



Sexually Transmitted Infections in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, 2023

People 15–19 years of age



Milwaukee County Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Surveillance Report People 15–19 years of age, 2023

Introduction

This report highlights data on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among people 15–19 years in Milwaukee County from 2023 as well as trends from the past five years. Additional STI data for Milwaukee County, statewide data and data by public health region 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 of 2023 data

In 2023, a total of 4,290 cases of STIs were reported among adolescents in Milwaukee County. Of these, **chlamydia** accounted for 70% (3,019), **gonorrhea** for 28% (1,209), and **syphilis** for 1% (62) of cases. In 2023, there was a 3.9% increase in the total number of reported cases of STIs among adolescents in Milwaukee County compared to 2022 (4,128 cases).

Looking specifically at each STI, **syphilis cases increased by 40.9%** and **chlamydia cases increased by 5.5%**. **Gonorrhea cases decreased by 1.1%**.

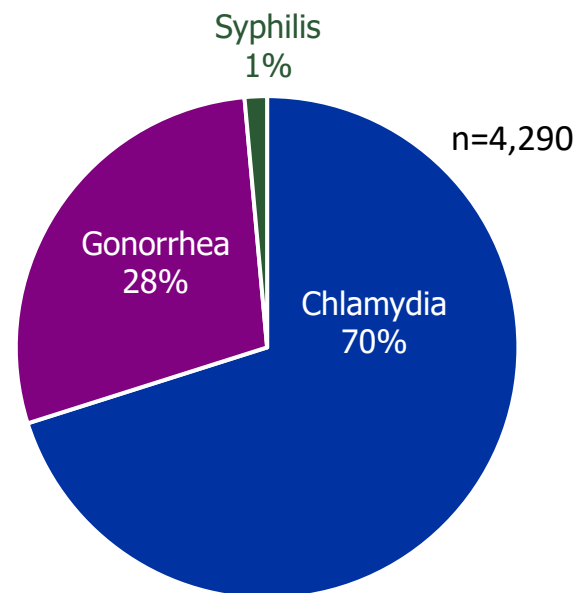


Figure 1.

Syphilis among people aged 15–19 years continues to rise in Milwaukee County.

Five-year trend of STI cases among people 15–19 Years, Milwaukee County, 2019–2023

