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For Immediate Release

Winnebago County Health Department Reports Increase in Gonorrhea Cases

The Winnebago County Health Department is reporting an increase in gonorrhea cases for 2016, as compared to the same time period last year. According to Todd Kisner, Health Protection Director for the Winnebago County Health Department, "The number of gonorrhea cases reported to the health department has doubled. Sixty percent (60%) of cases have been in females under 30 years of age and 40% of cases have been in males in the same age group. This increase is concerning and the provider community has been alerted to increase testing in this age group to promptly identify and treat the infection."

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI). Many people who have gonorrhea may not develop any noticeable symptoms at first. "The only way to know for sure if you have an STI is to get yourself tested," added Kisner. A simple urine test is the most accurate way to determine if an STI is present.

Gonorrhea can be treated with 2 different antibiotics administered at the same time. "It is very important for individuals diagnosed with gonorrhea to inform their sex partners of their potential exposure. Reinfection will reoccur if sex partners are not treated for the infection. Since informing partners can be difficult, the Health Department has specially trained staff members who can help notify partners anonymously," said Kisner.

To decrease the risk of gonorrhea or other sexually transmitted infections:

- Practice abstinence
- Use condoms correctly and with every sexual partner

Individuals wanting gonorrhea or other sexually transmitted infections screening, may contact their primary care provider. The Winnebago County Health Department offers low-cost STI screening Monday through Friday. To make an appointment call 815-720-4370.

To learn more about gonorrhea and the risk behaviors for the infection, visit CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/default.htm>, or visit www.wchd.org, or call 815-720-4050. Like us: [facebook.com/Winnebago County Health Department](https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealthDepartment). Follow us: twitter.com/WinnCohealth.