



# Sexually Transmitted Infections in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, 2023

## People 20–24 years of age



# Milwaukee County Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report

## People 20–24 years of age, 2023

### Introduction

This report highlights data on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among people 20–24 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 4,549 cases of STIs were reported among young adults in Milwaukee County. Of these, **chlamydia** accounted for 72% (3,289), **gonorrhea** for 24% (1,091), and **syphilis** for 4% (169) of cases.

In 2023, there was a 13% decrease in the total number of reported STI cases among young adults in Milwaukee County compared to 2022 (5,233 cases). Looking specifically at each STI, reported cases of **syphilis increased by 5%** and **chlamydia cases also increased by 6.3%** in 2023. In contrast, **gonorrhea cases decreased by 30.1%** over the last year.

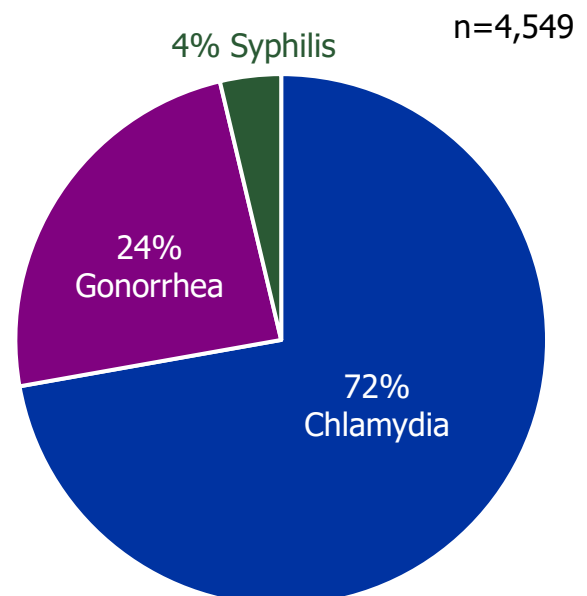


Figure 1.

## Syphilis cases continue to rise among young adults in Milwaukee County.

Five-year trend of STIs among young adults, Milwaukee County, 2019–2023.

