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Gonorrhea, AIDS/HIV increase in state

[Sarah Dittmer](#) The Daily Republic
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Gonorrhea and AIDS/HIV cases have risen in South Dakota, according to the most recent statewide statistics, while the number of chlamydia cases is on the decline.



Statewide, the Department of Health saw a 4.5 percent increase in the number of gonorrhea cases and a 3 percent increase in the number of AIDS/HIV cases from 2005 to 2006. The statistics were released as part of the South Dakota Vital Statistics book, which was distributed to the media in late December.

The most common sexually transmitted disease in South Dakota was chlamydia, with 2,633 cases reported in 2006. That number fell 2.5 percent from 2005 figures.

Bonnie Jameson, administrator for the Office of Disease Prevention in Pierre, said the number of STD cases fluctuates every year due to a variety of factors.

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“We are still doing the same prevention and intervention activities that we have done over the years,” said Jameson. “It’s dependent upon the individual who is infected and how many people they have exposed.”

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Another reason for the fluctuations may be people moving into and out of South Dakota.

AIDs/HIV saw a 3 percent increase in 2006, according to state health data. In 2005, 33 cases were reported and in 2006, 34 cases were reported statewide.

Another notable trend is that more women are being infected with HIV than in the past.

In the early years of HIV/AIDs, those affected were predominately men, but now the trend is shifting. Jameson said the increased number of AIDs/HIV cases among females in South Dakota is mirroring the national trend.

In 2004, six cases of AIDs/HIV were reported in females in South Dakota and in 2005, the number rose to 14. In 2006, the number fell to 12.

Among men, the number of AIDs/HIV cases in South Dakota has increased steadily since 2004, according to state health data. There were 22 cases of AIDs/HIV among males in South Dakota in 2006, up from 19 cases in 2005. Thirteen cases of AIDs/HIV among males in South Dakota were reported in 2004.

“The take home message here is that STDs are certainly present in South Dakota. We don’t want individuals to become displaced and think that the risk is not here,” said Jameson. “We have several hundred cases of gonorrhea every year and over 2,000 cases of chlamydia are reported.”

Other 2006 data from the state Department of Health:

n Among the 2,633 cases of chlamydia reported, 73 percent of the cases were females. The median age was 21.

n Among the 367 cases of gonorrhea, 59 percent of the cases were females. The median age was 22.

n Among the 34 cases of HIV/AIDS, 65 percent of the cases were in males and 20 cases were reported in the 40-64 age group. The median age was 43. The virus was most commonly found in the Caucasian race, with 38 percent.

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