

Montana Quick Facts

*Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. While persons infected are often asymptomatic, gonorrhea causes infections in the genitals, rectum, and throat. Gonorrhea infections are a major cause of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) which can cause infertility in women. In addition, epidemiologic and biologic studies provide strong evidence that gonococcal infections facilitate the transmission of HIV.*

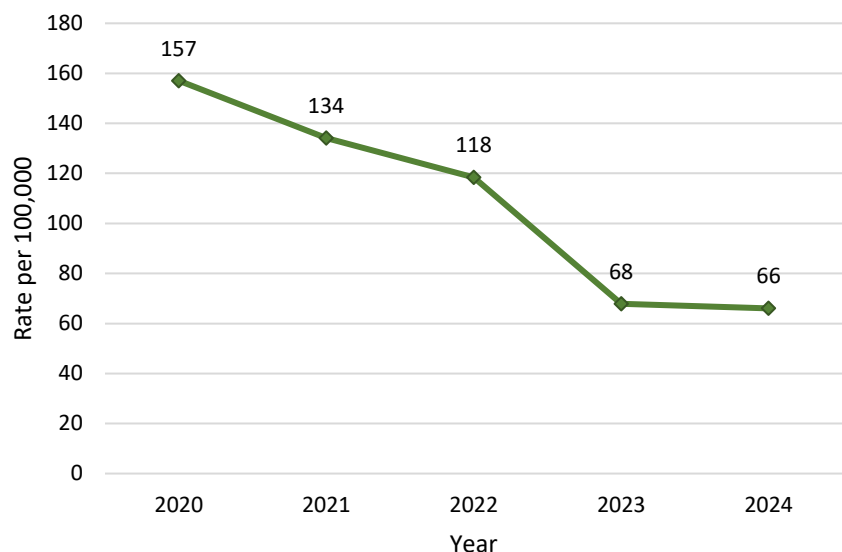
In 2024:

- ✓ There were 748 reported cases of gonorrhea.
- ✓ The number of reported cases decreased 56% between from 2020 through 2024.
- ✓ 51% of gonorrhea cases were in females compared to 49% in males.
- ✓ About 38% of diagnoses were in persons 20-29 years old.
- ✓ Women of reproductive age (15-45 years old) made up 90% of female

Summary

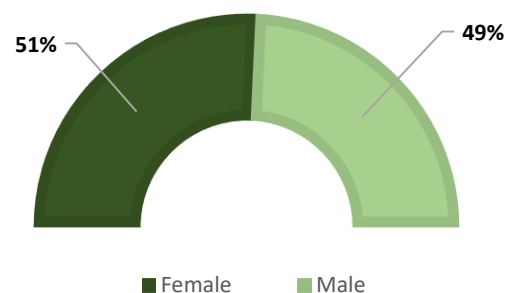
In 2024, Montana reported 748 cases of gonorrhea for a rate of 66 cases per 100,000 population compared with 160 cases per 100,000 for the U.S. in 2024. Since 2020, there has been a downward trend in gonorrhea diagnoses, with the number of cases decreasing by 56% between 2020 and 2024 (Figure 1). It is unclear what factors have led to the continued decrease in cases since 2020.

Figure 1. Gonorrhea cases per 100,000 population, Montana, 2020-2024



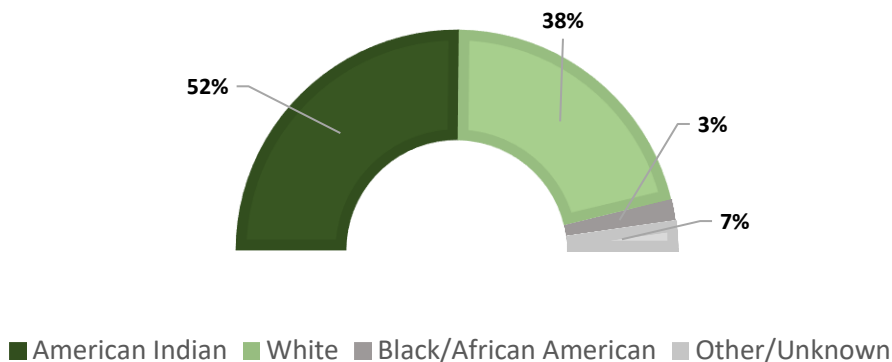
In 2024, the percentage of gonorrhea cases were similar among females (51%) and males (49%) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of gonorrhea cases by sex, Montana, 2024