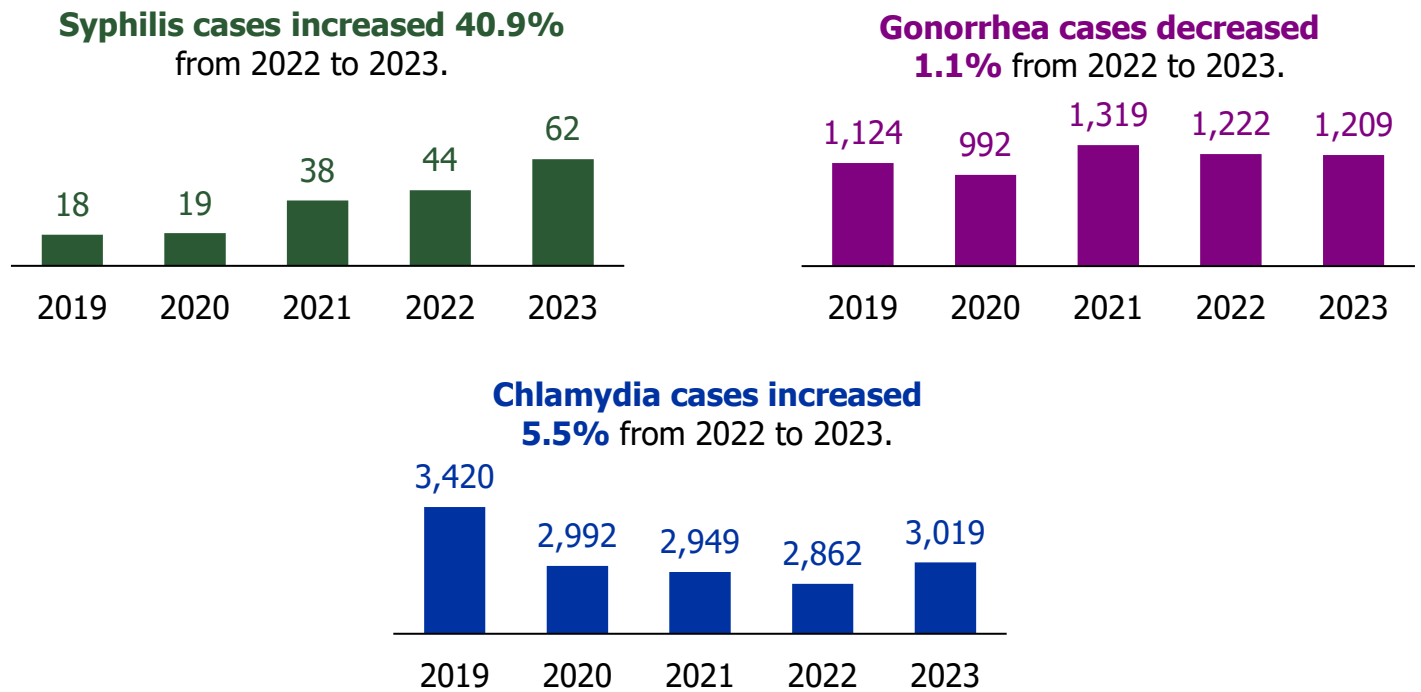
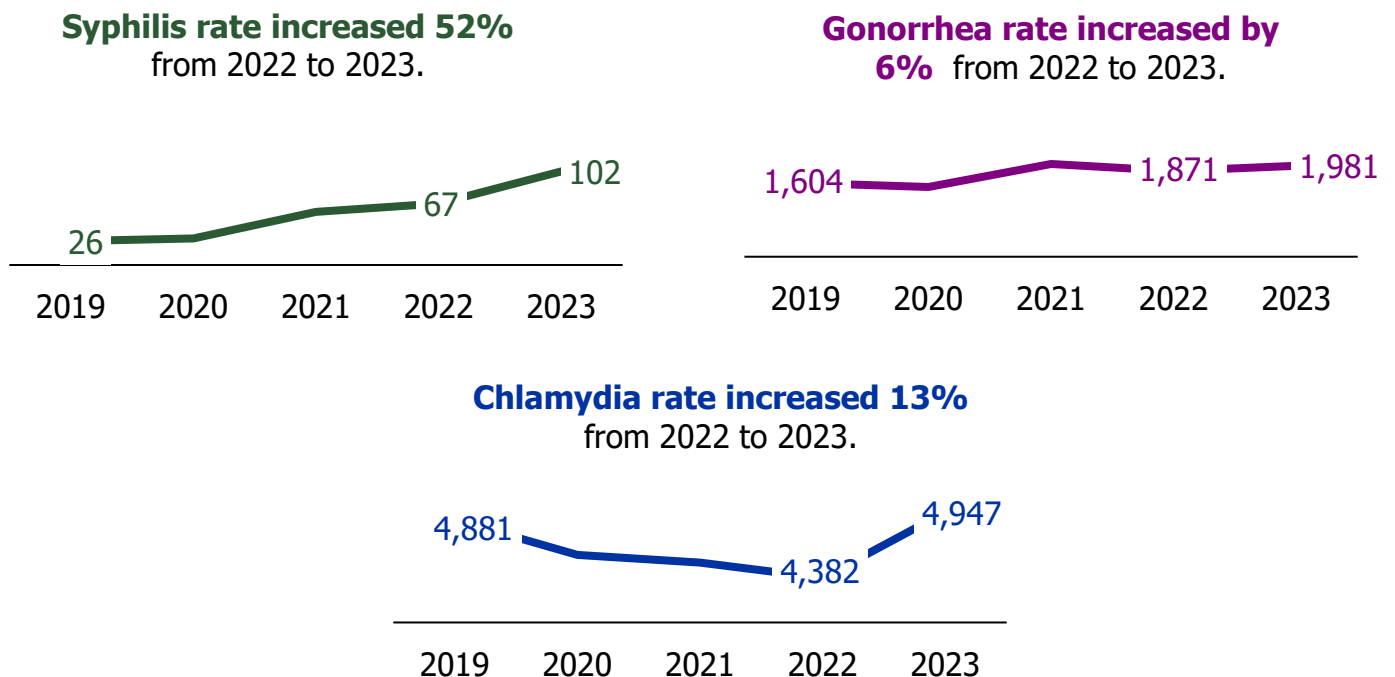


Figure 2.

