





# Gonorrhea Surveillance 2015-2019

Rhode Island Department of Health

Division of Preparedness, Response, Infectious  
Disease and Emergency Medical Services

Center for HIV, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Epidemiology



# About Gonorrhea

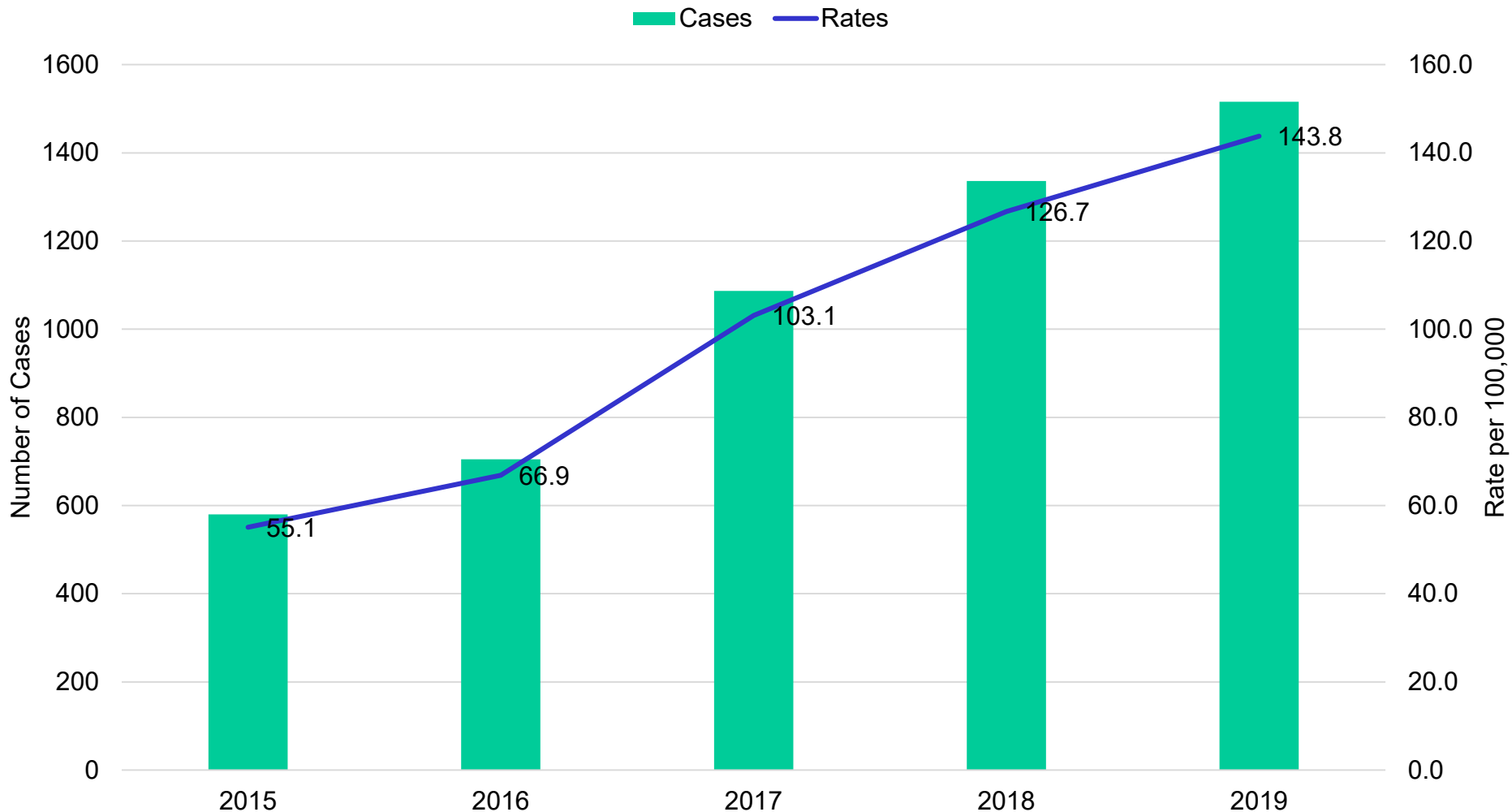
- Gonorrhea is caused by a bacteria that is spread through sexual contact.
- Men may be asymptomatic or have any of the following symptoms: burning when urinating, discharge from the penis, or painful or swollen testicles.
- Most women with gonorrhea are asymptomatic.
- Anyone who is sexually active is at risk for gonorrhea, especially gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men; females younger than 25 years old; or older women with risk factors such as new/multiple sex partners.