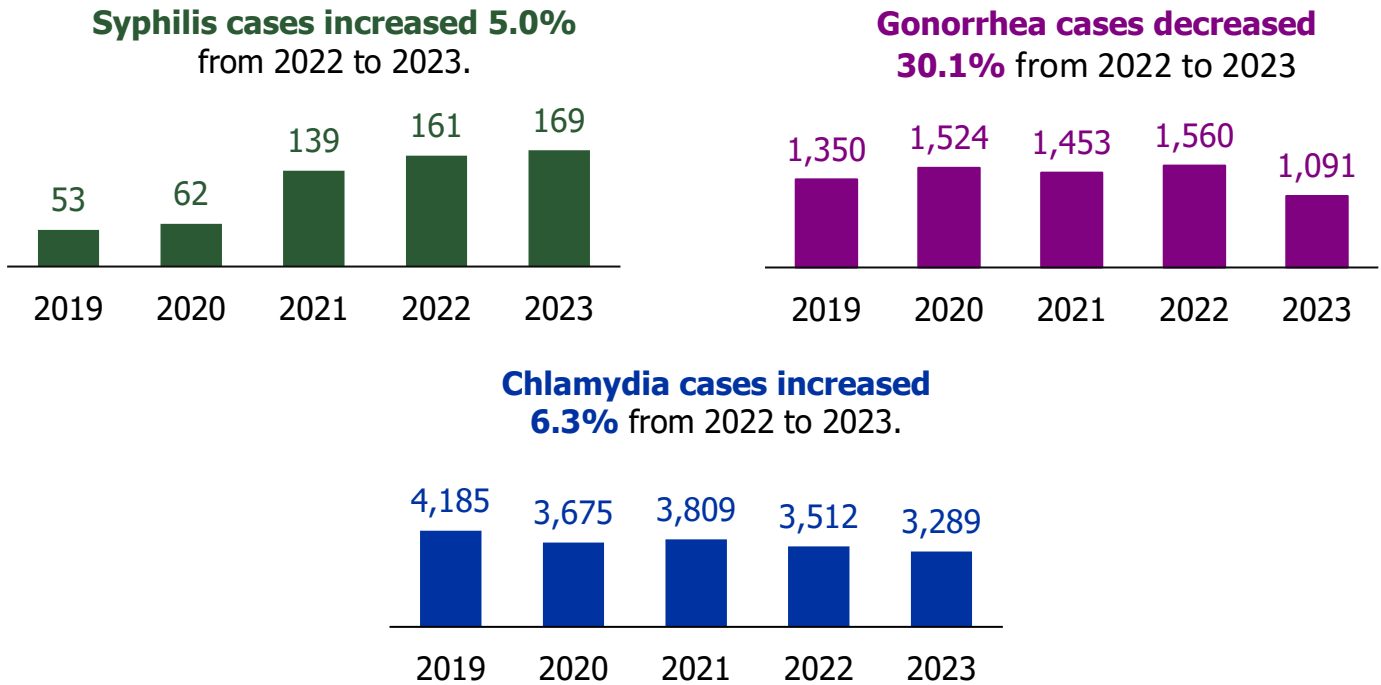
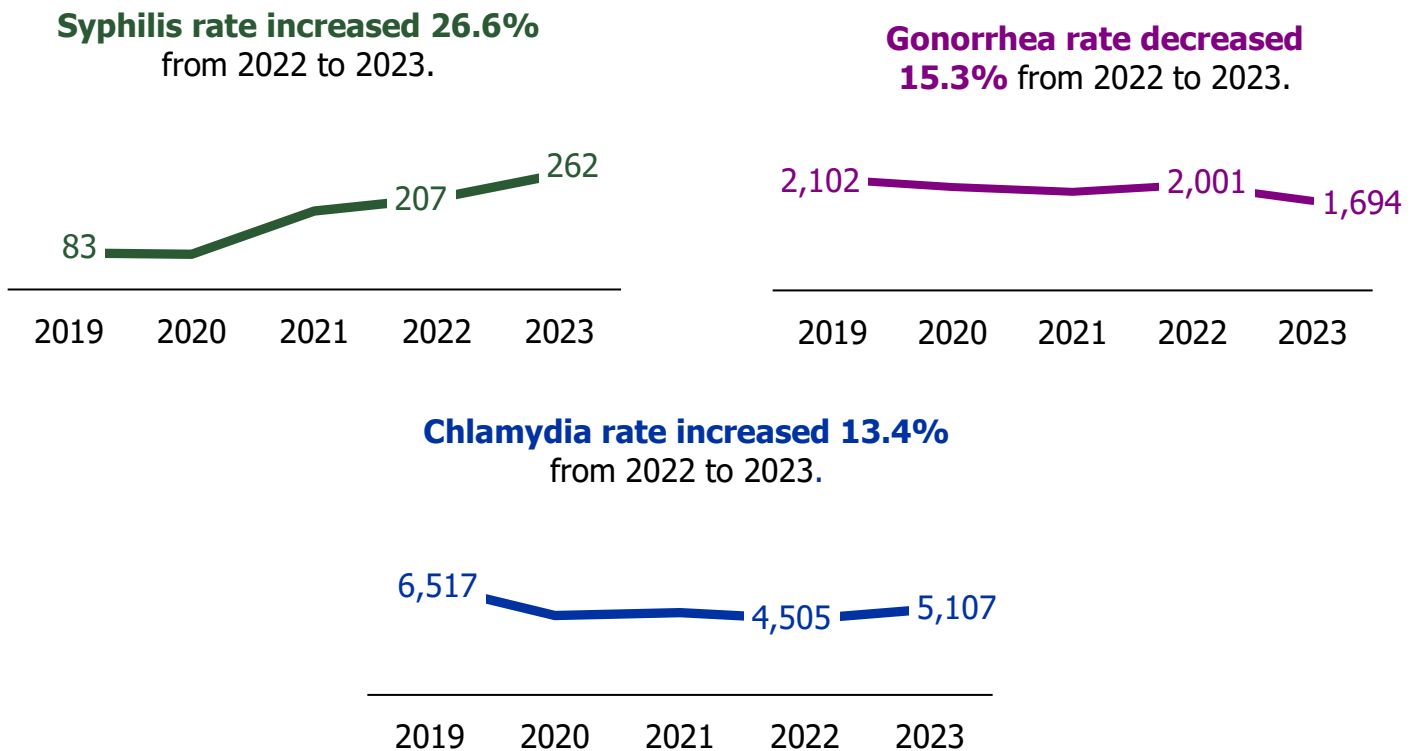


Figure 2.

