Gonorrhea is a bacterial sexually transmitted disease (STD). Gonorrhea is spread through unprotected oral, anal, and vaginal sex. It can also be spread from an infected mother to her baby during childbirth. Many men and women who are infected with gonorrhea do not have any symptoms. If symptoms do occur they may include: discharge from the vagina, penis, or rectum; burning during urination; pain during sex; rectal itching; abnormal bleeding; and painful bowel movements.

Gonorrhea is cured with antibiotics. If left untreated, gonorrhea may cause complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease. Pelvic inflammatory disease can cause scarring of the Fallopian tubes and infertility. Individuals infected with gonorrhea have a greater risk of acquiring HIV.

You can prevent infection with gonorrhea by abstaining from sex (oral, anal, and vaginal), correctly using condoms with each sexual encounter, limiting the number of sex partners you have, and getting tested to know your status. To find out how to get no- or low-cost testing, visit www.knowyo.org.

The number of gonorrhea infections reported in 2017, a 50% increase from 2016.

Females accounted for more cases than males in 2017 (228 and 187, respectively).

87% of reported cases occurred among individuals under the age of 35.

The gonorrhea rate in Wyoming increased sixfold from 2013 (11.5 cases/100,000 population) to 2017 (71.2 cases/100,000 population) but remained lower than the U.S. rate.