

Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wisconsin, 2021

Reported Cases



Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report, 2021

Despite the interruption of delivery of STI testing services due to the Covid – 19 pandemic, overall STI cases reported in Wisconsin increased 6.6% in 2021. The most significant change observed in 2021 was a 99% increase in Syphilis cases reported. In 2021, chlamydia cases increased by 6.3% and gonorrhea cases increased by 2.5%.

Table 1.

STIs in Wisconsin continue to rise.

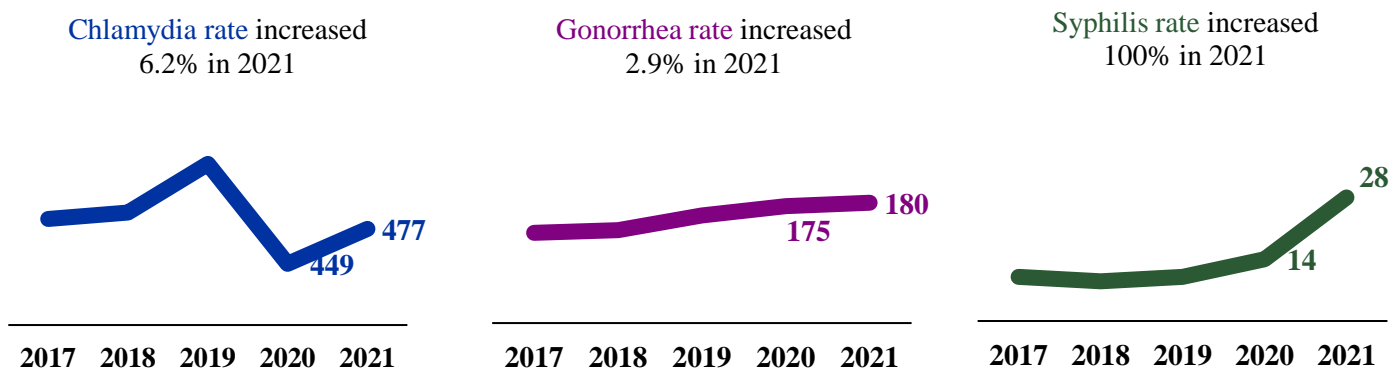
Number of Reported STI Cases and Rates (per 100,000 people) Wisconsin, 2017-2021

Disease	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021*	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Chlamydia	27,287	485	27,580	490	29,772	529	26,219	449	27,858	477
Gonorrhea	7,610	135	7,827	139	9,054	161	10,239	175	10,491	180
Syphilis	547	10	511	9	585	10	810	14	1,608	28

*The CY 2021 cases and rates include cases reported from Federal and State Correctional Facilities (FSCF), whereas FSCF cases were not counted for CY 2020.

Figure 1.

Syphilis rate (per 100,000 people) doubled in 2021



Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report, 2021

Reported Cases and Rates (per100,000 people) by Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Age, and Region

