



Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wisconsin, 2023

People 15–19 years of age



Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report

People aged 15–19, 2023

Introduction

This report highlights statewide STI trends among people aged 15–19 years. Additional statewide data, data broken down by public health region, and Milwaukee County specific data can be found on the WI Department of Health Services (DHS) STI Unit [Surveillance Data web page](#).

This report recognizes that there are many systemic barriers and social factors driving the inequities seen in the data throughout the report. STIs can affect anyone; however, some communities have much higher rates of infection than others. These disparities are not due to behavioral practices alone. There are many different social conditions, policies, and systemic practices that put some people at higher risk for STIs, such as:

- Racism
- Discrimination
- Oppression
- Poverty
- Lack of access to sexual health education
- Lack of access to health care
- Stigma

Systemic conditions like these can lead to higher prevalence of STIs in the community. In communities with higher STI rates, it is easier for a person to get an STI because it is more likely that their sexual partner(s) have already been exposed.

Overview

In 2023, a total of 8,453 cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were reported among adolescents in Wisconsin. Of these, **chlamydia** cases accounted for 79% (6,658), **gonorrhea** for 20% (1,711), and **syphilis** for 1% (84) of cases. In 2023, there was a decrease of 0.7% in the total number of reported cases among adolescents compared to 2022 (8,514 cases).

Figure 1.

In 2023, chlamydia accounted for the majority of STI cases in people aged 15–19.

Total number of reported STI cases among people aged 15-19 years, Wisconsin 2023

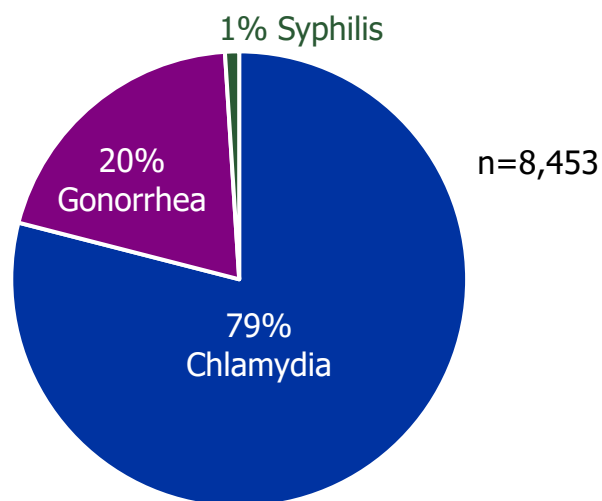


Figure 2.

In 2023, syphilis cases increased the most (10.5%). Chlamydia cases increased slightly (0.1%), and gonorrhea cases decreased (4.3%).

Five-year trend of STI cases among people aged 15-19 years in Wisconsin, 2019-2023

