



# Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wisconsin, 2023 Southeastern Region

Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | STI Unit

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# Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report Southeastern Region – 2023

## Introduction

The Wisconsin STI Regional Surveillance reports highlight STI data broken down by public health region. Additional statewide data 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, 19,816 cases of sexually transmitted Infections (STIs) were reported in the Southeastern Region. Of these, **chlamydia** accounted for 69% (13,654), **gonorrhea** for 25% (5,010), and **syphilis** for 6% (1,152) of cases. The number of reported STI cases in 2023 was 7.4% less than the number of cases reported in 2022 (21,396 cases). For first time in more than a decade, reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis all decreased in the Southeastern Region.

Among the three STIs reported, the number of **gonorrhea cases decreased by 20.8%**, **syphilis cases decreased by 14.9%**, and **chlamydia cases decreased by 0.5%** in 2023.

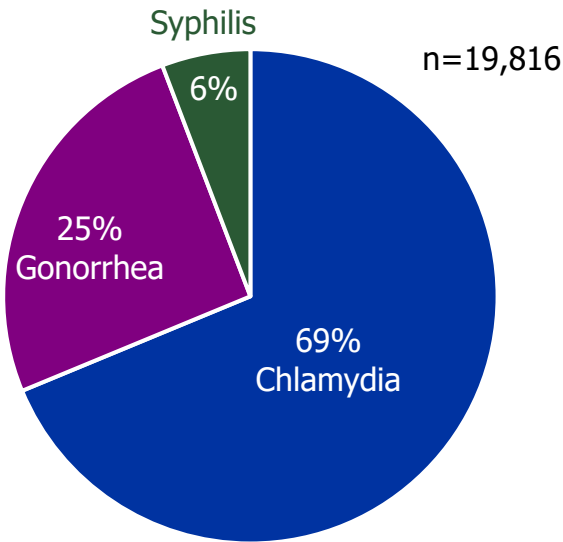


Figure 1.

**In the Southeastern Region in 2023, the reported number of all three STIs decreased. Gonorrhea cases decreased the most at 20.8%.**