# Data Overview, Gonorrhea



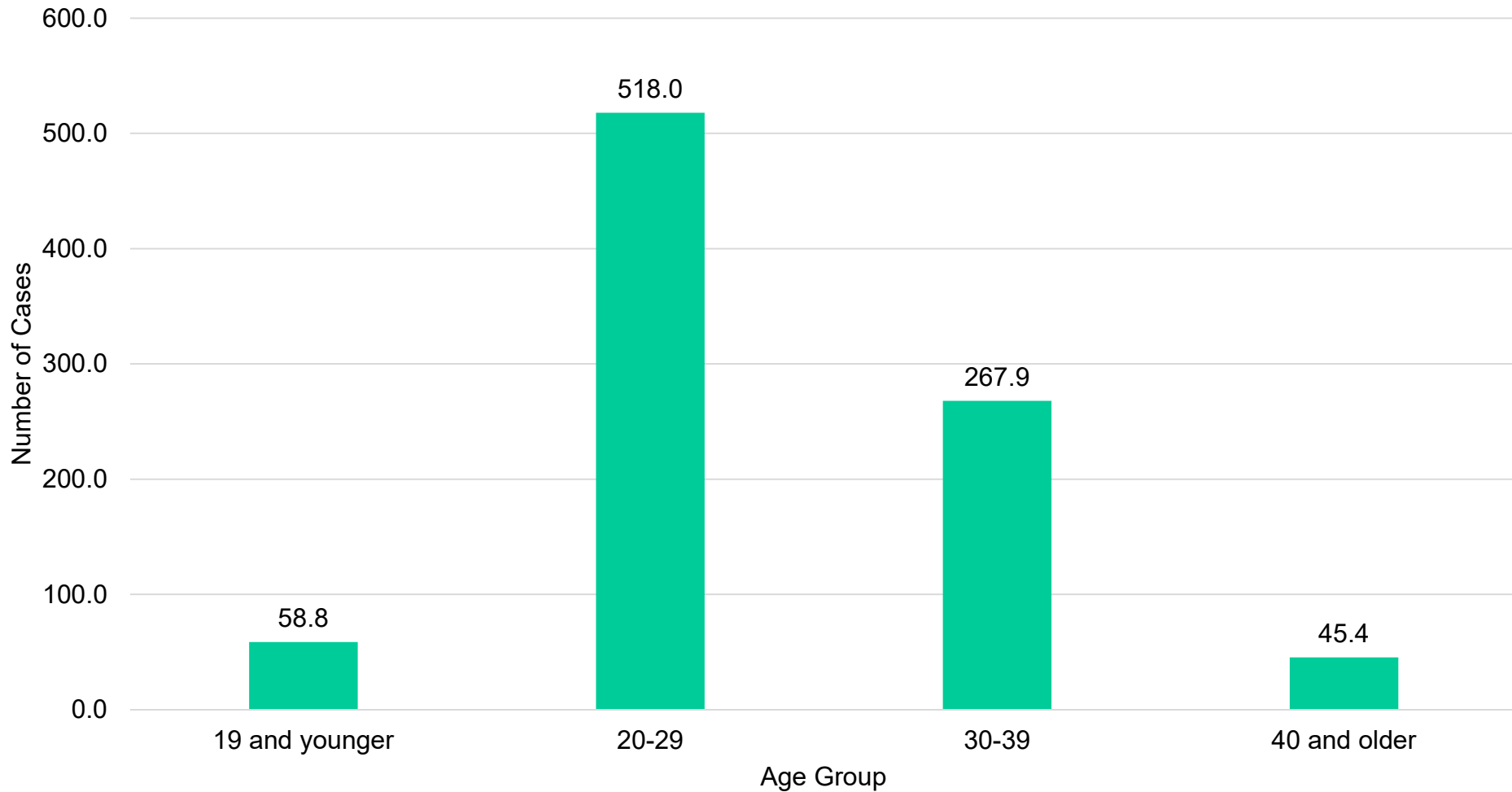
- There were 1,516 reported cases of gonorrhea in RI in 2019.
- The incidence rate in Rhode Island was 143.8 cases per 100,000 in 2019.
- The highest rates of gonorrhea are seen in Providence County.