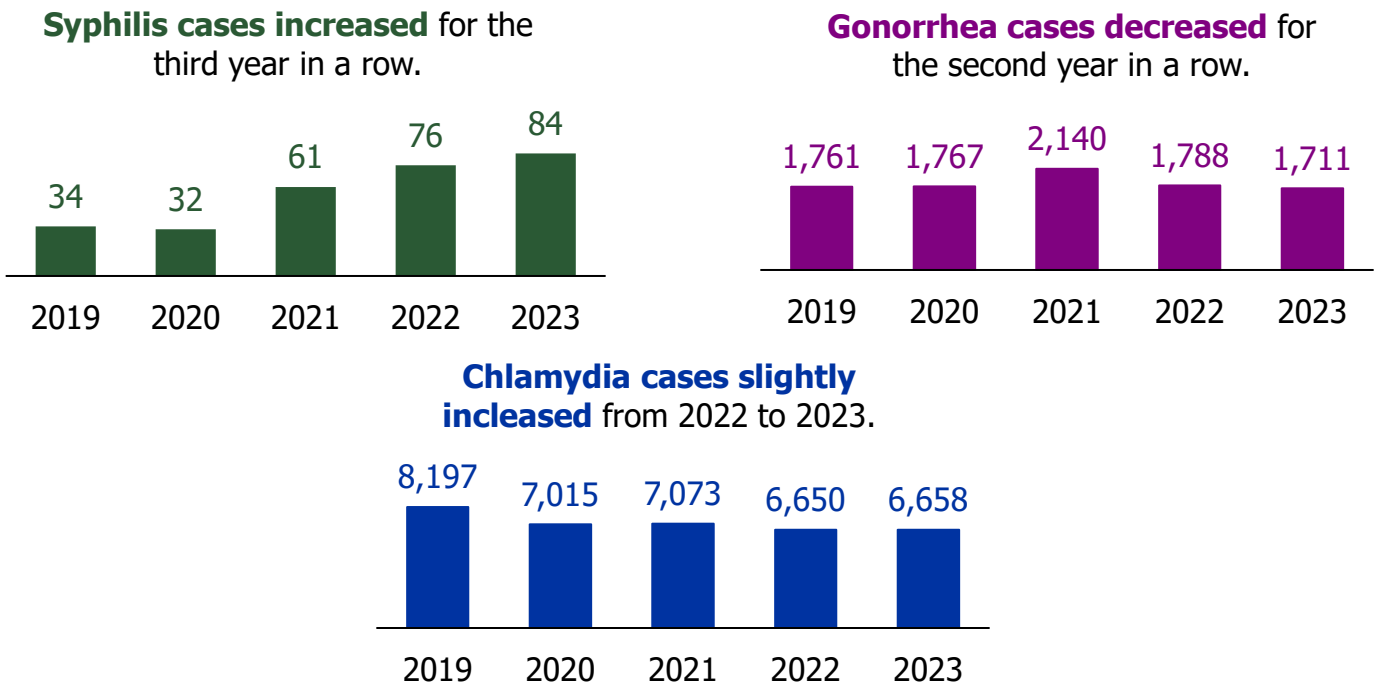
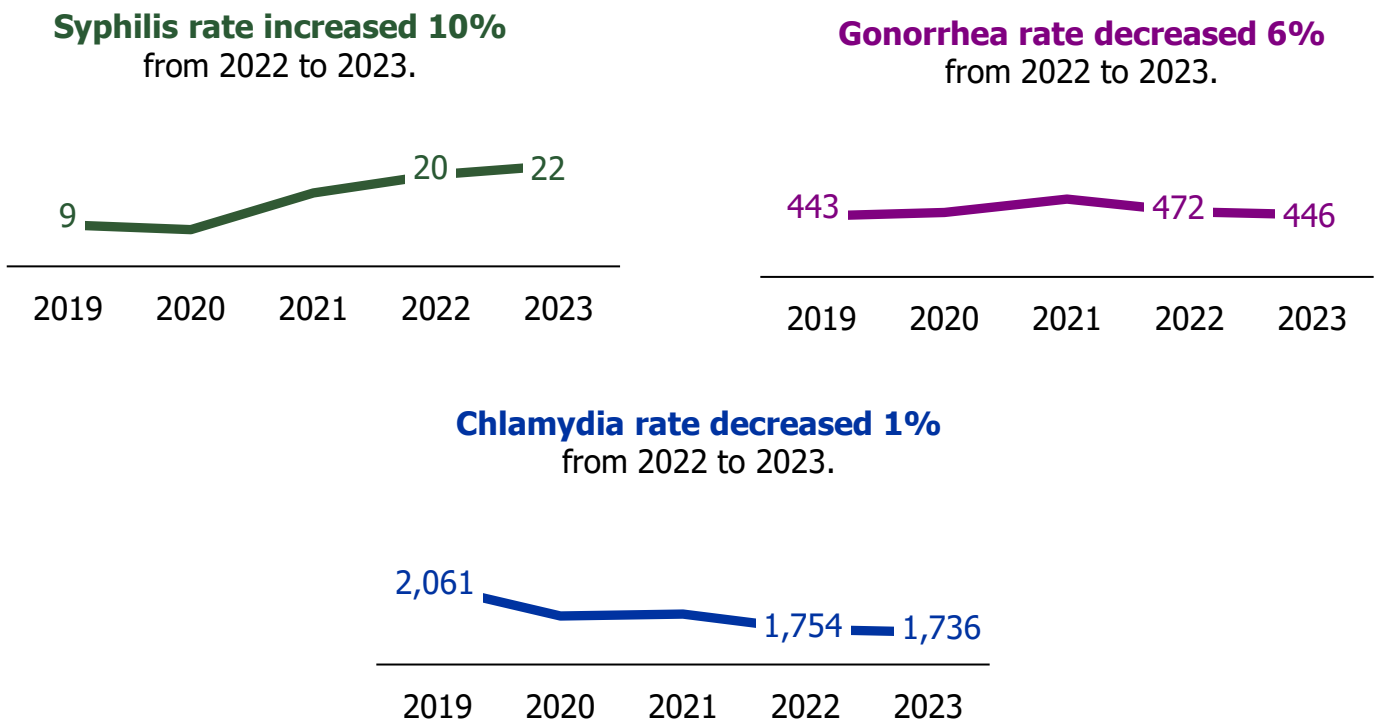