Trend of reported STI cases, Southeastern Region, 2019–2023

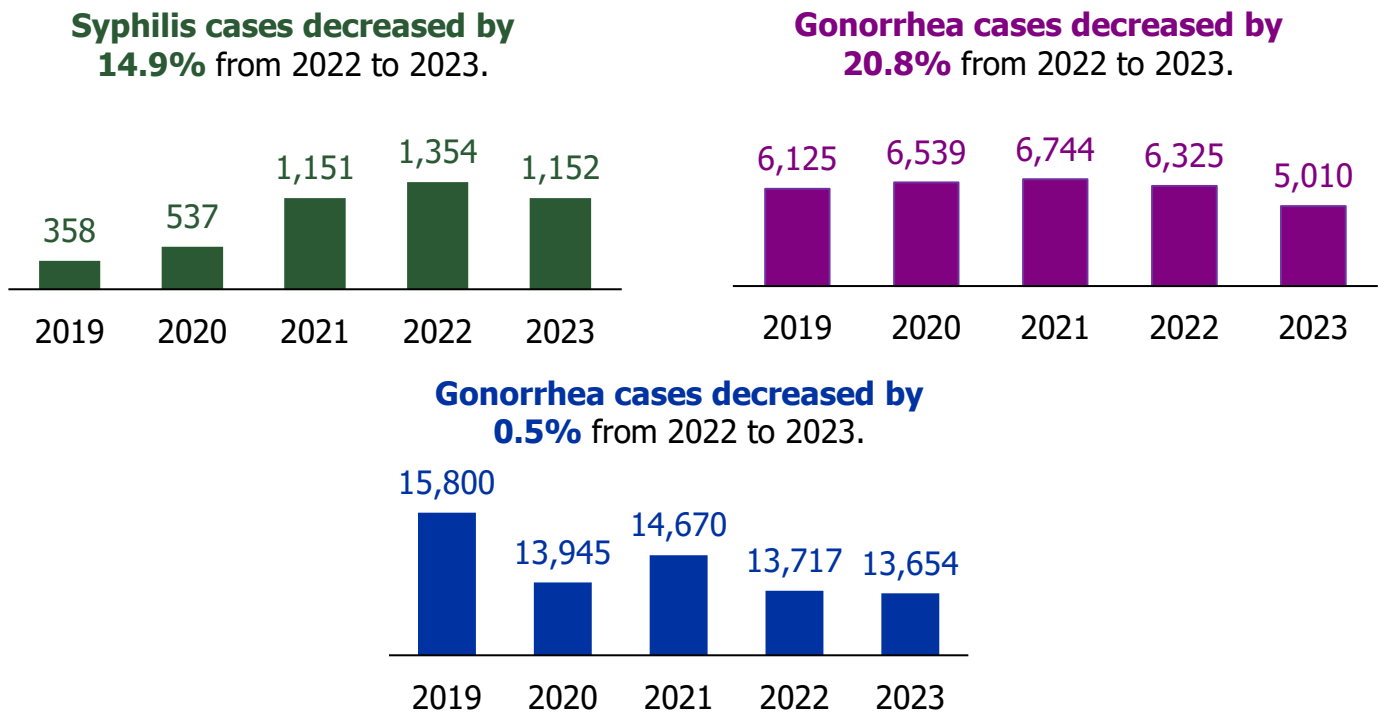
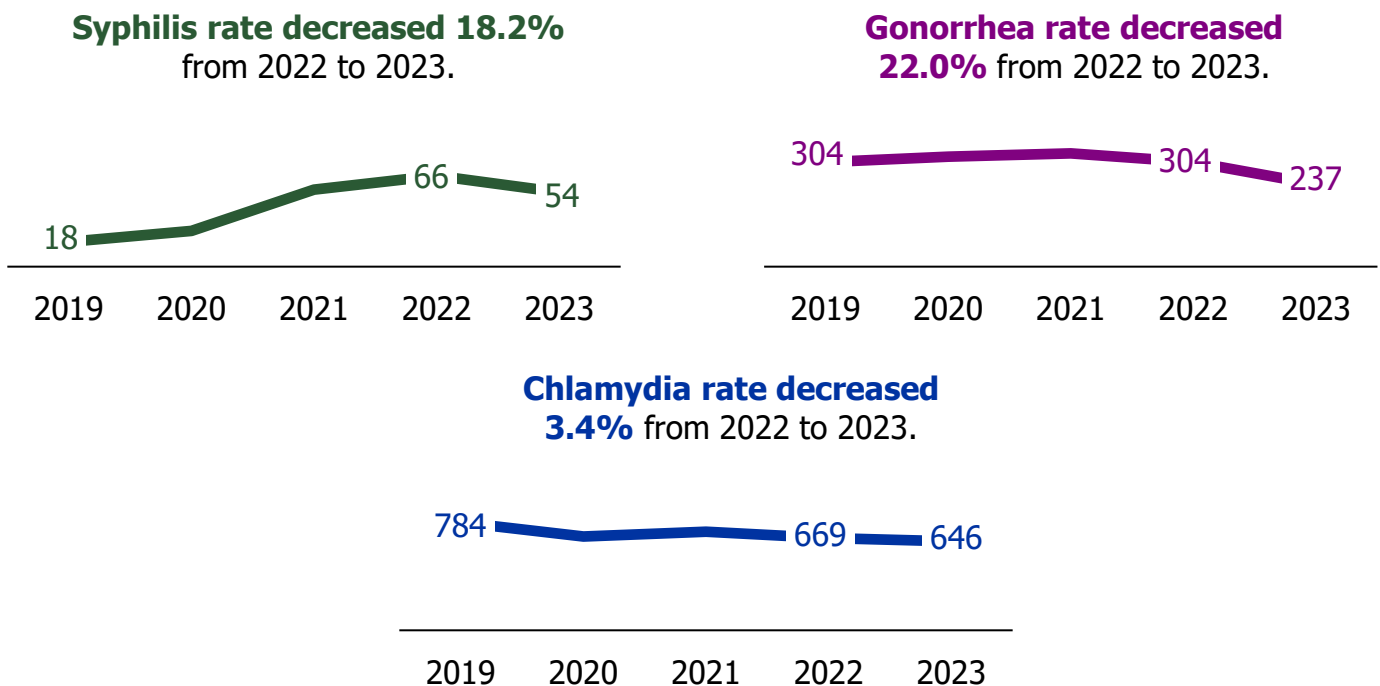


Figure 2.