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	27,858	100%	477	10,491	100%	180	1,608	100%	28	39,957	100%	685
Gender												
Male	9,187	33.0%	316	5,453	52.0%	188	1,034	64.3%	36	15,674	39.2%	540
Female	18,618	66.8%	635	4,995	47.6%	170	545	33.9%	19	24,158	60.5%	824
Transgender Female	7	0.0%	-	4	0.0%	-	1	0.1%	-	12	0.0%	-
Transgender Male	15	0.1%	-	17	0.2%	-	28	1.7%	-	60	0.2%	-
Unknown	31	0.1%	-	22	0.2%	-	0	0.0%	-	53	0.1%	-
Race/Ethnicity												
White	10,482	37.6%	221	2,641	25.2%	56	417	25.9%	9	13,540	33.9%	285
Black	9,927	35.6%	2,413	5,862	55.9%	1,425	849	52.8%	206	16,638	41.6%	4,044
Native American	370	1.3%	642	105	1.0%	182	37	2.3%	64	512	1.3%	888
Asian	447	1.6%	234	111	1.1%	58	25	1.6%	13	583	1.5%	305
Hispanic	3,495	12.5%	816	887	8.5%	207	252	15.7%	59	4,634	11.6%	1,082
Other/Unknown	3,137	11.3%	-	885	8.4%	-	28	1.7%	-	4,050	10.1%	-
Age												
0-4	13	0.0%	4	6	0.1%	2^	16	1.0%	5	35	0.1%	11
5-9	1	0.0%	*	2	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	3	0.0%	*
10-14	240	0.9%	65	107	1.0%	29	0	0.0%	0	347	0.9%	94
15-19	7,073	25.4%	1,866	2,140	20.4%	565	61	3.8%	16	9,274	23.2%	2,447
20-24	10,354	37.2%	2,642	2,731	26.0%	697	239	14.9%	61	13,324	33.3%	3,400
25-29	5,172	18.6%	1,357	2,072	19.8%	543	306	19.0%	80	7,550	18.9%	1,980
30-34	2,552	9.2%	703	1,371	13.1%	378	301	18.7%	83	4,224	10.6%	1,164
35-39	1,212	4.4%	324	844	8.0%	225	189	11.8%	50	2,245	5.6%	599
40-44	600	2.2%	176	461	4.4%	135	144	9.0%	42	1,205	3.0%	354
45-49	287	1.0%	84	293	2.8%	85	107	6.7%	31	687	1.7%	200
50+	354	1.3%	16	464	4.4%	21	244	15.2%	11	1,062	2.7%	48
Unknown	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	1	0.1%	-	1	0.0%	-
Region of residence												
Northeastern	4,410	15.8%	350	1,105	10.5%	88	150	9.3%	12	5,665	14.2%	450
Northern	1,178	4.2%	240	222	2.1%	45	42	2.6%	9	1,442	3.6%	294
Southeastern	14,670	52.7%	716	6,744	64.3%	329	1,151	71.6%	56	22,565	56.5%	1,101
Southern	5,040	18.1%	407	1,791	17.1%	145	191	11.9%	15	7,022	17.6%	567
Western	2,387	8.6%	299	615	5.9%	77	55	3.4%	7	3,057	7.7%	383
Institutions**	173	0.6%	-	14	0.1%	-	19	1.2%	-	206	0.5%	-

*Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown; ^Rate is unreliable due to a count <12. **Institutions' cases include cases from Federal and State institutions including corrections.

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report, 2021

Reported Cases and Rates (per100,000 people) by Region and County

Region/County	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Northeastern												
Brown	1,293	4.6%	493	364	3.5%	139	40	2.5%	15	1,697	4.2%	647
Calumet	120	0.4%	231	21	0.2%	40	4	0.2%	*	145	0.4%	279
Door	59	0.2%	208	13	0.1%	46	1	0.1%	*	73	0.2%	257
Fond du lac	361	1.3%	347	100	1.0%	96	12	0.7%	12	473	1.2%	455
Green Lake	35	0.1%	183	5	0.0%	*	2	0.1%	*	42	0.1%	219
Kewaunee	43	0.2%	208	8	0.1%	39 [^]	2	0.1%	*	53	0.1%	256
Manitowoc	236	0.8%	292	41	0.4%	51	7	0.4%	9 [^]	284	0.7%	352
Marinette	133	0.5%	324	13	0.1%	32	1	0.1%	*	147	0.4%	358
Marquette	18	0.1%	116	3	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	21	0.1%	136
Menominee	41	0.1%	941	5	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	46	0.1%	1,056
Oconto	84	0.3%	218	9	0.1%	23 [^]	1	0.1%	*	94	0.2%	243
Outagamie	614	2.2%	328	159	1.5%	85	28	1.7%	15	801	2.0%	427
Shawano	107	0.4%	258	14	0.1%	34	0	0.0%	0	121	0.3%	292
Sheboygan	348	1.2%	300	107	1.0%	92	32	2.0%	28	487	1.2%	420
Waupaca	127	0.5%	245	17	0.2%	33	3	0.2%	*	147	0.4%	283
Waushara	40	0.1%	163	6	0.1%	25 [^]	1	0.1%	*	47	0.1%	192
Winnebago	751	2.7%	439	220	2.1%	129	16	1.0%	9	987	2.5%	577
Region total	4,410	15.8%	350	1,105	10.5%	88	150	9.3%	12	5,665	14.2%	450

