

# Gonorrhea Cases in Champaign County

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## General Gonorrhea Information

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### Background

Gonorrhea is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases, within the United States, caused by a bacterium. Gonorrhea can grow easily in the warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract, including the cervix (opening to the womb), uterus (womb), and fallopian tubes (egg canals). Annually the CDC estimates 820,000 people get new infections and less than half of these infections are detected and reported.

### Transmission & Risk

Gonorrhea is transmitted by an individual who has sex with someone who has the disease. Sex means anal, vaginal, or oral sex. This STD can also be spread from an untreated mother to her baby during childbirth. Any sexually active person is at risk of gonorrhea, those at higher risk are teenagers, young adults, and African Americans.

### Symptoms & Complications

*Men:* They may be asymptomatic; however, common symptoms can include a burning sensation when urinating, or a white, yellow, or green discharge from the penis that usually appears 1-14 days after infection. Occasionally there can be painful or swollen testicles.

*Women:* Most do not have symptoms, and when symptoms are present, they are often mild and can be mistaken for a bladder or vaginal infection. Initial symptoms can include painful or burning sensation when urinating, increased vaginal discharge, or vaginal bleeding between periods. Women with gonorrhea are at risk of developing serious complications, whether symptoms are absent or mild.

*All:* Symptoms of rectal infection in people may include discharge, anal itching, soreness, bleeding, or painful bowel movements. Rectus infections cannot have symptoms. Infections can also be present in the throat, but usually there are no symptoms.

When left untreated, gonorrhea can cause serious and permanent health problems in both women and men. In women, gonorrhea can spread and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID symptoms can range from mild to severe and can include abdominal pain and fever. In men, gonorrhea can cause a painful condition called epididymitis in the tubes attached to the testicles. Gonorrhea can also spread to the blood or joints if left untreated, this can be life threatening.

### Testing, Diagnosis, Treatment

Any sexually active person should be tested for gonorrhea. Anyone with genital symptoms should stop having sex and see a health care provider immediately. If you have gonorrhea, it is recommended to be tested for other STDs and HIV.

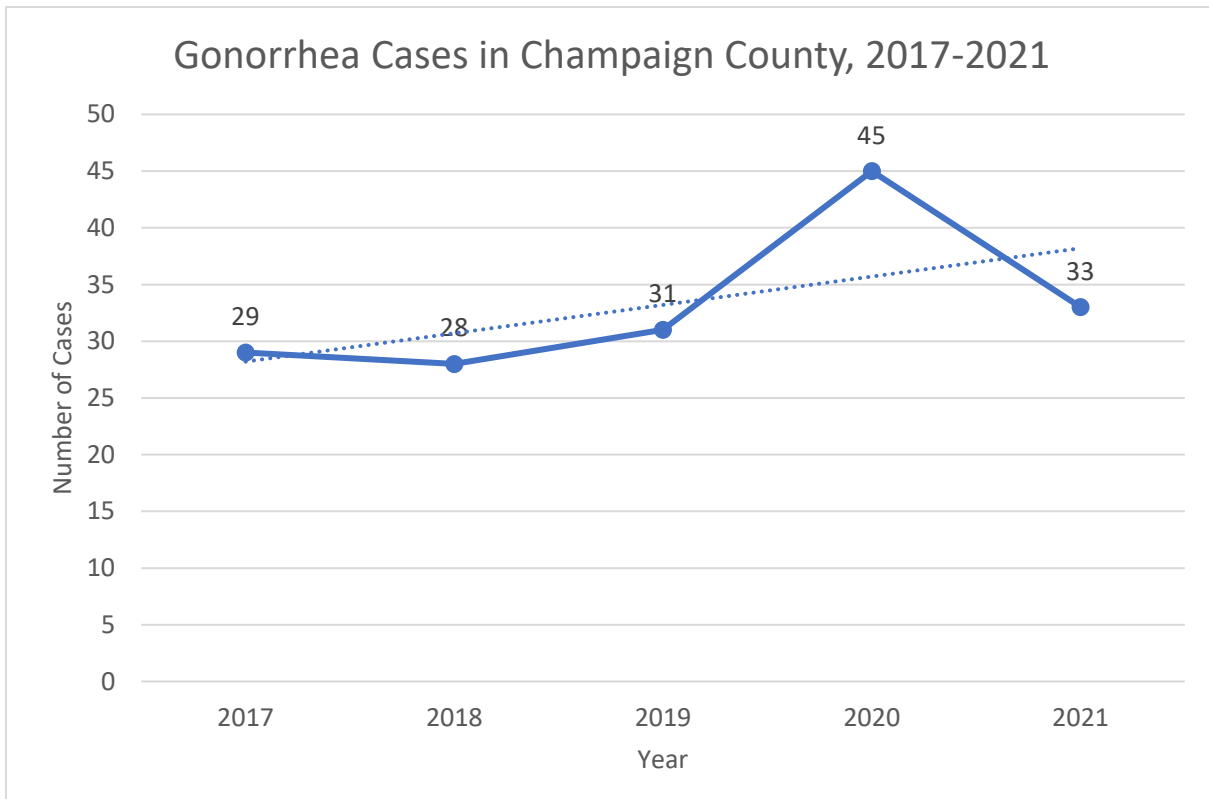
A urine test is the most common used to test for gonorrhea; however, swabs can be used to collect samples from the throat, rectum, man's urethra, or a woman's cervix.