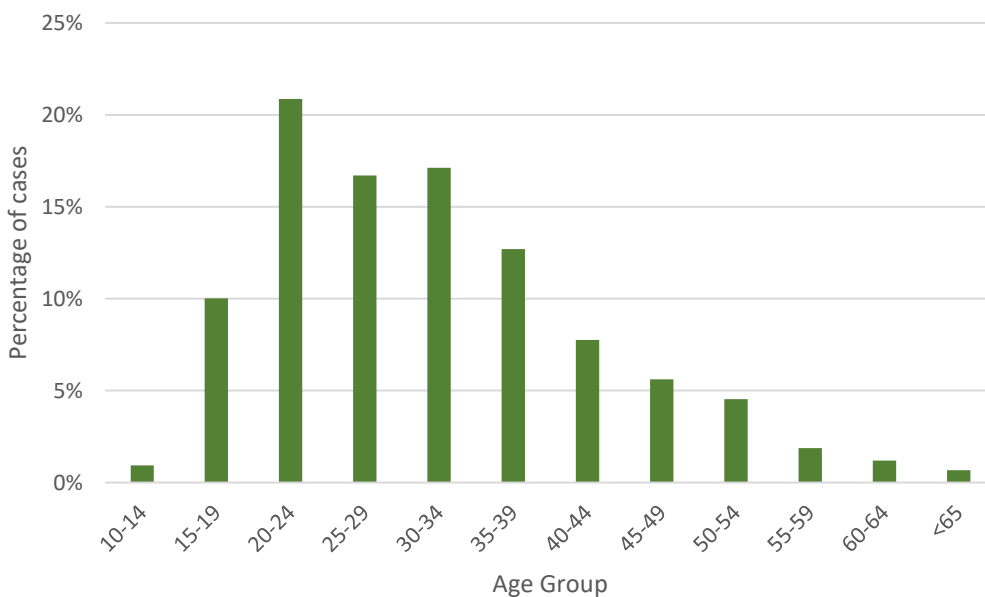
In 2024, gonorrhea infections were significantly and disproportionately higher among the American Indian population in Montana. While accounting for about 6% of the Montana population, American Indians made up 52% of the gonorrhea cases (Figure 3). Broad screening efforts were taking place at these clinics that may have increased diagnoses among this population.

Figure 3. Percentage of gonorrhea cases by race, Montana, 2024



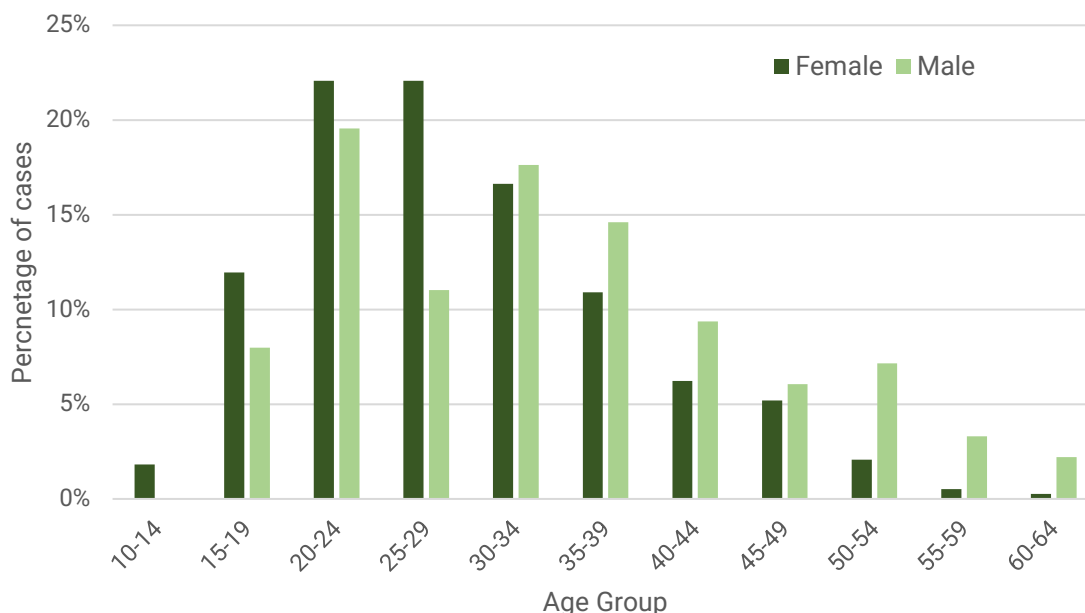
In 2024, 21% of gonorrhea cases were aged 20-24 years (Figure 4). The average age of all gonorrhea cases in 2024 was 32 years old.

Figure 4. Percentage of gonorrhea cases by age group, Montana, 2024



In 2024, females diagnosed with gonorrhea in Montana were slightly younger compared with males (Figure 5). The average age for females with gonorrhea was younger (29 years old) than males (34 years old). Women of reproductive age (15-45 years old) made up 90% of female gonorrhea cases in 2024.