FIGURE 3.

The syphilis rate continues to rise among adolescents while gonorrhea and chlamydia rates have decreased.

Five-year STI rates (per 100,000 people) trend among adolescents in Wisconsin, 2019–2023



Key takeaways from 2023:



Sexually transmitted infections are widespread, impacting people in of all racial and ethnic groups, gender, and ages in Wisconsin.



Among the three reportable STIs (chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis), the rate of syphilis is increasing among adolescents, while the rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia decreased in 2023 compared to 2022.



The rate of syphilis among female adolescents in 2023 was 1.2 times higher than the rate among male adolescents. Black adolescents had the highest syphilis rate (199 per 100,000) in 2023 compared to the adolescents of other races and ethnicities.

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report

Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people by Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Age

Persons 15-19 years of age – 2023

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	6,658	100%	1,736	1,711	100%	446	84	100%	22	8,453	100%	2,204
Gender												
Male	1,836	27.6%	935	707	41%	360	39	46%	20	2,582	31%	1,320
Female	4,804	72.2%	2,567	1,000	58%	534	44	52%	24	5,848	69%	3,129
Transgender Male	1	0.0%	-	1	0%	-	1	1%	-	3	0%	-
Transgender Female	6	0.1%	-	1	0%	-	0	0%	-	7	0%	-
Other/Unknown	11	0.2%	-	2	0%	-	0	0%	-	13	0%	-
Race/Ethnicity												
White	2,133	32%	773	185	11%	67	9	11%	3^	2,327	28%	845
Black	2,904	44%	9,791	1,253	73%	4,224	59	70%	199	4,216	50%	14,261
Native American	77	1%	1,930	13	1%	326	2	2%	*	92	1%	2,306
Asian	62	1%	435	2	0%	*	0	0%	0	64	1%	450
Two or More Races	13	0%	94	7	0%	51^	0	0%	0	20	0%	145
Hispanic	762	11%	1,654	92	5%	200	9	11%	20^	863	10%	1,873
Other/Unknown	707	11%	-	159	9%	-	5	6%	-	871	10%	-
Region												
Northeastern	894	13%	1,113	86	5%	107	8	10%	10^	988	12%	1,230
Northern	255	4%	861	13	1%	44	1	1%	*	269	3%	908
Southeastern	3,847	58%	2,758	1,390	81%	996	68	81%	49	5,305	63%	3,815
Southern	1,064	16%	1,365	183	11%	235	6	7%	8^	1,253	15%	1,608
Western	580	9%	1,033	38	2%	68	1	1%	*	619	7%	1,102
Institution**	18	0%	-	1	0%	-	0	0%	-	19	0%	-

*Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown. ^Rate is unreliable due to a count <12. **Institutions' cases include cases from Federal/State facilities.

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report

Reported cases and Rates per 100,000 people by region and county.