With the right treatment, gonorrhea is curable. It is important to take all medication as prescribed; however, medication will not repair any permanent damage done by the disease. There has been an emergence of drug-resistant strains of gonorrhea and treatment is becoming more difficult. If symptoms do not improve after a few days, a reevaluation from a health care provider is recommended.

More information can be found here: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-ourprograms/infectious-disease-control-manual/section3/section-3-gonorrhea>

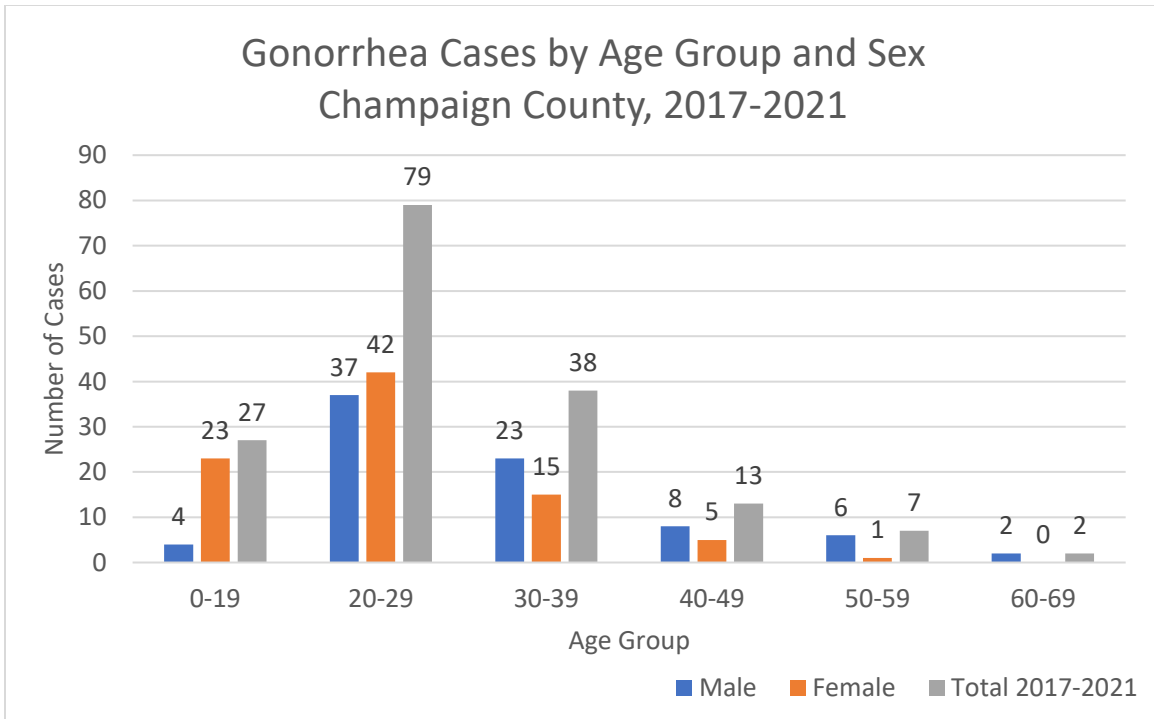
*Champaign County Related Discussion*

Figure 1 shows the gonorrhea cases in Champaign County from 2017 to 2021. All cases during this period are classified as confirmed. The cases include gonococcal infection, cervicitis, neonatal conjunctivitis, and pelvic inflammatory disease. From 2017 to 2020 there is a 55.17% increase in cases, while the overall 5-year period (2017-2021) shows a 13.79% increase. Overall, the trend of gonorrhea cases is trending upwards.



**Figure 1** Gonorrhea Cases in Champaign County, 2017-2021.

Figure 2 shows the gonorrhea cases from 2017-2021 broken up by age group and sex. Overall, the majority (47.59%) of all cases fall within the 20-29 age group. The highest number of cases for just males (46.25%) fall within the 20-29 year old age group, followed by 28.75% in the 30-39 year old age group. The highest number of cases (48.84%) for females fall within 20-29 year old age group, followed by 26.74% in the 0-19 year old age group.



**Figure 2** Gonorrhea Cases by Age Group and Sex, Champaign County, 2017-2021.