



# Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wisconsin, 2023

## Syphilis in Females 15–44 Years

Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | STI Unit  
P-03659 (09/2024)



# Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report

## Syphilis in Females 15-44 years, 2023

### Introduction

This report highlights statewide syphilis trends among people aged 15–44 years. Additional statewide STI 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 **459 cases of syphilis were reported** among women aged 15–44 years. Of these, primary and secondary syphilis cases accounted for 24%, non-primary non secondary for 23%, and late latent for 53% of cases.

Compared to the previous year (714 cases), there was a **36% decrease in total reported syphilis cases among women aged 15–44 years in 2023**. Looking specially at each stage of syphilis, reported cases of primary syphilis decreased by 63% (from 306 cases in 2022), non-primary and non-secondary syphilis cases decreased by 36% (from 166 cases in 2022) in 2023. There was no change in reported cases of late latent syphilis among reproductive age women in Wisconsin from 2022 to 2023.

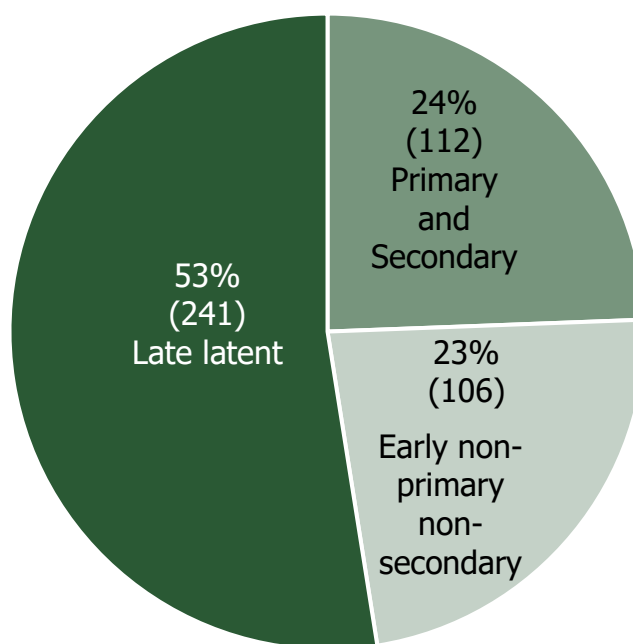


Figure 1.

**Black women accounted for 55.4% of all reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis among reproductive age women. Black women also had the higher rate of primary and secondary syphilis compared to other racial ethnic groups in Wisconsin.**

Reported cases and rates of primary and secondary syphilis among reproductive age women by race and ethnicity, 2023.