Persons 15-19 years of age – 2023

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Case	Percent	Rate*	Case	Percent	Rate*	Case	Percent	Rate*	Case	Percent	Rate*
Northeastern												
Brown	254	3.8%	1,383	27	1.6%	147	6	7.1%	33^	287	3.4%	1,563
Calumet	29	0.4%	819	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	30	0.4%	847
Door	10	0.2%	663^	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	10	0.1%	663^
Fond Du Lac	80	1.2%	1,182	16	0.9%	236	0	0.0%	0	96	1.1%	1,418
Green Lake	7	0.1%	591^	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	7	0.1%	591^
Kewaunee	7	0.1%	592^	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	7	0.1%	592^
Manitowoc	51	0.8%	1,065	2	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	53	0.6%	1,107
Marinette	20	0.3%	880	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	20	0.2%	880
Marquette	9	0.1%	1,066^	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	9	0.1%	1,066^
Menominee	11	0.2%	3,099^	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	12	0.1%	3,380^
Oconto	21	0.3%	964	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	22	0.3%	1,010
Outagamie	139	2.1%	1,139	11	0.6%	90^	0	0.0%	0	150	1.8%	1,229
Shawano	22	0.3%	895	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	22	0.3%	895
Sheboygan	68	1.0%	912	12	0.7%	161^	1	1.2%	*	81	1.0%	1,086
Waupaca	20	0.3%	681	5	0.3%	*	0	0.0%	0	25	0.3%	852
Waushara	6	0.1%	480^	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	6	0.1%	480^
Winnebago	140	2.1%	1,270	10	0.6%	91^	1	1.2%	*	151	1.8%	1,370
Region total	894	13.4%	1,113	86	5.0%	107	8	9.5%	10^	988	11.7%	1,230

*Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown. ^Rate is unreliable due to a count <12.

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report

Reported cases and Rates per 100,000 people by region and county.

Persons 15-19 years of age – 2023

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Northern												
Ashland	4	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	4	0.0%	*
Bayfield	9	0.1%	1,146	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	9	0.1%	1,146 [^]
Florence	2	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	*
Forest	4	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	4	0.0%	*
Iron	1	0.0%	*	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	*
Langlade	4	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	4	0.0%	*
Lincoln	24	0.4%	1,701	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	24	0.3%	1,701
Marathon	76	1.1%	889	3	0.2%	*	0	0.0%	0	79	0.9%	924
Oneida	13	0.2%	707	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	14	0.2%	761
Portage	50	0.8%	898	6	0.3%	108 [^]	1	1.2%	*	57	0.7%	1,024
Price	3	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	3	0.0%	*
Sawyer	5	0.2%	*	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	5	0.1%	*
Taylor	11	0.1%	861 [^]	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	11	0.1%	861 [^]
Vilas	6	0.6%	560 [^]	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	6	0.1%	560 [^]
Wood	43	3.8%	998	2	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	45	0.5%	1,045
Region total	255	7.6%	861	13	0.8%	575	1	1.2%	18	269	3.2%	908

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report
Reported cases and Rates per 100,000 people by region and county.
Persons 15-19 years of age – 2023

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Case	Percent	Rate*	Case	Percent	Rate*	Case	Percent	Rate*	Case	Percent	Rate*
Southeastern												
Kenosha	172	2.6%	1,470	41	2.4%	350	1	1.2%	*	214	2.5%	1,829
Milwaukee	3,019	45.3%	4,947	1,209	70.7%	1,981	62	73.8%	102	4,290	50.8%	7,030
Ozaukee	36	0.5%	593	8	0.5%	132^	0	0.0%	0	44	0.5%	725
Racine	311	4.7%	2,486	100	5.8%	799	4	4.8%	*	415	4.9%	3,317
Walworth	75	1.1%	968	4	0.2%	*	0	0.0%	0	79	0.9%	1,020
Washington	45	0.7%	537	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	46	0.5%	549
Waukesha	189	2.8%	751	27	1.6%	107	1	1.2%	*	217	2.6%	862
Region total	3,847	57.8%	2,901	1,390	81.2%	1,048	68	81.0%	51	5,305	62.8%	4,001

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Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report

Reported cases and Rates per 100,000 people by region and county.