# Reported Cases of Gonorrhea, Rhode Island, 2015-2019



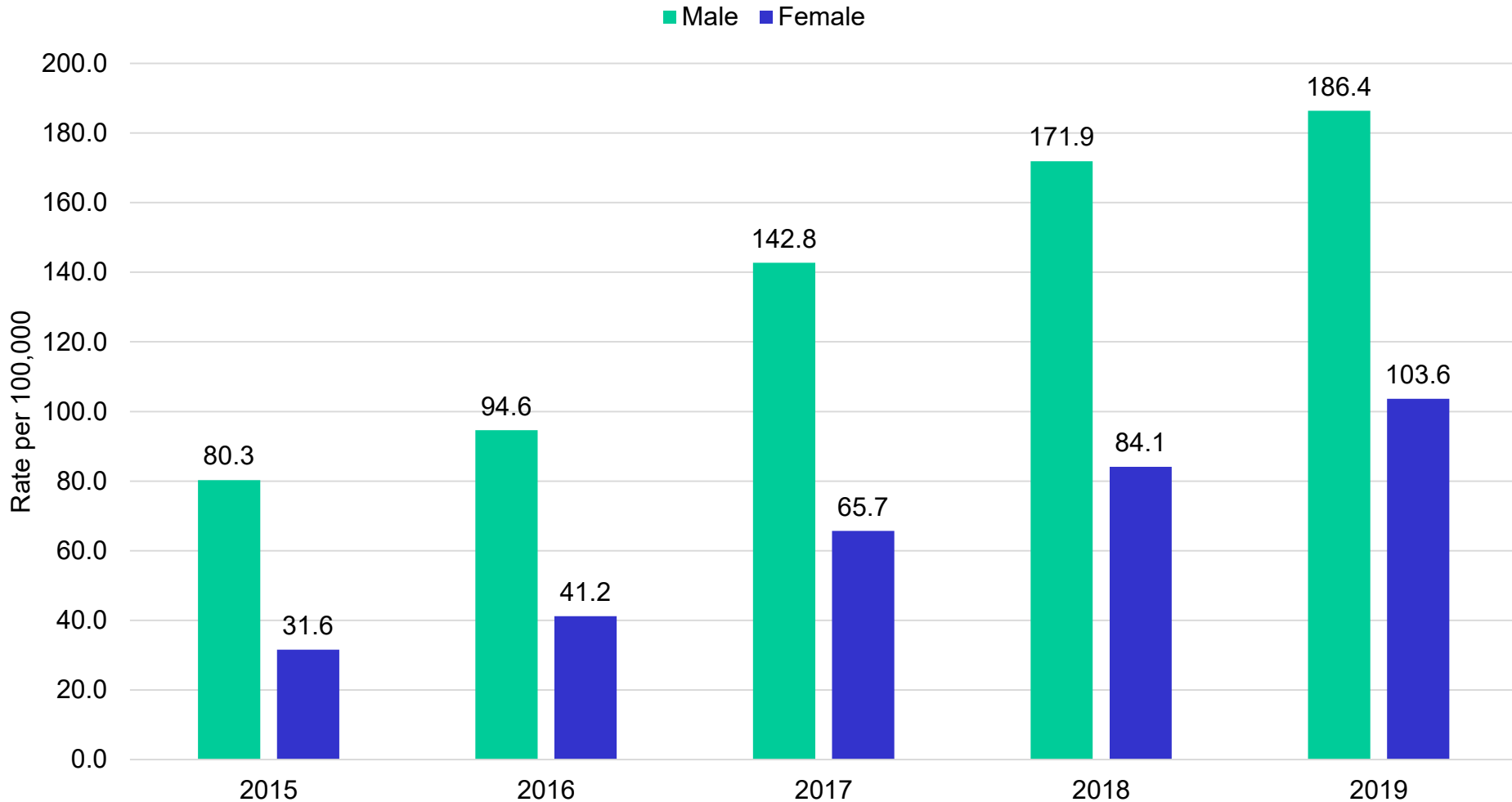
**Figure 1:** In 2019, there were 1,516 cases of gonorrhea reported in Rhode Island, at a rate of 143.8 cases per 100,000 population. Gonorrhea cases increased by 13.5% since 2018.

