



Sexually Transmitted Infections in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, 2024

People 20–24 years of age



Milwaukee County Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Surveillance Report People 20–24 years of age, 2024

Introduction

This report highlights data on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among people 20–24 years in Milwaukee County from 2024 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 Wisconsin 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 2024 data

In 2024, a total of 4,524 cases of STIs were reported among young adults in Milwaukee County. Of these, **chlamydia** accounted for 72% (3,266), **gonorrhea** for 25% (1,135), and **syphilis** for 3% (123) of cases.

In 2024, there was a 1% decrease in the total number of reported STI cases among young adults in Milwaukee County compared to 2023 (4,549 cases). Looking specifically at each STI, reported cases of **syphilis decreased by 27%** and **chlamydia cases also decreased by 1%** in 2024. In contrast, **gonorrhea cases increased by 4%** over the last year.

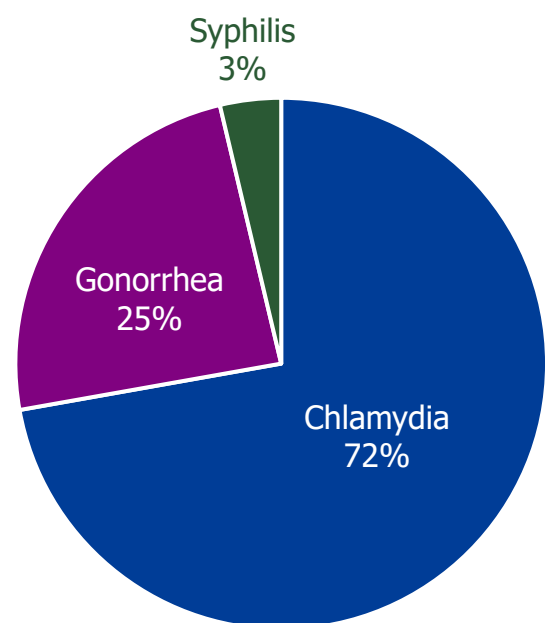


Figure 1.

Syphilis (all stages) cases decreased for the first time in last five years among young adults in Milwaukee County.

Five-year trend of STIs among young adults, Milwaukee County, 2020–2024.