**In the Southeastern Region in 2023, the rate of syphilis per 100,000 people decreased for the first time in five years. Similarly, the rate of gonorrhea and chlamydia also decreased in the region.**

Trend of rates of reported STI cases, Southeastern Region, 2019–2023



## Key takeaways from 2023 data:



Sexually transmitted infections are widespread, impacting people of all races, ethnicities, genders, and ages.



The STI rate in the Southeastern Region decreased. Among all three STIs, gonorrhea had the highest decrease (22.0%) followed by syphilis (18.2%), and chlamydia (3.4%).



The populations at highest risk include people between the ages of 20–35 years.

# Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report

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

### Southeastern Region – 2023

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Total</b>	13,654	100%	646	5,010	100%	237	1,152	100%	54	19,816	100%	937
<b>Gender</b>												
Male	4,783	35.0%	458	2,683	53.6%	257	715	62.1%	69	8,181	41.3%	784
Female	8,838	64.7%	825	2,299	45.9%	215	407	35.3%	38	11,544	58.2%	1,078
Transgender Female	5	0.0%	-	10	0.2%	-	30	2.6%	-	45	0.2%	-
Transgender Male	2	0.0%	-	1	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	3	0.0%	-
Unknown	26	0.2%	-	17	0.3%	-	0	0.0%	-	43	0.2%	-
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	2,665	19.5%	185	633	12.6%	44	190	16.5%	13	3,488	17.6%	242
Black	7,882	57.7%	2,757	3,756	75.0%	1,314	724	62.8%	253	12,362	62.4%	4,324
Native American	47	0.3%	571	21	0.4%	255	7	0.6%	85^	75	0.4%	911
Asian	154	1.1%	199	36	0.7%	46	23	2.0%	30	213	1.1%	275
Two or More Races	16	0.1%	36	10	0.2%	22	9	0.8%	20	35	0.2%	78
Hispanic	2,025	14.8%	791	371	7.4%	145	177	15.4%	69	2,573	13.0%	1,005
Other/Unknown	865	6.3%	-	183	3.7%	-	22	1.9%	-	1,070	5.4%	-
<b>Age</b>												
0-4	4	0.0%	*	3	0.1%	*	23	2.0%	19	30	0.2%	25
5-9	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	*
10-14	232	1.7%	172	99	2.0%	73	0	0.0%	0	331	1.7%	245
15-19	3,847	28.2%	2,758	1,390	27.7%	996	68	5.9%	49	5,305	26.8%	3,803
20-24	4,514	33.1%	3,229	1,266	25.3%	906	187	16.2%	134	5,967	30.1%	4,269
25-29	2,404	17.6%	1,736	849	16.9%	613	183	15.9%	132	3,436	17.3%	2,481
30-34	1,323	9.7%	944	604	12.1%	431	203	17.6%	145	2,130	10.7%	1,519
35-39	632	4.6%	457	311	6.2%	225	141	12.2%	102	1,084	5.5%	783
40-44	309	2.3%	228	184	3.7%	136	96	8.3%	71	589	3.0%	435
45-49	153	1.1%	127	101	2.0%	84	63	5.5%	52	317	1.6%	264
50+	236	1.7%	30	202	4.0%	26	188	16.3%	24	626	3.2%	80

\*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 per100,000 people by County. Southeastern Region – 2023

Southeastern	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Case	Percent	Rates	Case	Percent	Rates	Case	Percent	Rates	Case	Percent	Rates
Kenosha	736	5.4%	439	132	3%	79	28	2%	17	896	5%	534
Milwaukee	10,462	76.6%	1,139	4,326	86%	471	976	85%	106	15,764	80%	1,716
Ozaukee	127	0.9%	137	30	1%	32	5	0%	*	162	1%	174
Racine	1,092	8.0%	558	351	7%	179	82	7%	42	1,525	8%	779
Walworth	321	2.4%	305	29	1%	28	12	1%	11^	362	2%	344
Washington	201	1.5%	146	19	0%	14	10	1%	7^	230	1%	167
Waukesha	715	5.2%	174	123	2%	30	39	3%	10	877	4%	214
<b>Region total</b>	<b>13,654</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>5,010</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>19,816</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>977</b>