# Rate of Gonorrhea, Age Group, Rhode Island, 2019



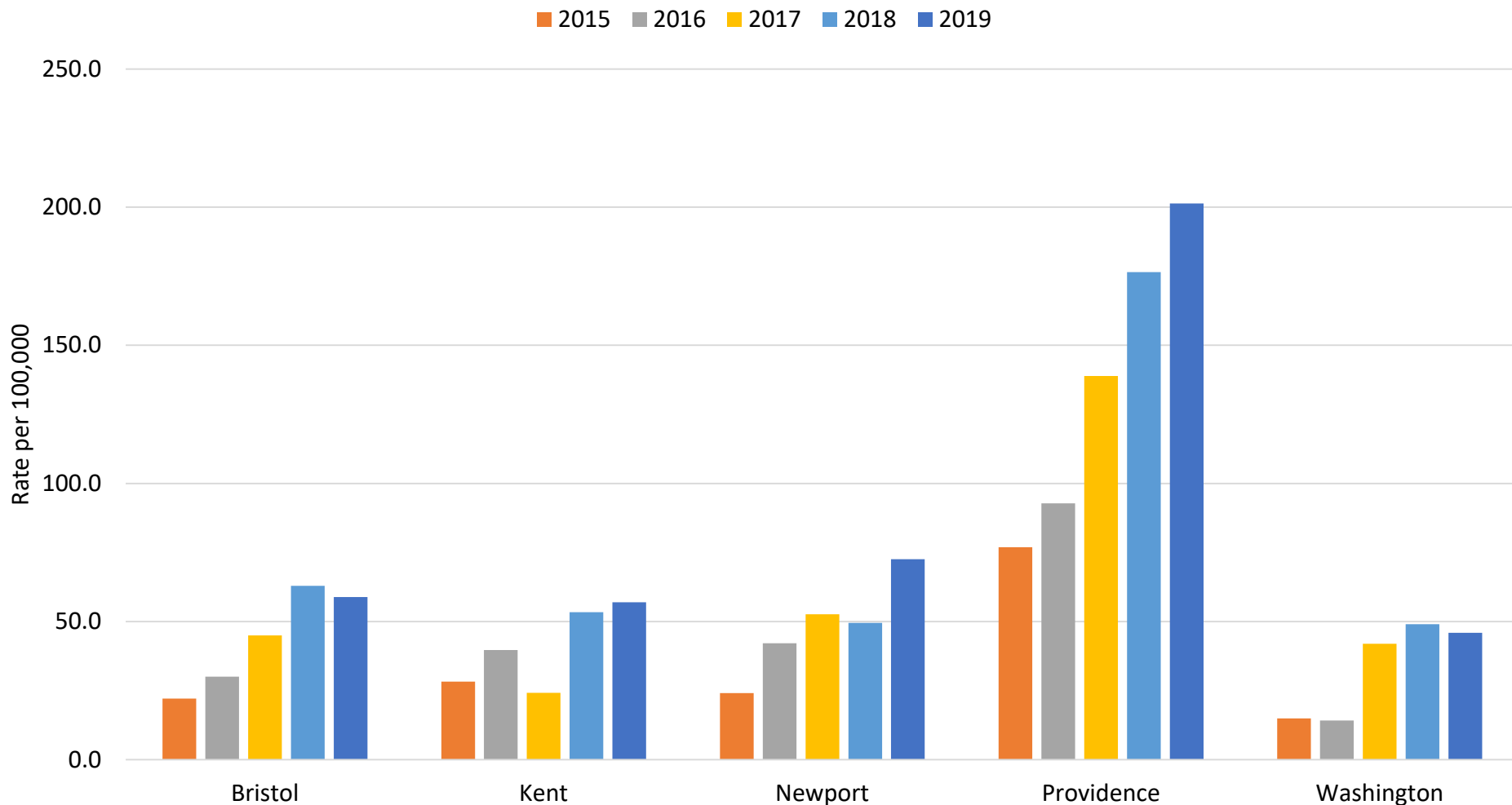
**Figure 2:** In 2019, gonorrhea rates were highest in the 20-29 year old age group, followed by the 30-39 year old age group.