Persons 15-19 years of age – 2023

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Southern												
Adams	8	0.1%	911 [^]	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	8	0.1%	911 [^]
Columbia	29	0.4%	822	2	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	31	0.4%	879
Crawford	6	0.1%	620 [^]	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	6	0.1%	620 [^]
Dane	585	8.8%	1,510	118	6.9%	307	3	3.6%	*	706	8.4%	1,822
Dodge	47	0.7%	890	3	0.2%	*	0	0.0%	0	50	0.6%	947
Grant	37	0.6%	842	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	38	0.4%	865
Green	23	0.3%	995	2	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	25	0.3%	1,081
Iowa	26	0.4%	1,750	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	27	0.3%	1,817
Jefferson	59	0.9%	855	3	0.2%	*	0	0.0%	0	62	0.7%	899
Juneau	13	0.2%	884	2	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	15	0.2%	1,020
Lafayette	6	0.1%	561 [^]	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	6	0.1%	561 [^]
Richland	12	0.2%	1,120 [^]	2	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	14	0.2%	1,307
Rock	162	2.4%	1,522	49	2.9%	460	3	3.6%	*	214	2.5%	2,011
Sauk	41	0.6%	1,036	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	41	0.5%	1,036
Vernon	10	0.2%	463 [^]	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	10	0.1%	463 [^]
Region total	1,064	16.0%	14,782	183	10.7%	216	6	7.1%	36[^]	1,253	14.8%	16,240

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Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report

Reported cases and Rates per 100,000 people by region and county.

Persons 15-19 years of age – 2023

Western	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Barron	34	0.5%	1,239	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	34	0.4%	1,239
Buffalo	6	0.1%	786^	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	6	0.1%	786^
Burnett	2	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	*
Chippewa	47	0.7%	1,155	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	47	0.6%	1,155
Clark	15	0.2%	568	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	16	0.2%	606
Douglas	28	0.4%	1,074	10	0.6%	383^	0	0.0%	0	38	0.4%	1,457
Dunn	33	0.5%	816	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	34	0.4%	841
Eau Claire	101	1.5%	1,258	8	0.5%	100^	0	0.0%	0	109	1.3%	1,357
Jackson	13	0.2%	1,092	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	13	0.2%	1,092
La Crosse	123	1.8%	1,308	5	0.3%	*	0	0.0%	0	128	1.5%	1,361
Monroe	40	0.6%	1,322	0	0.0%	0	1	1.2%	*	41	0.5%	1,355
Pepin	4	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	4	0.0%	*
Pierce	27	0.4%	736	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	27	0.3%	736
Polk	17	0.3%	623	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	18	0.2%	660
Rusk	7	0.1%	915^	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	8	0.1%	1,046^
Saint Croix	51	0.8%	797	10	0.6%	156^	0	0.0%	0	61	0.7%	953
Trempealeau	24	0.4%	1,231	1	0.1%	*	0	0.0%	0	25	0.3%	1,283
Washburn	8	0.1%	894^	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	8	0.1%	894^
Region total	580	8.7%	1,033	38	2.2%	68	1	1.2%	*	619	7.3%	1,102
All Regions	6,640	100%	1,731	1,710	100%	446	84	100%	22	8,434	100%	2,199
Institutions	18	0.3%	-	1	0.1%	-	0	2.6%	-	19	0.2%	-
All Total	6,658	100%	1,736	1,711	100%	446	84	100%	22	8,453	100%	2,204

**Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown. ^Rate is unreliable due to a count <12.

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report

Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people by Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Age