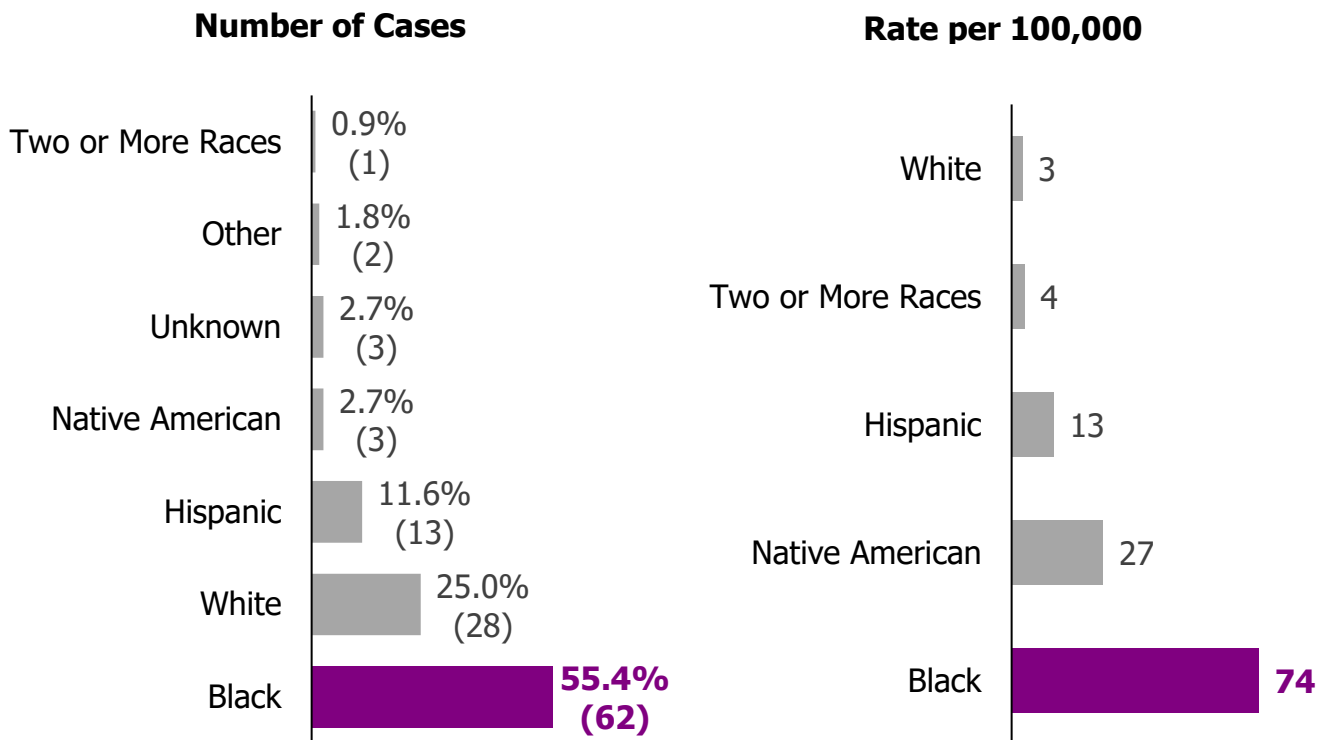


Figure 2.

**White women accounted for 25% of reported primary and secondary syphilis cases in Wisconsin, but the rates were lowest among all racial ethnic groups.**

Reported cases and rates of primary and secondary syphilis among reproductive age women by race and ethnicity, 2023.