## The syphilis rate increased 26.6% among young adults in Milwaukee County in 2023.

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



## Key takeaways from 2023 data:



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



The rates of chlamydia and syphilis increased while the gonorrhea rate decreased among people aged 20–24 years in Milwaukee County.



The rates of all three STIs were higher among Black young adults compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

# Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report

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

### Persons 20-24 years of age - 2023

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	3,289	100.0%	5,107	1,091	100.0%	1,694	169	100%	262	4,549	100%	7,064
<b>Sex</b>												
Male	1,027	31.2%	3,232	532	48.8%	1,674	98	58.0%	308	1,657	36.4%	5,215
Female	2,256	68.6%	6,914	552	50.6%	1,692	62	36.7%	190	2,870	63.1%	8,796
Transgender-MTF	1	0.0%	-	3	0.3%	-	9	5.3%	-	13	0.3%	-
Transgender-FTM	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Unknown	5	0.2%	-	4	0.4%	-	0	0.0%	-	9	0.2%	-
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	395	12.0%	1,529	66	6.0%	256	10	5.9%	39	471	10.4%	1,824
Black	1,843	56.0%	10,089	829	76.0%	4,538	122	72.2%	668	2,794	61.4%	15,295
American Indian	18	0.5%	4,423	8	0.7%	1,966 <sup>^</sup>	0	0.0%	0	26	0.6%	6,388
Asian/Pacific Islander	35	1.1%	970	5	0.5%	*	4	2.4%	*	44	1.0%	1,219
Two or More Races	3	0.1%	*	2	0.2%	*	1	0.6%	*	6	0.1%	249 <sup>^</sup>
Hispanic	565	17.2%	4,072	92	8.4%	663	24	14.2%	173	681	15.0%	4,908
Other/Unknown	430	13.1%	-	89	8.2%	-	8	4.7%	-	527	11.6%	-
<b>Region</b>												
Northeastern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southeastern	3,289	100.0%	5,107	1,091	100.0%	1,694	169	100%	262	4,549	100%	7,064
Southern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown. <sup>^</sup>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 20-24 years of age - 2023

	Primary			Secondary			Early Latent			Early Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Total</b>	33	100%	51	32	100%	50	43	100%	67	108	100%	168
<b>Sex</b>												
Male	26	79%	82	22	69%	69	20	47%	63	68	63%	214
Female	7	21%	21 <sup>^</sup>	10	31%	31 <sup>^</sup>	17	40%	52	34	31%	104
Transgender Female	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	6	14%	-	6	6%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	0	0%	0	3	9%	*	3	7%	*	6	6%	23 <sup>^</sup>
Black	27	82%	148	26	81%	142	27	63%	148	80	74%	438
Native American	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	2	5%	*	2	2%	*
Two or More Races	0	0%	0	1	3%	*	0	0%	0	1	1%	*
Hispanic	5	15%	*	1	3%	*	9	21%	65 <sup>^</sup>	15	14%	108
Other/Unknown	1	3%	-	1	3%	-	2	5%	-	4	4%	-
<b>Region</b>												
Northeastern	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Northern	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Southeastern	33	100%	51	32	100%	50	43	100%	67	108	100%	168
Southern	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Western	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-

\*Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown. <sup>^</sup>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 20-24 years of age - 2023

	Early Total			Late Latent			Congenital			All Stage Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Total</b>	108	100%	168	61	100%	95	0	0.0%	0	169	100%	262
<b>Sex</b>												
Male	68	63%	214	30	49%	94	0	0.0%	0	98	58%	308
Female	34	31%	104	28	46%	86	0	0.0%	0	62	37%	190
Transgender Female	6	6%	-	3	5%	-	0	0.0%	-	9	5%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0%	-
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	6	6%	23 <sup>^</sup>	4	7%	*	0	0.0%	0	10	6%	39 <sup>^</sup>
Black	80	74%	438	42	69%	230	0	0.0%	0	122	72%	668
Native American	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Asian	2	2%	*	2	3%	*	0	0.0%	0	4	2%	*
Two or More Races	1	1%	*	0	0%	0				1	1%	*
Hispanic	15	14%	108	9	15%	65 <sup>^</sup>	0	0.0%	0	24	14%	173
Other/Unknown	4	4%	-	4	7%	-	0	0.0%	-	8	5%	-
<b>Region</b>												
Northeastern	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Northern	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Southeastern	108	100%	168	61	100%	95	0	0.0%	0	169	100%	262
Southern	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Western	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-

\*Rates based on case counts five and less are not shown. <sup>^</sup>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.

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