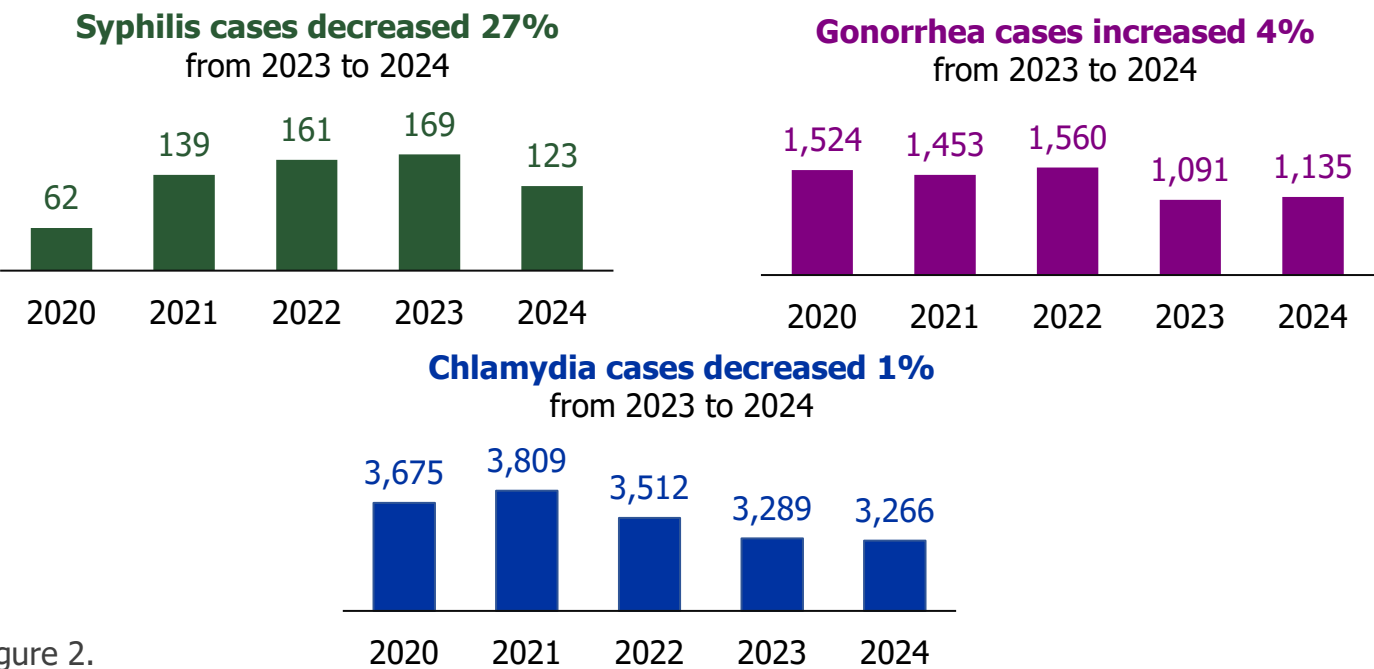
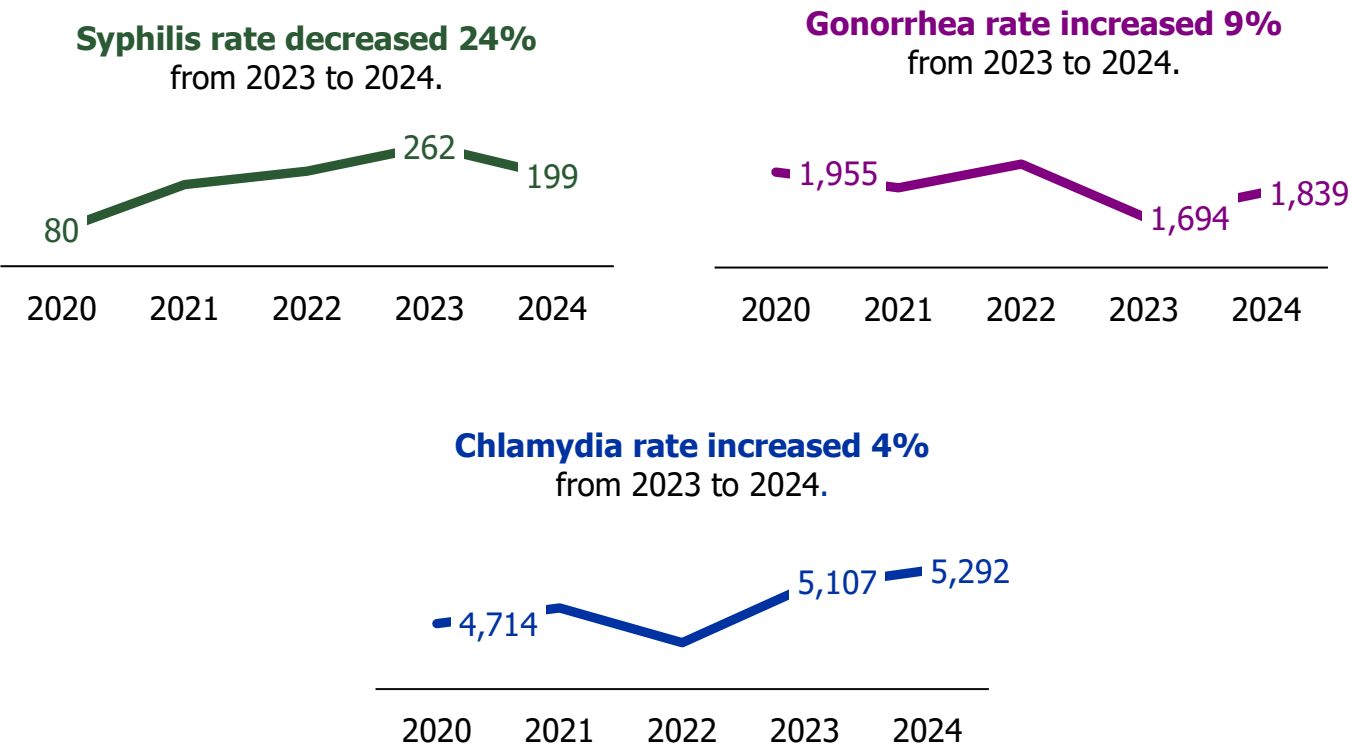


Figure 2.