# Rate of Gonorrhea, Sex and Year, Rhode Island, 2015-2019



**Figure 3:** Gonorrhea rates have been higher in males than in females over the last five years, with a rate of 186.4 cases per 100,000 among males and 103.6 cases per 100,000 among females in 2019.

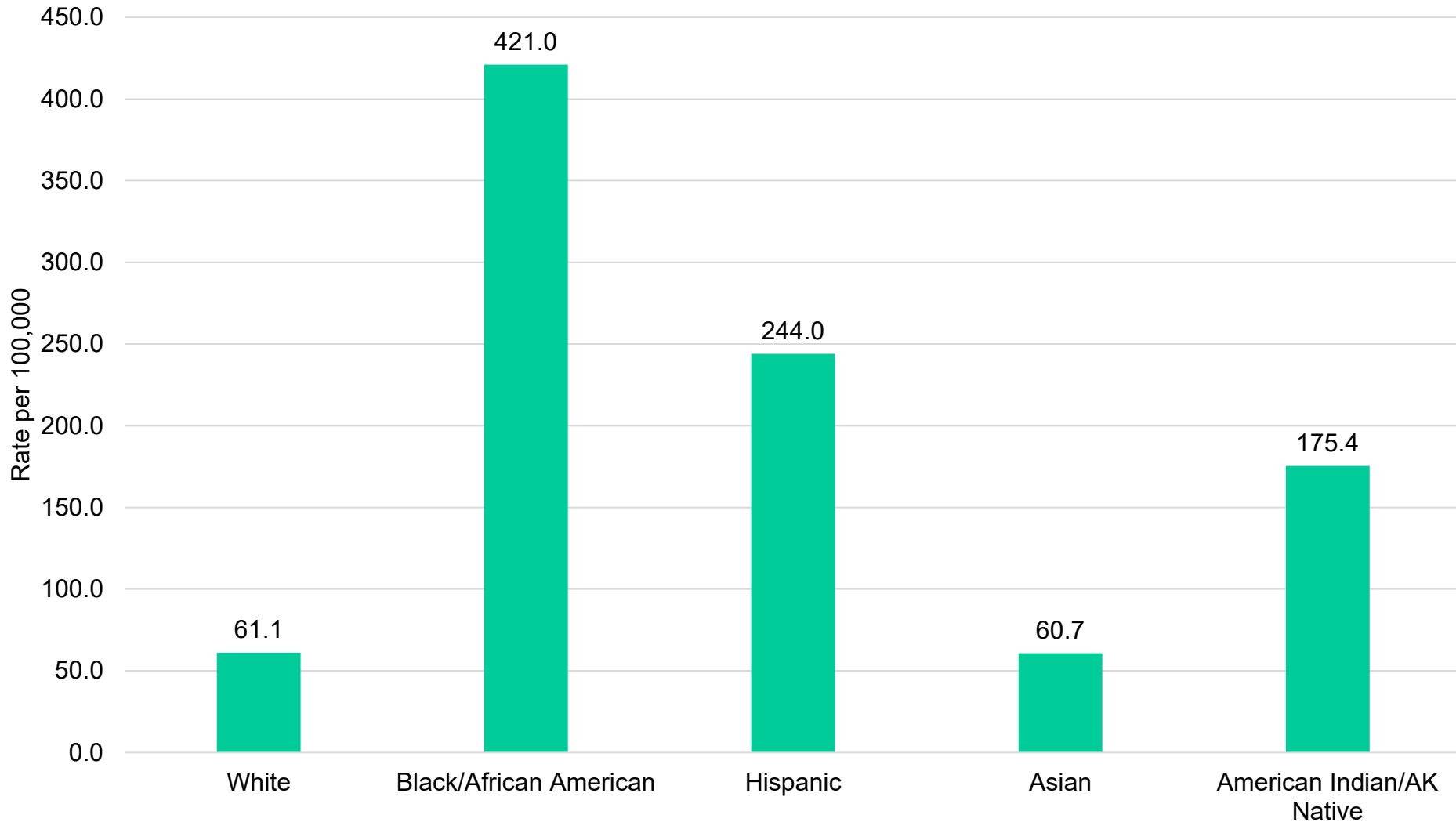
# Rate of Gonorrhea, County and Year, Rhode Island, 2015-2019