In 2023, there was a significant increase (52%) in the syphilis rate among people aged 15–19 in Milwaukee County.

Five-year trend of STI rates per 100,000 people among adolescents, Milwaukee County, 2019–2023



Key takeaways from 2023 data:



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



There was a significant increase in the rate of syphilis among people aged 15–19 years in Milwaukee County compared to 2022. The rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea also increased over the last year.



Among all races and ethnicities Black adolescents had the highest rate of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis in Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee County Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance Report, 2023

Reported Cases and Rates per100,000 people by Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Region Person 15-19 years of age

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	3,019	100%	4,947	1,209	100%	1,981	62	100%	102	4,290	100%	7,030
Gender												
Male	949	31%	3,051	507	42%	1,630	30	48%	96	1,486	35%	4,778
Female	2,070	69%	6,919	701	58%	2,343	31	50%	104	2,802	65%	9,366
Transgender Female	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	1	2%	-	1	0%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Other/Unknown	0	0%	-	1	0%	-	0	0%	-	1	0%	-
Race/Ethnicity												
White	192	6%	885	31	3%	143	2	3%	*	225	5%	1,037
Black	2,157	71%	11,667	1,018	84%	5,506	51	82%	276	3,226	75%	17,449
Native American	7	0%	2,147^	4	0%	*	0	0%	0	11	0%	3,374^
Asian/NHOPI	17	1%	544	1	0%	*	0	0%	0	18	0%	576
Two or More Races	4	0%	*	2	0%	*	0	0%	0	6	0%	219^
Hispanic	286	9%	1,952	37	3%	253	5	8%	*	328	8%	2,239
Other/Unknown	356	12%	-	116	10%	-	4	6%	-	476	11%	-
Region of residence												
Northeastern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southeastern	3,019	100%	4,947	1,209	100%	1,981	62	100%	102	4,290	100%	7,030
Southern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Milwaukee County Syphilis Surveillance Report - 2023

Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people. by Stage of Infection, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity and Region

	Primary			Secondary			Early Latent			Early Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	12	100%	19 [^]	14	100%	22	13	100%	20	39	100%	61
Gender												
Male	6	50%	19 [^]	8	57%	25	6	46%	19 [^]	20	51%	63
Female	6	50%	18 [^]	5	36%	*	7	54%	21 [^]	18	46%	55
Transgender Female	0	0%	-	1	7%	-	0	0%	-	1	3%	-
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	12	92%	46 [^]	12	31%	46 [^]
Black	12	100%	66 [^]	12	86%	66 [^]	0	0%	0	24	62%	131
Native American	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Asian	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Hispanic	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
Other/Unknown	0	0%	0	2	0%	-	1	0%	-	3	8%	0
Region of residence												
Northeastern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southeastern	12	100%	19	14	100%	22	13	100%	20	39	100%	61
Southern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Milwaukee County Syphilis Surveillance Report - 2023

Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people.

by Stage of Infection, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity and Region

	Early Total*			Late Latent*			Congenital*			All Stages Total*		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	39	100%	61	23	100%	36	0	0%	0	62	100%	96
Gender												
Male	20	51%	63	10	43%	31 [^]	0	0.0%	0	30	48%	94
Female	18	46%	55	13	57%	40	0	0.0%	0	31	50%	95
Transgender Female	1	3%	-	0	13%	-	0	0.0%	-	1	2%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0%	-
Race/Ethnicity												
White	12	31%	46 [^]	2	9%	*	0	0.0%	0	14	23%	54
Black	24	62%	131	17	74%	93	0	0.0%	0	41	66%	224
Native American	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
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	0	0%	0	4	17%	*	0	0.0%	0	4	6%	*
Other/Unknown	3	8%	-	0	-	-	0	0.0%	-	3	5%	-
Region of residence												
Northeastern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southeastern	39	100%	61	23	100%	36	0	0%	0	62	100%	96
Southern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Rates based on five case counts or less than five 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 (2022). 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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