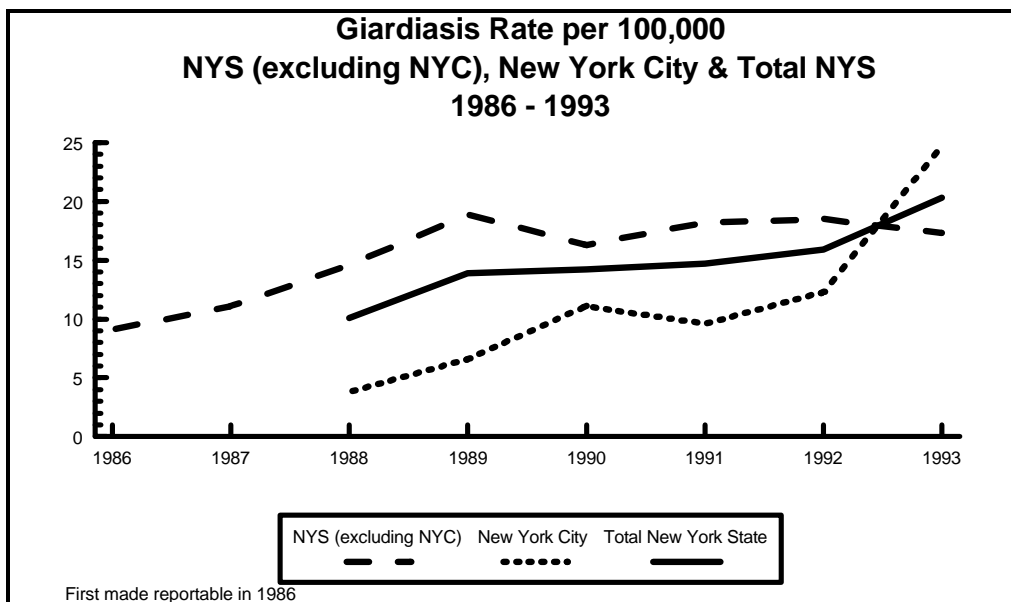


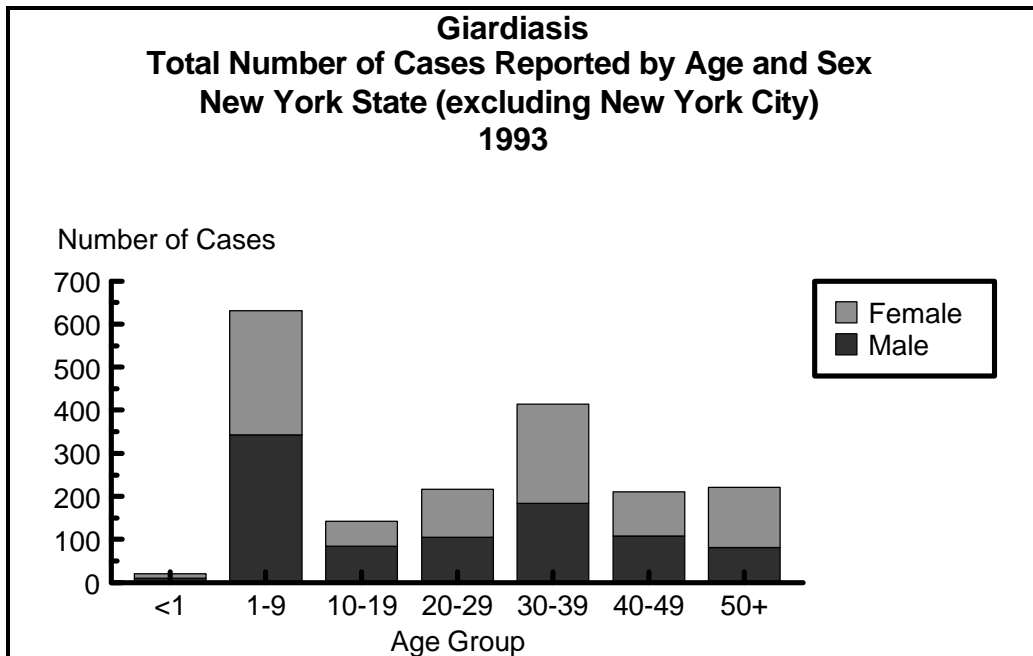
GIARDIASIS AND CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS

Giardiasis and cryptosporidiosis are two of the more common parasitic causes of gastroenteritis nationwide. Illness is characterized by diarrhea of varying severity without significant fever. Symptoms may be life-threatening in the immunocompromised. In New York State, giardiasis was made reportable in 1986 and cryptosporidiosis in 1994 (data to be available in future years). Since 1986, *Giardia lamblia* has been found to be both a cause of sporadic as well as outbreak-associated intestinal infection in New York State. The most common route of spread is person-to-person; both waterborne and foodborne transmission have been reported. Due to its high asymptomatic-to-symptomatic clinical case ratio in children, giardiasis can pose significant public health control issues.

Giardiasis cases reported have continued to increase over recent years.



Giardiasis case rates now approximate those seen for bacterial infections due to salmonella and campylobacter. As with salmonellosis, the highest age-specific case rates are observed in children under 10 years of age, although a second peak occurs in ages 30-39.



A seasonal trend is apparent for mid-summer to late fall.