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

# Wisconsin Syphilis Surveillance Report - Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people by Stage of Infection, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Age Southeastern Region – 2023

	Primary			Secondary			Early Latent			Early Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Total</b>	166	100%	8	210	100%	10	239	100%	11	615	100%	29
<b>Gender</b>												
Male	127	77%	12	140	67%	13	148	62%	14	415	67%	40
Female	37	22%	3	63	30%	6	80	33%	7	180	29%	17
Transgender Female	2	1%	-	7	3%	-	11	5%	-	20	3%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	21	13%	1	48	23%	3	34	14%	2	103	17%	7
Black	119	72%	42	129	61%	45	149	62%	52	397	65%	139
Native American	1	1%	*	1	0%	*	1	0%	*	3	0%	*
Asian	0	0%	0	1	0%	*	4	2%	*	5	1%	*
Two or More races	2	1%	*	5	2%	*	1	0%	*	8	1%	18^
Hispanic	20	12%	8	22	10%	9	44	18%	17	86	14%	34
Other/Unknown	5	3%	-	9	4%	-	7	3%	-	21	3%	-
<b>Age</b>												
0-4	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
5-9	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
10-14	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
15-19	12	7%	9^	14	7%	10	14	6%	10	40	7%	29
20-24	37	22%	26	33	16%	24	45	19%	32	115	19%	82
25-29	27	16%	19	34	16%	25	38	16%	27	99	16%	71
30-34	33	20%	24	37	18%	26	53	22%	38	123	20%	88
35-39	17	10%	12	31	15%	22	31	13%	22	79	13%	57
40-44	9	5%	7^	18	9%	13	22	9%	16	49	8%	36
45-49	8	5%	7^	11	5%	9^	13	5%	11	32	5%	27
50+	23	14%	3	32	15%	4	23	10%	3	78	13%	10
<b>Unknown</b>	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 Syphilis Surveillance Report – Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people by Stage of Infection, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Age

## Southeastern Region – 2023

	Early Total			Late Latent			Congenital			All Stage Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Total</b>	615	100%	29	514	100%	24	23	100%	1	1,152	100%	54
<b>Gender</b>												
Male	415	67%	40	289	56%	28	11	48%	1 <sup>^</sup>	715	62%	69
Female	180	29%	17	215	42%	20	12	52%	1 <sup>^</sup>	407	35%	38
Transgender Female	20	3%	-	10	2%	-	0	0%	-	30	3%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	103	17%	7	82	16%	6	5	22%	*	190	16%	13
Black	397	65%	139	315	61%	110	12	52%	4 <sup>^</sup>	724	63%	253
Native American	3	0%	*	4	1%	*	0	0%	0	7	1%	85 <sup>^</sup>
Asian	5	1%	*	18	4%	23	0	0%	0	23	2%	30
Two or More Races	8	1%	18 <sup>^</sup>	0	0%	0	1	4%	2	9	1%	20
Hispanic	86	14%	34	88	17%	34	3	13%	*	177	15%	69
Other/Unknown	13	2%	-	7	1%	-	2	9%	-	22	2%	-
<b>Age</b>												
0-4	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	23	100%	19	23	2%	19
5-9	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
10-14	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
15-19	40	7%	29	28	5%	20	0	0%	0	68	6%	49
20-24	115	19%	82	72	14%	52	0	0%	0	187	16%	134
25-29	99	16%	71	84	16%	61	0	0%	0	183	16%	132
30-34	123	20%	88	80	16%	57	0	0%	0	203	18%	145
35-39	79	13%	57	62	12%	45	0	0%	0	141	12%	102
40-44	49	8%	36	47	9%	35	0	0%	0	96	8%	71
45-49	32	5%	27	31	6%	26	0	0%	0	63	5%	52
50+	78	13%	10	110	21%	14	0	0%	0	188	16%	24
Unknown	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.



## 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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