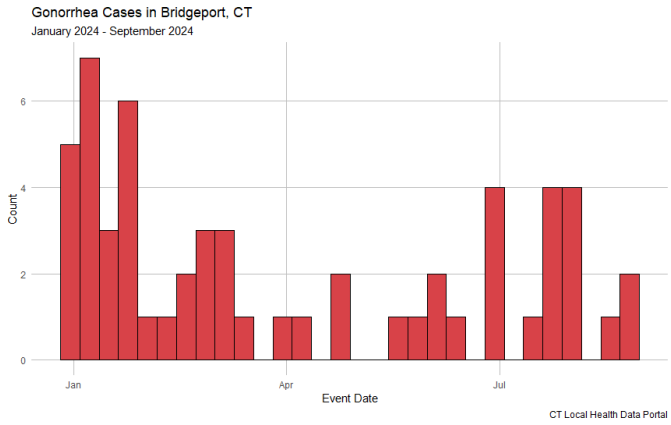
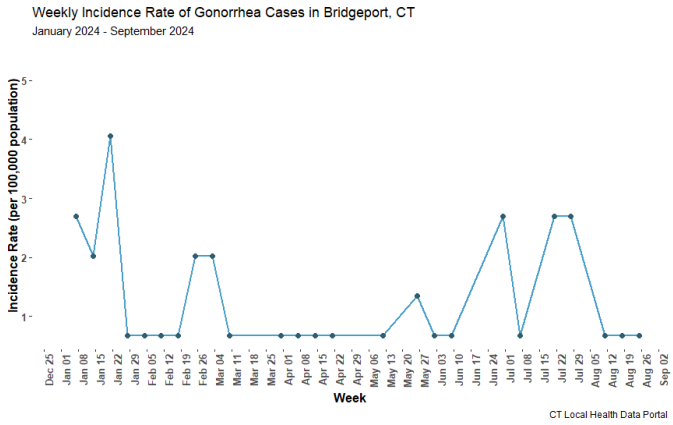
BRIDGEPORT GONORRHEA EPI REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024

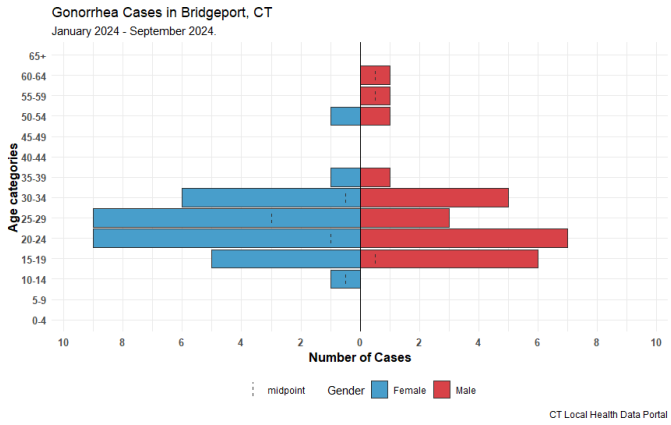
JANUARY 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2024



The highest concentration of cases occurred in January, with several weeks seeing 5–6 cases. After January, the number of cases significantly decreases, remaining below 3 cases per week for most of the following months. There is a small increase in cases in April and another rise in July, with cases reaching up to 4 per week. By September, the number of weekly cases remains low, fluctuating between 1 and 3. Overall, the data shows a sharp peak in January, followed by relatively low and stable case counts for the rest of the year.

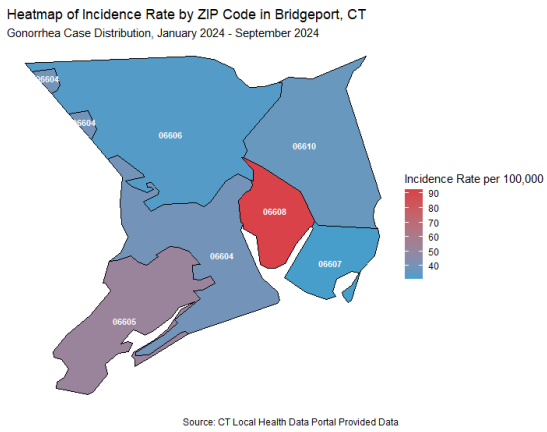


The incidence rate peaks in mid-January, reaching over 4 cases per 100,000 population. After this spike, the rate drops sharply, staying below 1 case per 100,000 for most of the following months. A small rise occurs in early April, but the rate remains low until a brief increase in June and July, when the rate approaches 2 cases per 100,000. By late August and early September, the incidence rate returns to near-zero. Overall, the data reveals a significant peak in January followed by consistently low transmission rates throughout the rest of the year.



The highest number of cases is seen in the 25-29 age group, with more cases among males than females. Males also have a significant number of cases in the 30-34 and 20-24 age groups. For females, most cases occur in the 30-34 and 20-24 age groups, though these numbers are lower compared to males. A few cases are reported among older adults, particularly in the 55-59 age group, but these are rare for both genders. Overall, the data shows that gonorrhea disproportionately affects younger adults, particularly males in their 20s and early 30s.

Updated 10/9/2024



The highest incidence rate is concentrated in ZIP code 06608, shown in red, with a rate approaching 90 cases per 100,000 population. Surrounding areas, such as ZIP codes 06605 and 06607, have moderately elevated incidence rates, ranging between 50 and 70 cases per 100,000, shown in purple and light blue. The rest of the city, including ZIP codes 06604, 06606, and 06610, has lower incidence rates, around 40 to 50 cases per 100,000, indicated by shades of blue. This map highlights 06608 as a hotspot for gonorrhea, suggesting that targeted public health interventions in this area could be particularly beneficial.

PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE

- **Consistent Condom Use**: Use latex or polyurethane condoms during vaginal, anal, and oral sex. Condoms significantly reduce the risk of transmitting sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- **Regular Testing**: Since gonorrhea can be asymptomatic, regular STI screenings are important, especially for sexually active individuals under 25, or those with new or multiple partners. Early detection helps prevent complications and reduces the risk of spreading the infection.
- **Limit Sexual Partners**: Reducing the number of sexual partners lowers the chances of exposure to STIs. Engaging in mutually monogamous relationships with partners who have been tested and are free of STIs can also reduce risk.
- **Avoid Douching**: Douching can disrupt the natural balance of bacteria in the vagina, making it easier for infections to develop and spread.
- **Open Communication**: Talk openly with sexual partners about STI testing and prevention methods. Both partners being informed and taking preventive measures can lower the risk of infection.
- **Abstinence or Mutual Monogamy**: Abstaining from sexual activity or engaging in a mutually monogamous relationship where both partners are STI-free is the most effective way to prevent gonorrhea.

DATA SOURCES

Connecticut Epidemiologic Disease Surveillance System

COVID Data Tracker – CDC

COVID Wastewater Data - CDC

Updated 10/9/2024