The syphilis (all stages) rate decreased 28% among young adults in Milwaukee County in 2024.

Five-year trend of STI rates per 100,000 people among young adults, Milwaukee County 2020–2024.



Key takeaways from 2024 data:



Sexually transmitted infections are widespread, impacting people of all racial and ethnic groups, and genders in Milwaukee County. However, the people aged 20–24 are the most affected age group.



In 2024, the rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea increased while the syphilis rate decreased by 24% among people aged 20–24 years in Milwaukee County.



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

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Surveillance Report

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

Persons 20–24 years of age - 2024

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates*	Cases	Percent	Rates*	Cases	Percent	Rates*	Cases	Percent	Rates*
Total	3,266	100%	5,292	1,135	100%	1,839	123	100%	199	4,524	100%	7,331
Sex												
Male	1,076	33%	3,541	580	51%	1,909	54	44%	178	1,710	38%	5,627
Female	2,188	67%	6,985	550	48%	1,756	64	52%	204	2,803	62%	8,948
Transgender-MTF	0	0%	-	1	0%	-	4	3%	-	6	0%	-
Transgender-FTM	0	0%	-	1	0%	-	0	0%	-	1	0%	-
Unknown	2	0%	-	2	0%	-	0	0%	-	4	0%	-
Race/Ethnicity												
White	364	11%	1,492	59	5%	242	5	4%	*	429	9%	1,759
Black	2,067	63%	12,077	910	80%	5,317	91	75%	532	3,068	68%	17,926
Native American	14	0%	3,694	5	0%	*	0	0%	0	19	0%	5,013
Asian	44	1%	1,236	6	1%	168^	1	1%	*	51	1%	1,432
Two or More Races	2	0%	*	3	0%	*	1	1%	*	6	0%	258^
Hispanic	556	17%	3,987	90	8%	645	21	17%	151	667	15%	4,783
Other/Unknown	219	7%	-	62	5%	-	3	2%	-	284	6%	-
Region												
Northeastern	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Northern	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Southeastern	3,266	100%	5,41	1,135	100%	1,839	123	100%	199	4,524	100%	7,331
Southern	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Western	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 (All Stages) Surveillance Report

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

Persons 20–24 years of age - 2024

	Primary			Secondary			Early Latent			Early Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates*	Cases	Percent	Rates*	Cases	Percent	Rates*	Cases	Percent	Rates*
Total	15	100%	24	24	100%	39	33	100%	53	72	100%	117
Sex												
Male	12	80%	39	14	58%	46	7	21%	23	33	46%	109
Female	3	20%	*	8	33%	26^	24	73%	77	35	49%	112
Transgender Female	0	0%	-	2	8%	-	2	6%	-	4	6%	-
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	1	4%	*	1	3%	*	2	3%	*
Black	12	80%	70	20	83%	117	25	76%	146	57	79%	333
Native American	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	3%	*	1	1%	*
Two or More Races	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Hispanic	3	20%	*	2	8%	*	5	15%	*	10	14%	72^
Other/Unknown	0	0%	-	1	4%	-	1	3%	-	2	3%	-
Region												
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	15	100%	24	24	100%	39	33	100%	53	72	100%	117
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; ^Rate is unreliable due to a count <12.

Wisconsin Syphilis (All Stages) Surveillance Report

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

Persons 20–24 years of age - 2024

	Early Total			Late Latent			All Stage Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	72	100%	117	51	100%	83	123	100%	199
Sex									
Male	33	46%	109	21	41%	69	54	44%	178
Female	35	49%	112	30	59%	96	65	53%	208
Transgender Female	4	6%	-	0	0%	-	4	3%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Race/Ethnicity									
White	2	3%	*	4	8%	16	6	5%	25
Black	57	79%	333	34	67%	199	91	74%	532
Native American	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Asian	1	1%	*	0	0%	0	1	1%	28
Two or More Races	0	0%	0	1	2%	43	1	1%	43
Hispanic	10	14%	72^	11	22%	79	21	17%	151
Other/Unknown	2	3%	-	1	2%	-	3	2%	-
Region of Residence									
Northeastern	0	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern	0	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southeastern	72	100%	117	51	100%	83	123	100%	199
Southern	0	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western	0	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Rates based on case counts five and 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 (2023). 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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