

August 2015

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CHELAN-DOUGLAS PUBLIC HEALTH



Current Conditions of Interest

"Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Community"

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NOTIFIABLE
CONDITION:**

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Gonorrhea in Washington State

Gonococcal infection is caused by a sexually acquired Gram-negative diplococcal bacterial pathogen, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. *N. gonorrhoeae* may be acquired at multiple mucosal sites in the lower urogenital tract, including the urethra, cervix, Bartholin's and Skene's glands in women, as well as the anorectal canal, pharynx, and conjunctivae. The infection in women may spread to the upper genital tract, uterine tubes, and abdominal cavity, as well as other systemic sites.

Because, unlike men, most women with gonococcal infection do not have any symptoms, the presence of gonococcal infection in women can be underreported. Screening for gonococcal infection in women is critical to appreciate its true occurrence in women. Routine urogenital screening is recommended annually in the U.S. for all sexually active women at risk for infection, including women aged under 25 years and older women with one or more of the following risks: a previous gonococcal infection, the presence of other sexually transmitted diseases, new or multiple sex partners, inconsistent condom use, commercial sex work, drug use, or human immunodeficiency virus infection with sexual activity or pregnancy.

Pharyngeal gonococcal infections, common in adolescents, as well as rectal infections, are also predominantly asymptomatic, and specific screening is necessary to identify affected individuals.

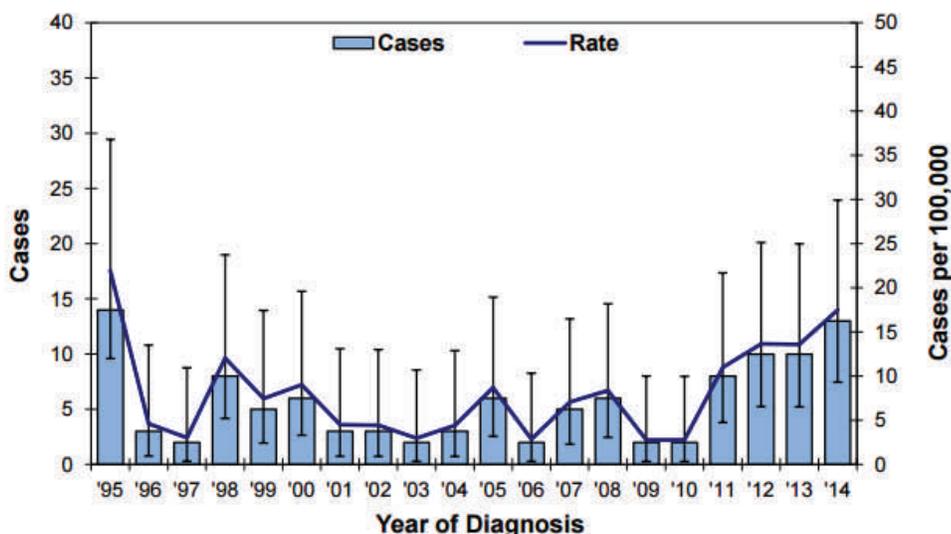
The annual number of gonorrhea cases diagnosed in Washington rose significantly in 2014.

There were 6,136 cases in 2014, compared to 4,395 cases in 2013 – a jump of almost 40%. The latest increase follows a 33 percent increase from 2012 to 2013.

In June, King County experienced an increase in infections caused by azithromycin-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae* in men who have sex with men.

Gonorrhea Cases and Incidence Rates* per 100,000 population, Chelan Co., 1995-2014

Washington State Department of Health County STD Profiles



* Crude incidence rate with 95% confidence intervals.



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Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Pork Consumption

The number of cases associated to the outbreak of *Salmonella* I 4,[5],12:i:- in Washington State has reached 134 in 10 counties around the state.

The investigation is ongoing, and a CDC Epi-Aid team has been deployed to Washington State to help with the investigation. Disease investigators are searching for possible exposure sources from farm to table. The case count has continued to grow as state health officials work with Public Health — Seattle & King County along with other local, state, and federal partners on the disease investigation. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sent its team of “disease detectives” to the state to help. Investigators are interviewing the most recent cases and comparing information to early cases, which were first reported in the spring.

Disease investigators are searching for possible contamination and exposure sources from a wide range of possible venues, including restaurants, markets, slaughter facilities, and farms/ranches. *Salmonella* bacteria are commonly found in animals used for food, and proper storage, handling, preparation, and cooking can help prevent the illness known as salmonellosis.

Most of the illnesses have been confirmed with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* bacteria, and early testing shows a connection to a slaughter facility in Graham, WA. Samples were collected at Kapowsin Meats in Pierce County last week. Testing confirms the outbreak strain was present. The business, which is regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service, has cooperated with the investigation. There may be other sources and disease investigators are searching for the origin of the *Salmonella* bacteria in the outbreak.

The 134 cases include residents of Clark (2), Cowlitz (1), Grays Harbor (1), King (84), Kitsap (1), Mason (2), Pierce (12), Snohomish (24), Thurston (2), and Yakima (5) counties.

Exposure for many of the ill people apparently was whole roasted pigs, served at private events and restaurants.



Resources

- [Washington State DOH Salmonella](#)
- [Washington State DOH Salmonella Guidelines](#)