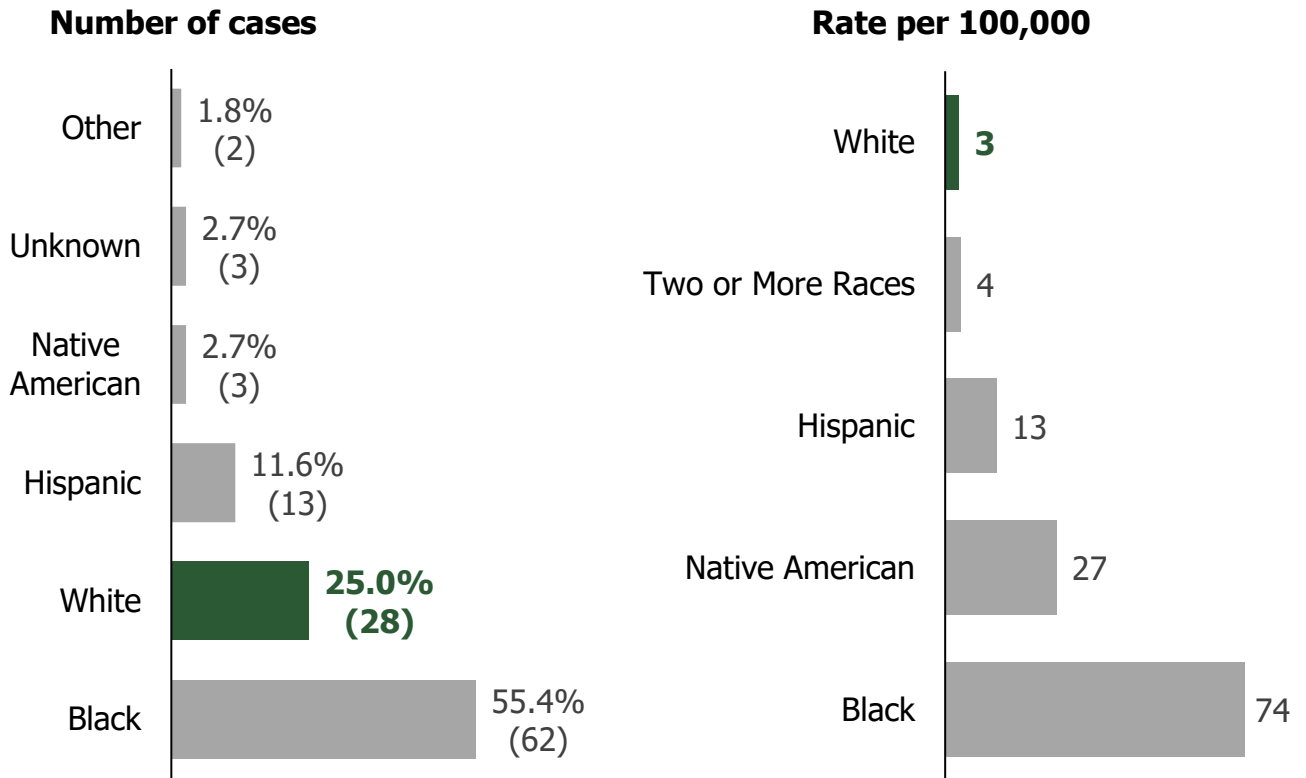
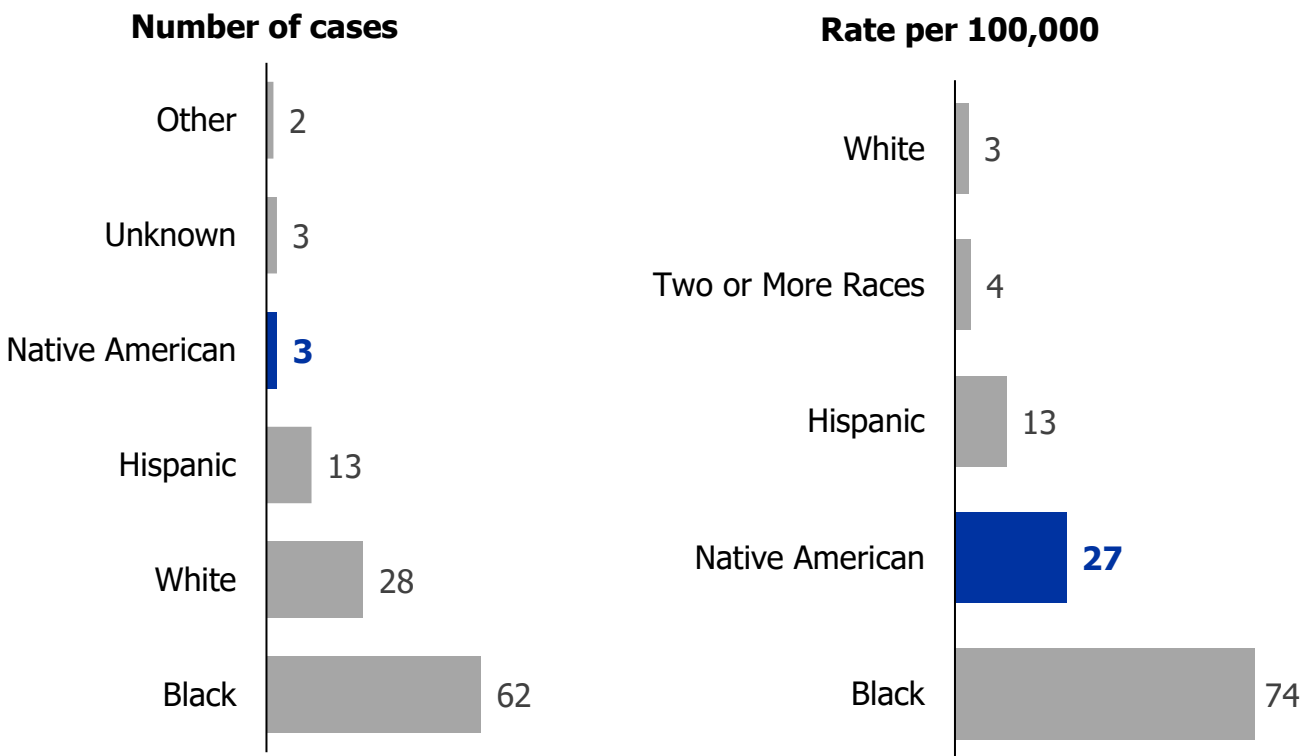


Figure 3.

**Native American women accounted for only 2.7% of the reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis among reproductive age women but had the second highest rate among all racial and ethnic groups.**

Reported cases and rates of primary and secondary syphilis among reproductive age women by race and ethnicity, 2023.



## Key takeaways from 2023:



The rate of reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis among reproductive age women decreased drastically from 2022 to 2023.



The rate of primary and secondary syphilis was highest among Black women followed by Native American women. White women had the lowest rate of primary and secondary syphilis in 2023.



No cases of syphilis were reported among Asian women in 2023.

# Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report

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

### Women 15-44 years of age - 2023

	Primary			Secondary			Primary & Secondary Combined			Non-primary non secondary		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	44	100%	4	68	100%	6	112	100%	10	106	100%	10
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	9	20.5%	1	19	27.9%	2	28	25.0%	3	26	24.5%	3
Black	27	61.4%	32	35	51.5%	42	62	55.4%	74	51	48.1%	61
American Indian	1	2.3%	9	2	2.9%	18	3	2.7%	27	4	3.8%	37
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	3	2.8%	6
Two or More Races	0	0.0%	0	1	1.5%	4	1	0.9%	4	1	0.9%	4
Hispanic	3	6.8%	3	10	14.7%	10	13	11.6%	13	16	15.1%	16
Other	2	4.5%	-	0	0.0%	-	2	1.8%	-	2	1.9%	-
Unknown	2	4.5%	-	1	1.5%	-	3	2.7%	-	3	2.8%	-
<b>Age</b>												
15-19	9	20.5%	5	5	7.4%	3	14	12.5%	7	10	9.4%	5
20-24	9	20.5%	4	15	22.1%	7	24	21.4%	12	28	26.4%	14
25-29	8	18.2%	5	21	30.9%	12	29	25.9%	16	15	14.2%	8
30-34	8	18.2%	4	12	17.6%	7	20	17.9%	11	29	27.4%	16
35-39	4	9.1%	2	10	14.7%	5	14	12.5%	8	12	11.3%	7
40-44	6	13.6%	3	5	7.4%	3	11	9.8%	6	12	11.3%	7
<b>Region of residence</b>												
Northeastern	6	13.6%	3	5	7.4%	2	11	9.8%	5	14	13.2%	6
Northern	0	0.0%	0	2	2.9%	2	2	1.8%	2	1	0.9%	1
Southeastern	34	77.3%	8	55	80.9%	13	89	79.5%	22	72	67.9%	17
Southern	3	6.8%	1	2	2.9%	1	5	4.5%	2	7	6.6%	3
Western	1	2.3%	1	3	4.4%	2	4	3.6%	3	11	10.4%	7

\*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 Race, Ethnicity, Age, and Region

### Women 15-44 years of age - 2023

	Early Total			Late Latent			All Stages Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	218	100%	20	241	100%	22	459	100%	41
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>									
White	54	24.8%	6	60	25%	7	114	24.8%	14
Black	113	51.8%	135	117	49%	140	230	50.1%	275
Native American	7	3.2%	64	9	4%	82	16	3.5%	146
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	1.4%	6	7	3%	14	10	2.2%	20
Two or More Races	2	0.9%	8	0	0%	0	2	0.4%	8
Hispanic	29	13.3%	28	43	18%	42	72	15.7%	70
Other	4	1.8%	-	1	0%	-	5	1.1%	-
Unknown	6	2.8%	-	4	2%	-	10	2.2%	-
<b>Age Groups</b>									
15-19	24	11.0%	13	20	8%	11	44	9.6%	24
20-24	52	23.9%	26	41	17%	20	93	20.3%	46
25-29	44	20.2%	25	63	26%	35	107	23.3%	60
30-34	49	22.5%	28	58	24%	33	107	23.3%	60
35-39	26	11.9%	14	36	15%	20	62	13.5%	34
40-44	23	10.6%	13	23	10%	13	46	10.0%	25
<b>Region of Residence</b>									
Northeastern	25	11.5%	11	31	13%	14	56	12.2%	25
Northern	3	1.4%	4	8	3%	10	11	2.4%	14
Southeastern	161	73.9%	39	167	69%	40	328	71.5%	79
Southern	12	5.5%	5	23	10%	10	35	7.6%	15
Western	15	6.9%	10	7	3%	5	22	4.8%	14