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

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report, 2021

Reported Cases and Rates (per100,000 people) by Region and County

Northern	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Ashland	47	0.2%	297	5	0.0%	*	3	0.2%	*	55	0.1%	348
Bayfield	21	0.1%	137	4	0.0%	*	1	0.1%	*	26	0.1%	170
Florence	2	0.0%	*	1	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	3	0.0%	*
Forest	14	0.1%	153	4	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	18	0.0%	197
Iron	16	0.1%	275	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	16	0.0%	275
Langlade	46	0.2%	233	3	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	49	0.1%	248
Lincoln	65	0.2%	228	4	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	69	0.2%	242
Marathon	346	1.2%	255	93	0.9%	68	3	0.2%	*	442	1.1%	325
Oneida	56	0.2%	155	9	0.1%	25 [^]	4	0.2%	*	69	0.2%	191
Portage	290	1.0%	406	37	0.4%	52	3	0.2%	*	330	0.8%	462
Price	20	0.1%	144	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	20	0.1%	144
Sawyer	36	0.1%	214	21	0.2%	125	22	1.4%	131	79	0.2%	470
Taylor	20	0.1%	97	1	0.0%	*	2	0.1%	*	23	0.1%	111
Vilas	16	0.1%	73	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	16	0.0%	73
Wood	183	0.7%	246	40	0.4%	54	4	0.2%	*	227	0.6%	305
Region total	1,178	4.2%	240	222	2.1%	45	42	2.6%	9	1,442	3.6%	294

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

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report, 2021

Reported Cases and Rates (per100,000 people) by Region and County

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Southeastern												
Kenosha	808	2.9%	476	267	2.5%	157	21	1.4%	12	1,096	2.7%	646
Milwaukee	11,136	40.0%	1,176	5,635	53.7%	595	1043	64.8%	110	17,814	44.6%	1,882
Ozaukee	137	0.5%	153	25	0.2%	28	4	0.2%	**	166	0.4%	185
Racine	1,247	4.5%	634	547	5.2%	278	42	2.6%	21	1,836	4.6%	934
Walworth	325	1.2%	312	53	0.5%	51	9	0.6%	9^	387	1.0%	372
Washington	249	0.9%	182	49	0.5%	36	10	0.6%	7^	308	0.8%	225
Waukesha	768	2.8%	189	168	1.6%	41	22	1.4%	5	958	2.4%	236
Region total	14,670	52.7%	716	6,744	64.3%	329	1,151	71.6%	56	22,565	56.5%	1,101
Southern												
Adams	30	0.1%	146	6	0.1%	29^	1	0.1%	*	37	0.1%	180
Columbia	145	0.5%	252	34	0.3%	59	9	0.6%	16^	188	0.5%	327
Crawford	30	0.1%	182	1	0.0%	*	1	0.1%	*	32	0.1%	195
Dane	2812	10.1%	521	1103	10.5%	204	133	8.3%	25	4,048	10.1%	749
Dodge	213	0.8%	239	36	0.3%	40	9	0.6%	10^	258	0.6%	289
Grant	137	0.5%	261	26	0.2%	50	7	0.4%	13^	170	0.4%	324
Green	75	0.3%	203	8	0.1%	22^	2	0.1%	*	85	0.2%	230
Iowa	41	0.1%	172	10	0.1%	42^	0	0.0%	0	51	0.1%	214
Jefferson	221	0.8%	261	46	0.4%	54	3	0.2%	*	270	0.7%	319
Juneau	99	0.4%	365	7	0.1%	26^	2	0.1%	*	108	0.3%	398
Lafayette	34	0.1%	201	3	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	37	0.1%	219
Richland	47	0.2%	265	9	0.1%	51^	2	0.1%	*	58	0.1%	327
Rock	856	3.1%	530	449	4.3%	278	10	0.6%	6^	1,315	3.3%	815
Sauk	257	0.9%	404	49	0.5%	77	9	0.6%	14^	315	0.8%	495
Vernon	43	0.2%	141	4	0.0%	*	3	0.2%	*	50	0.1%	164
Region total	5,040	18.1%	407	1,791	17.1%	145	191	11.9%	15	7,022	17.6%	567