Persons 15-19 years of age - 2023

	Primary			Secondary			Early non-primary non-secondary			Early Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates*
Total	15	100%	4	16	100%	4	18	100%	5	49	100%	13
Gender												
Male	6	40%	3^	10	63%	5^	8	44%	4^	24	49%	12
Female	9	60%	5^	5	31%	*	10	56%	5^	24	49%	13
Transgender Female	0	0%	-	1	6%	-	0	0%	-	1	2%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Race/Ethnicity												
White	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	2	11%	*	2	4%	*
Black	12	80%	34^	13	81%	36	12	67%	34^	37	76%	104
Native American	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	6%	*	1	2%	*
Asian	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Two or More Races	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Hispanic	1	7%	*	1	6%	*	2	11%	*	4	8%	*
Other/Unknown	2	13%	-	2	13%	-	1	6%	-	5	10%	*
Region												
Northeastern	2	13%	*	1	6%	*	3	17%	*	6	12%	8^
Northern	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Southeastern	12	80%	8^	14	88%	10	14	78%	10	40	82%	28
Southern	1	7%	*	1	6%	*	1	6%	*	3	6%	*
Western	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0

*Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown. ^Rate is unreliable due to a count <12.

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report

Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people by Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Age

Persons 15-19 years of age - 2023

	Early Total			Late Latent			Congenital			All Stages Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	49	100%	13	35	100%	9	0	0	0	84	100%	22
Gender												
Male	24	49%	12	15	43%	8	0	0	0	39	46%	20
Female	24	45%	11	20	57%	11	0	0	0	44	52%	24
Transgender Female	1	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	1%	-	1	1%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Race/Ethnicity												
White	2	4%	*	7	20%	2 [^]	0	0.0%	0	9	11%	3 [^]
Black	37	76%	104	22	63%	62	0	0.0%	0	59	70%	166
Native American	1	2%	*	1	3%	*	0	0.0%	0	2	2%	*
Asian	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Two or More Races	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Hispanic	4	8%	*	5	14%	*	0	0.0%	0	9	11%	21 [^]
Other/Unknown	5	10%	-	0	0%	-	0	0.0%	-	5	6%	-
Region of residence												
Northeastern	6	12%	7 [^]	2	6%	*	0	0.0%	0	8	10%	10 [^]
Northern	0	0%	0	1	3%	*	0	0.0%	0	1	1%	*
Southeastern	40	82%	28	28	80%	19	0	0.0%	0	68	81%	47
Southern	3	6%	*	3	9%	*	0	0.0%	0	6	7%	8 [^]
Western	0	0%	0	1	3%	*	0	0.0%	0	1	1%	*
Institutions**	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	-

*Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown. [^]Rate is unreliable due to a count <12

Technical Notes

1. This report is compiled by the Wisconsin STI Unit and are based on STI case surveillance data collected by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH). In Wisconsin, state statutes require both laboratories and health care providers to report cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, chancroid, and pelvic inflammatory disease to local health departments. STI case surveillance data is automatically sent to the Wisconsin STI Unit via WEDSS (Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System).
2. This report includes cases diagnosed within the specified period. Additional cases diagnosed within the specified period may continue to be reported. Thus, this report should be considered provisional, and it supersedes all previous reports.
3. Reporting of STI cases can be incomplete. Reporting rates can be varied by disease, geographic region, and demographic groups. At any time, reported STI cases represent only part of the total number of diagnosed cases, therefore STI surveillance data likely underestimates total STI morbidity.
4. Rate is calculated based on the population data available on WISH (Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health) system website. For this reason, rates are only available for cisgender males and cisgender females throughout the report. In these reports, rates presented are cases per 100,000 population (2020). Rates are not calculated for categories with small numbers of cases. See [each report](#) for the rate calculation threshold.
5. In this report, cases are allocated to the derived county at the time of diagnosis. Cases from federal, state, or certain private institutions are included, and geographic region for these cases are assigned as institution.
6. Cases residing outside Wisconsin and unknown state cases are not included in this report.
7. All races are non-Hispanic ethnicity. Under the category of race, Asian includes Asian Pacific Islander. American Indian and Alaska Native is named as Native American. Unknown is either race or ethnicity is unknown.
8. Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown, and rates based on case counts less than 12 are marked as statistically unreliable.

For more information, contact:

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