\*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 Region and County

### Women 15-44 years of age – 2023

Region/County	Primary and Secondary			Early Latent			Late Latent			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Northeastern</b>												
Brown	11	100%	5 <sup>^</sup>	14	100%	6.2	31	100%	13.6	56	100%	24.6
Calumet	2	18%	*	3	21%	*	12	39%	22.7 <sup>^</sup>	17	30%	32.1
Door	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	2	6%	*	2	4%	*
Fond du lac	0	0%	0	1	7%	*	1	3%	*	2	4%	*
Green Lake	1	9%	*	1	7%	*	5	16%	*	7	13%	37.2 <sup>^</sup>
Kewaunee	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Manitowoc	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Marinette	2	18%	*	3	21%	*	1	3%	*	6	11%	46.3 <sup>^</sup>
Marquette	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Menominee	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Oconto	1	9%	*	0	0%	0.0	1	3%	*	2	4%	*
Outagamie	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Shawano	1	9%	*	2	14%	*	4	13%	*	7	13%	19.3 <sup>^</sup>
Sheboygan	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Waupaca	3	27%	*	1	7%	*	2	6%	*	6	11%	29.6 <sup>^</sup>
Waushara	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Winnebago	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
<b>Region total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24.6</b>



# Wisconsin Syphilis Surveillance Report

## Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people by Region and County

### Women 15-44 years of age – 2023

Northern	Primary and Secondary			Early Latent			Late Latent			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Ashland	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Bayfield	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	1	13%	*	1	9%	*
Florence	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Forest	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	2	25%	*	2	18%	*
Iron	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Langlade	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Lincoln	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Marathon	2	100%	*	1	100%	*	0	0%	0.0	3	27%	*
Oneida	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Portage	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Price	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Sawyer	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	3	38%	*	3	27%	*
Taylor	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Vilas	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	1	13%	*	1	9%	*
Wood	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	1	13%	*	1	9%	*
<b>Region total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9.9^</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13.5^</b>

# Wisconsin Syphilis Surveillance Report

## Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people by Region and County

### Women 15-44 years of age – 2023

	Primary and Secondary			Early Latent			Late Latent			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Southeastern</b>												
Kenosha	3	3%	*	1	1%	*	1	1%	*	5	2%	*
Milwaukee	74	83%	36.9	61	85%	30.5	146	87%	72.9	281	86%	140.3
Ozaukee	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	1	1%	*	1	0%	*
Racine	10	11%	28.1	5	7%	*	10	6%	28.1^	25	8%	70.2
Walworth	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	2	1%	*	2	1%	*
Washington	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	3	2%	*	3	1%	*
Waukesha	2	2%	*	5	7%	*	4	2%	*	11	3%	15.6^
<b>Region total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>82.5</b>
<b>Southern</b>												
	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rates</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rates</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rates</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rates</b>
Adams	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Columbia	1	20%	*	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	1	3%	*
Crawford	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Dane	2	40%	*	3	43%	*	16	70%	12.4	21	60%	16.3
Dodge	1	20%	*	1	14%	*	1	4%	*	3	9%	*
Grant	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Green	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Iowa	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Jefferson	1	20%	*	1	14%	*	1	4%	*	3	9%	*
Juneau	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Lafayette	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Richland	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Rock	0	0%	0.0	2	29%	*	4	17%	*	6	17%	19.7^
Sauk	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	1	4%	*	1	3%	*
Vernon	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
<b>Region total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2.8^</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14.0</b>

# Wisconsin Syphilis Surveillance Report

## Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people by Region and County

### Women 15-44 years of age – 2023

	Primary and Secondary			Early Latent			Late Latent			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Western</b>												
Barron	2	50%	*	1	9%	*	0	0%	0.0	3	14%	*
Buffalo	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Burnett	2	50%	*	2	18%	*	0	0%	0.0	4	18%	*
Chippewa	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Clark	0	0%	0.0	2	18%	*	1	14%	*	3	14%	*
Douglas	0	0%	0.0	1	9%	*	0	0%	0.0	1	5%	*
Dunn	0	0%	0.0	2	18%	*	0	0%	0.0	2	9%	*
Eau Claire	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Jackson	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
La Crosse	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	2	29%	*	2	9%	*
Monroe	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	1	14%	*	1	5%	*
Pepin	0	0%	0.0	1	9%	*	0	0%	0.0	1	5%	*
Pierce	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	1	14%	*	1	5%	*
Polk	0	0%	0.0	2	18%	*	0	0%	0.0	2	9%	*
Rusk	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
St. Croix	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	2	29%	*	2	9%	*
Trempealeau	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
Washburn	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%	0.0
<b>Region total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14.4</b>
All regions												
Institutions												
<b>State total</b>												

\* Cases per 100,000 population

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

\*\*Institutions cases includes cases from Federal instructions with unspecified geographic area.

## 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:

[Wisconsin STI Unit](#)

1 West Wilson Street

PO Box 2659

Madison, WI 53701-2659

Telephone: 608-266-8479