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

Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Report, 2021

Reported Cases and Rates (per100,000 people) by Region and County

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Western												
Barron	118	0.4%	257	29	0.3%	63	3	0.2%	*	150	0.4%	326
Buffalo	26	0.1%	193	7	0.1%	52^	0	0.0%	0	33	0.1%	244
Burnett	35	0.1%	225	8	0.1%	51^	2	0.1%	*	45	0.1%	289
Chippewa	145	0.5%	224	54	0.5%	84	5	0.3%	*	204	0.5%	315
Clark	61	0.2%	176	10	0.1%	29^	0	0.0%	0	71	0.2%	204
Douglas	153	0.5%	345	54	0.5%	122	5	0.3%	*	212	0.5%	479
Dunn	144	0.5%	321	36	0.3%	80	3	0.2%	*	183	0.5%	408
Eau Claire	413	1.5%	399	127	1.2%	123	9	0.6%	9^	549	1.4%	530
Jackson	42	0.2%	202	11	0.1%	53	1	0.1%	*	54	0.1%	260
La Crosse	659	2.4%	555	158	1.5%	133	13	0.8%	11	830	2.1%	699
Monroe	152	0.5%	324	22	0.2%	47	5	0.3%	*	179	0.4%	382
Pepin	5	0.0%	*	3	0.0%	*	0	0.0%	0	8	0.0%	108^
Pierce	92	0.3%	218	18	0.2%	43	2	0.1%	*	112	0.3%	265
Polk	85	0.3%	192	20	0.2%	45	0	0.0%	0	105	0.3%	237
Rusk	36	0.1%	246	6	0.1%	41^	1	0.1%	*	43	0.1%	294
Saint Croix	129	0.5%	143	30	0.3%	33	2	0.1%	*	161	0.4%	179
Trempealeau	70	0.3%	235	13	0.1%	44	2	0.1%	*	85	0.2%	285
Washburn	22	0.1%	138	9	0.1%	56^	2	0.1%	*	33	0.1%	207
Region total	2,387	8.6%	299	615	5.9%	77	55	3.4%	7	3,057	7.7%	383
All Regions Total	27,685	100%	474	10,477	100%	180	1,589	0.2%	27	39,751	0.4%	681
Institutions**	173	0.6%	-	14	0.1%	-	19	1.2%	-	206	0.5%	-
All Totals	27,858	100%	477	10,491	100%	180	1,608	100%	28	39,957	100%	685

*Rates based on five case counts or less are not shown; ^Rate is unreliable due to a count <1

Wisconsin Syphilis Surveillance Report - Reported Cases and Rates (per 100,000 people) by Stage of Infection, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Age – 2021

