

Gonorrhea is the most likely of the bacterial STDs to develop antibiotic resistance. Antibiotic resistance is widely reported throughout the world.^[1] North Carolina contributes to CDC's gonorrhea resistance screening project, Strengthening the United States to Respond to Resistant Gonorrhea (SURRG)^[2]; cultures from gonorrhea cases diagnosed in Guilford County are screened for drug resistance. In 2018, only 0.74% (4/537) of cases screened for resistance demonstrated resistance. Resistance was mainly to azithromycin with three at urogenital sites and one at the pharynx. Only one isolate resistant to ceftriaxone at the pharynx. One of the azithromycin resistances demonstrated an MIC \geq 256 μ /dl. From Jan 2019 to May 2019, Guilford has had an increase in the cases demonstrating resistance. As of June 2019, 3.4% (8/235) of cases screened for resistance demonstrated resistance to azithromycin with one was from the urogenital site, five from the pharynx, and two from the rectum. Though resistance in North Carolina may be more limited than in other parts of the country^[3], increasing resistance trends denote the need for continual monitoring.

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018) Antibiotic / Antimicrobial Resistance – Biggest Threat and Data. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/biggest_threats.html

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Combating the Threat of Antibiotic – Resistant Gonorrhea. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/>

³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Public Health Surveillance and Data. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/surveillance-data-strategies/index.html>