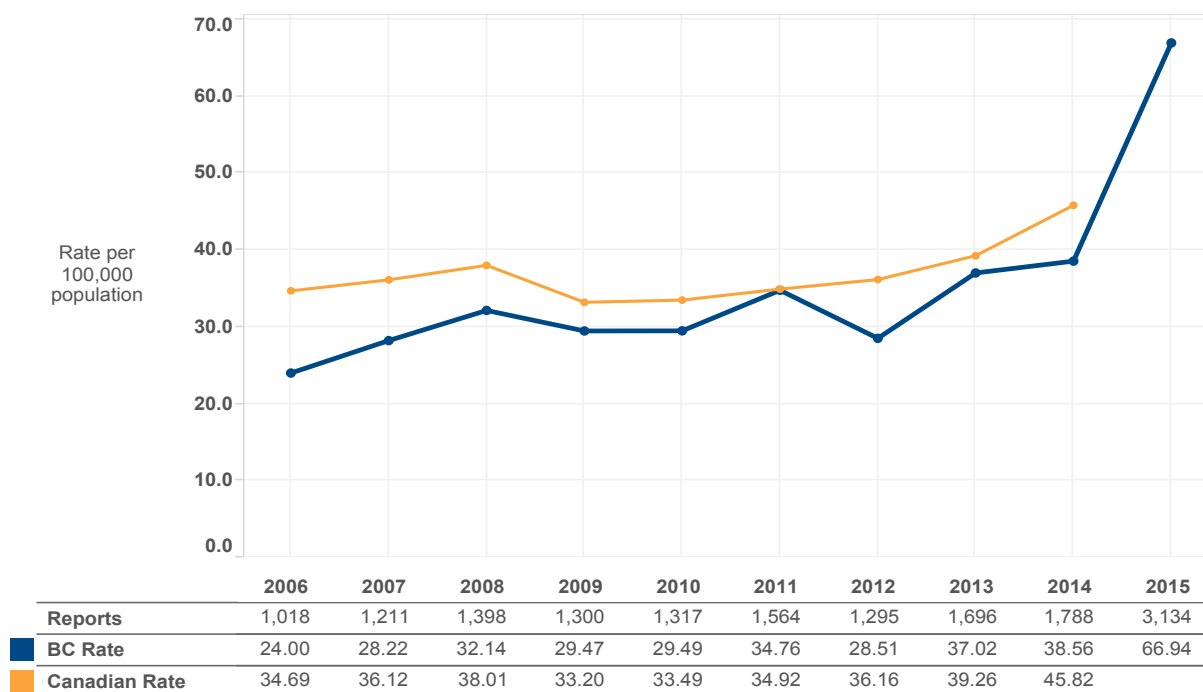
networks and another reason for the higher rates of gonorrhoea in males is, in part, due to higher rates of gonorrhoea among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. While provincial surveillance data do not permit identification of cases among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, this has been observed in other jurisdictions.

Reasons for the overall increase in gonorrhoea are being investigated, but could include changes to both testing frequency and testing methods or to differences in the prevalent gonorrhoea strain. The BCCDC is collaborating with the provincial laboratory and the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) to investigate reasons for the dramatic increase in gonorrhoea cases.

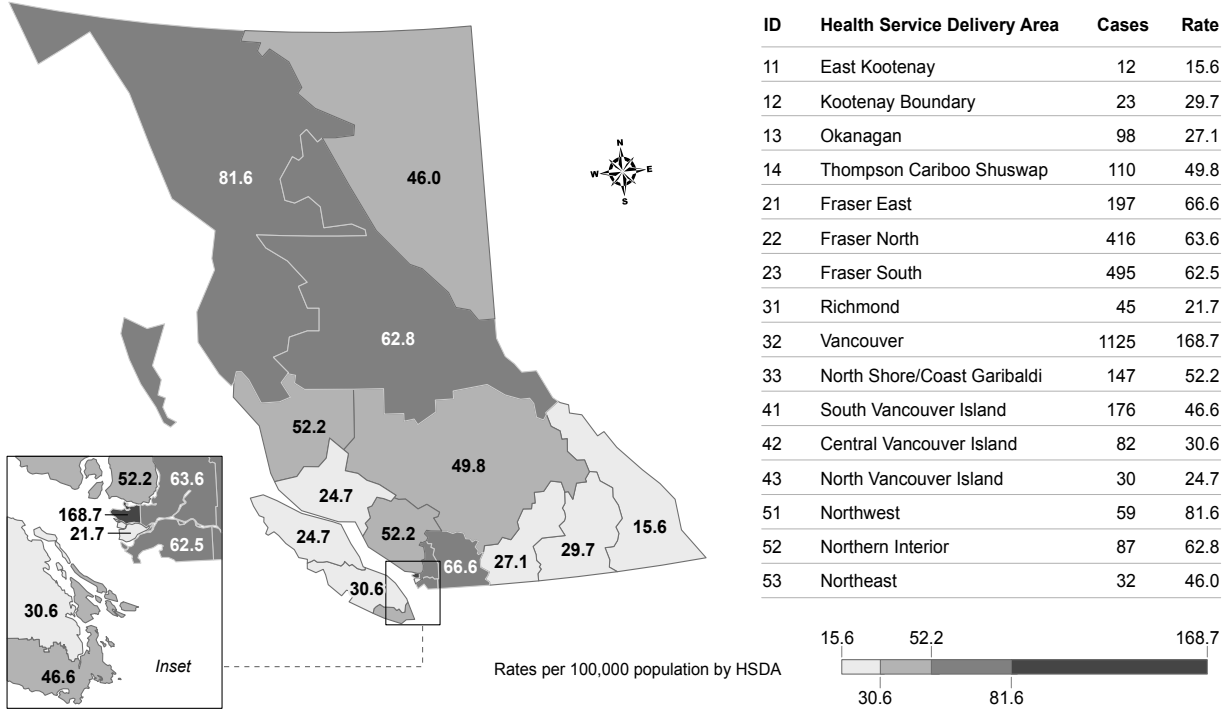
For more information on gonorrhoea, please see the [STI Annual Report](#).



18.1 Genital Gonorrhoea Rates by Year, 2006-2015



18.2 Genital Gonorrhoea Rates by HSDA, 2015



18.3 Genital Gonorrhoea Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2015