**Figure 4:** Between 2015 and 2019, rates of gonorrhea have been consistently highest in Providence County compared to all other counties.



# Rate of Gonorrhea, Racial/Ethnic Group, Rhode Island, 2019



**Figure 5:** In 2019, rates of gonorrhea were highest among non-Hispanic Blacks/African Americans.

# Gonorrhea Frequency and Rates by Year, Rhode Island, 2015-2019



**Table 1. Frequency by Year**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Number of Cases</b>	580	705	1087	1336	1516

**Table 2. Rate by Year**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Rate per 100,000</b>	55.1	66.9	103.1	126.7	143.8

# Gonorrhea Frequency, Age Group and Year, Rhode Island, 2015-2019



**Table 3. Frequency by Age Group and Year**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>0-19</b>	67	70	181	186	146
<b>20-29</b>	331	385	540	648	792
<b>30-39</b>	118	145	215	307	339
<b>40 and older</b>	64	105	151	195	239
<b>Total</b>	580	705	1087	1336	1516

# Gonorrhea Rates, Age Group and Year, Rhode Island, 2015-2019



**Table 4. Rate by Age Group and Year**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>0-19</b>	25.6	26.7	74.7	74.9	58.8
<b>20-29</b>	223.7	260.2	347.8	423.8	518.0
<b>30-39</b>	111.3	116.1	87.3	242.6	267.9
<b>40 and older</b>	12.4	20.3	3.8	37.0	45.4

# Gonorrhea Frequency and Rates, Sex and Year, Rhode Island, 2015-2019



**Table 5. Frequency by Sex and Year**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Female</b>	154	224	357	457	563
<b>Male</b>	426	481	730	879	953
<b>Total</b>	580	705	1087	1336	1516

**Table 6. Rate by Sex and Year**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Female</b>	31.6	41.2	65.7	84.1	103.6
<b>Male</b>	80.3	94.6	142.8	171.9	186.4

# Gonorrhea Frequency, County and Year, Rhode Island, 2015-2019



**Table 7. Frequency by County and Year**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Bristol</b>	11	15	22	31	29
<b>Kent</b>	47	51	81	88	94
<b>Newport</b>	20	35	44	41	60
<b>Providence</b>	482	582	885	1114	1271
<b>Washington</b>	19	18	53	62	58
<b>Unknown</b>	1	4	2	0	4
<b>All</b>	580	705	1087	1336	1516

# Gonorrhea Rates by County and Year, Rhode Island, 2015-2019



**Table 8. Rate by County and Year**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Bristol</b>	22.1	30.1	45.0	63.0	58.9
<b>Kent</b>	28.3	39.7	24.2	53.4	57.0
<b>Newport</b>	24.1	42.2	52.7	49.6	72.5
<b>Providence</b>	76.9	92.8	138.9	176.4	201.3
<b>Washington</b>	15.0	14.2	42.0	49.1	45.9



# Notes on Data

- For years 2015-2016, rates calculated based on 2010 US Census Population.
- For years 2017-2019, rates calculated based on 2016 Rhode Island Population Estimate Data.
- Rates expressed per 100,000 population.





# References

- <https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/default.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stats.htm>