	Primary			Secondary			Early non-primary non-secondary			Early Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	363	100.0%	3	358	100.0%	3	372	100.0%	4	1,093	100.0%	10
Gender												
Male	289	79.6%	10	221	61.7%	8	229	61.6%	8	739	67.6%	25
Female	72	19.8%	2	128	35.8%	4	131	35.2%	4	331	30.3%	11
Transgender Female	2	0.6%	-	8	2.2%	-	12	3.2%	-	22	2.0%	-
Transgender Male	0	0.0%	-	1	0.3%	-	0	0.0%	-	1	0.1%	-
Unknown	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-		0.0%	-
Race/Ethnicity												
White	84	23.1%	2	80	22.3%	2	88	23.7%	2	252	23.1%	2
Black	207	57.0%	50	221	61.7%	54	206	55.4%	50	634	58.0%	154
Native American	9	2.5%	16 [^]	6	1.7%	10 [^]	6	1.6%	10 [^]	21	1.9%	36
Asian	6	1.7%	3 [^]	2	0.6%	*	5	1.3%	*	13	1.2%	7
Hispanic	54	14.9%	13	33	9.2%	8	64	17.2%	15	151	13.8%	35
Other/Unknown	3	0.8%	-	16	4.5%	-	3	0.8%	-	22	2.0%	-
Age												
0-4	0	0.0%	0	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	0	0.0%	0
10-14	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
15-19	16	4.4%	4	11	3.1%	3 [^]	18	4.8%	5	45	4.1%	12
20-24	60	16.5%	15	47	13.1%	12	63	16.9%	16	170	15.6%	43
25-29	76	20.9%	20	67	18.7%	18	71	19.1%	19	214	19.6%	56
30-34	58	16.0%	16	61	17.0%	17	73	19.6%	20	192	17.6%	53
35-39	44	12.1%	12	40	11.2%	11	40	10.8%	11	124	11.3%	33
40-44	31	8.5%	9	43	12.0%	13	35	9.4%	10	109	10.0%	32
45-49	26	7.2%	8	20	5.6%	6	26	7.0%	8	72	6.6%	21
50+	52	14.3%	2	69	19.3%	3	45	12.1%	2	166	15.2%	7
Unknown	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	1	0.3%	-	1	0.1%	-

*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 – 2021

	Early Total			Late Latent			Congenital			All stages		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	1,093	100.0%	19	499	100.0%	9	16	100.0%	0	1608	100.0%	28
Gender												
Male	739	67.6%	25	287	57.5%	10	8	50.0%	0	1034	64.3%	36
Female	331	30.3%	11	206	41.3%	7	8	50.0%	0	545	33.9%	19
Transgender Female	22	2.0%	-	6	1.3%	-	0	0.0%	-	28	1.7%	-
Transgender Male	1	0.1%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	1	0.1%	-
Unknown	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Race/Ethnicity												
White	252	23.1%	5	161	32.3%	3	4	25.0%	*	417	25.9%	9
Black	634	58.0%	154	209	41.9%	51	6	37.5%	1^	849	52.8%	206
Native American	21	1.9%	36	15	3.0%	26	1	6.3%	*	37	2.3%	64
Asian	13	1.2%	7	12	2.4%	6	0	0.0%	0	25	1.6%	13
Hispanic	151	13.8%	35	96	19.2%	22	5	31.3%	0	252	15.7%	59
Other/Unknown	22	2.0%	-	6	1.2%	-	0	0.0%	-	28	1.7%	-
Age												
0-4	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	16	100.0%	5	16	1.0%	5
5-9	0	0.0%	0	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	0	0.0%	0
15-19	45	4.1%	12	16	3.2%	4	0	0.0%	0	61	3.8%	16
20-24	170	15.6%	43	69	13.8%	18	0	0.0%	0	239	14.9%	61
25-29	214	19.6%	56	92	18.4%	24	0	0.0%	0	306	19.0%	80
30-34	192	17.6%	53	109	21.8%	30	0	0.0%	0	301	18.7%	83
35-39	124	11.3%	33	65	13.0%	17	0	0.0%	0	189	11.8%	50
40-44	109	10.0%	32	35	7.0%	10	0	0.0%	0	144	9.0%	42
45-49	72	6.6%	21	35	7.0%	10	0	0.0%	0	107	6.7%	31
50+	166	15.2%	7	78	15.6%	4	0	0.0%	0	244	15.2%	11
Unknown	1	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	0	1	0.1%	-

*Rates based on five case counts or 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. 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 are not included in this report.
7. All races are non-Hispanic ethnicity. Under the category race, Asian includes Asian Pacific Islander and American Indian Alaska Native is named as Native American.
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