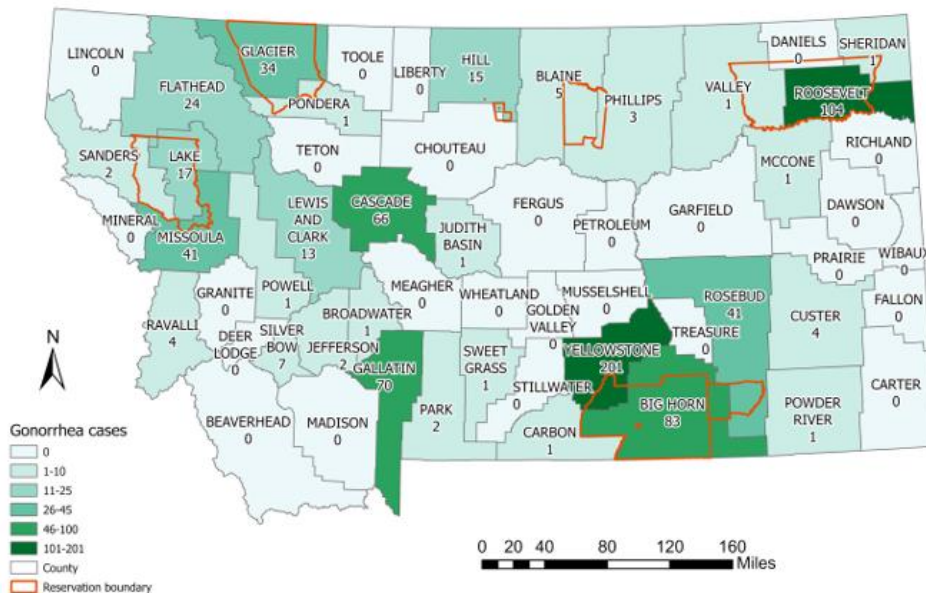
Figure 5. Percentage of gonorrhea cases by sex and age group, Montana, 2024



Geography

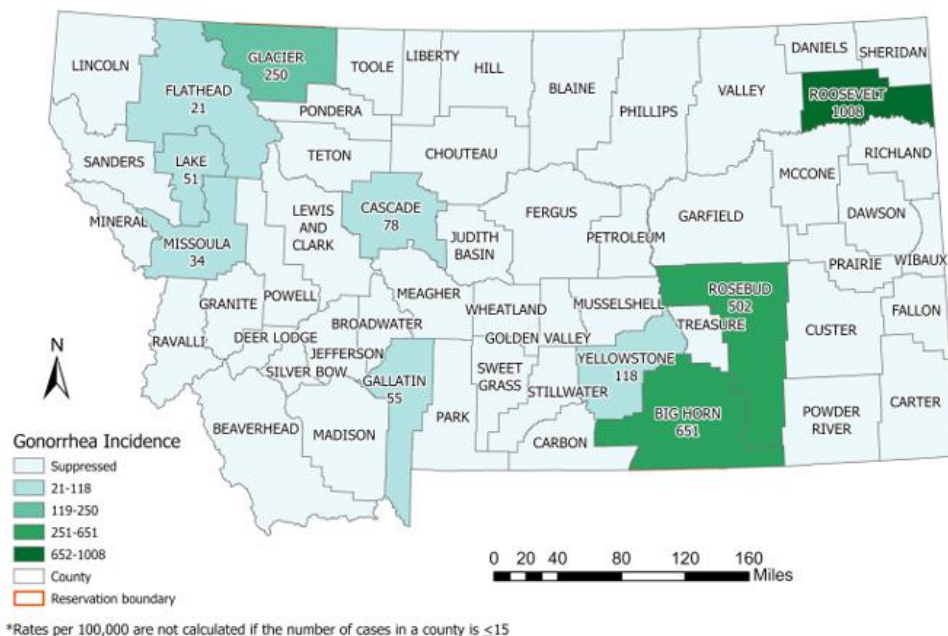
In 2024, more than half of the counties (57%) in Montana had at least one case of gonorrhea. Yellowstone County (27%) had the highest percentage of cases followed by Roosevelt County (14%), Big Horn County (11%), Gallatin County (9%) and Cascade County (9%). Because gonorrhea disproportionately impacted the American Indian population in Montana, many counties with tribal jurisdictions also had high number of cases. Understanding the number of cases by county provides insight into public health staffing needs for disease follow-up, case investigations and partner services

Figure 6. Number of gonorrhea cases by county, Montana, 2024



While Yellowstone county had the largest number of cases in 2024, Glacier, Roosevelt, Big Horn and Rosebud counties had the highest incidence of gonorrhea in that year.

Figure 7. Number of gonorrhea cases per 100,000 population, by county, Montana, 2024



For more information or any questions, please contact: Montana STI/HIV/Viral Hepatitis Section, 1400 E. Broadway, Helena, MT 59620 Phone: 406-444-3565 | Fax: 406-444-6842 | Website: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/hivstd>

Data Source: Montana Infectious Disease Information System