



# Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wisconsin, 2024 Southern Region

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

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# Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Surveillance Report Southern Region—2024

## 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 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

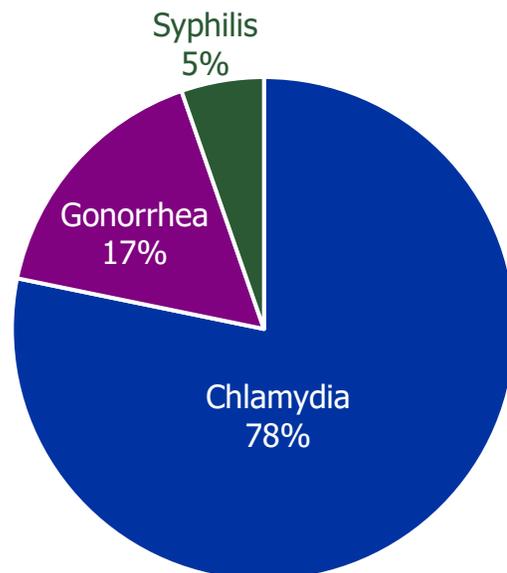
Systemic conditions like these can lead to higher prevalence of STIs in the community. In communities with higher STI rates, it is easier for a person to get an STI because it is more likely that their sexual partner(s) have already been exposed.

## Overview

In 2024, 4,974 cases of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were reported in the Southern Region. Of these, **chlamydia** accounted for 78% (3,891), **gonorrhea** for 17% (819) and **syphilis** for 5% (264) of cases. The number of STI cases reported in 2024 was 12.6% lower than the number of cases reported in 2023 (5,689 cases).

**Syphilis continues to increase** in the Southern Region. There was a 5% increase in cases from 2023 to 2024 (252 cases in 2023 to 264 cases in 2024) and a 47.6% increase from 2020 (from 144 cases in 2020 to 264 cases in 2024). In contrast, both **chlamydia** and **gonorrhea** have been decreasing since 2020. **Chlamydia cases decreased 18%** (from 4,667 in 2020 to 3,891 in 2024), and **gonorrhea cases decreased by 106%** (from 1,925 cases in 2020 to 819 cases in 2024).

Figure 1.



## Syphilis cases continue to rise in the Southern Region.

Five-year trend of reported STI cases, Southern Region, 2020–2024.

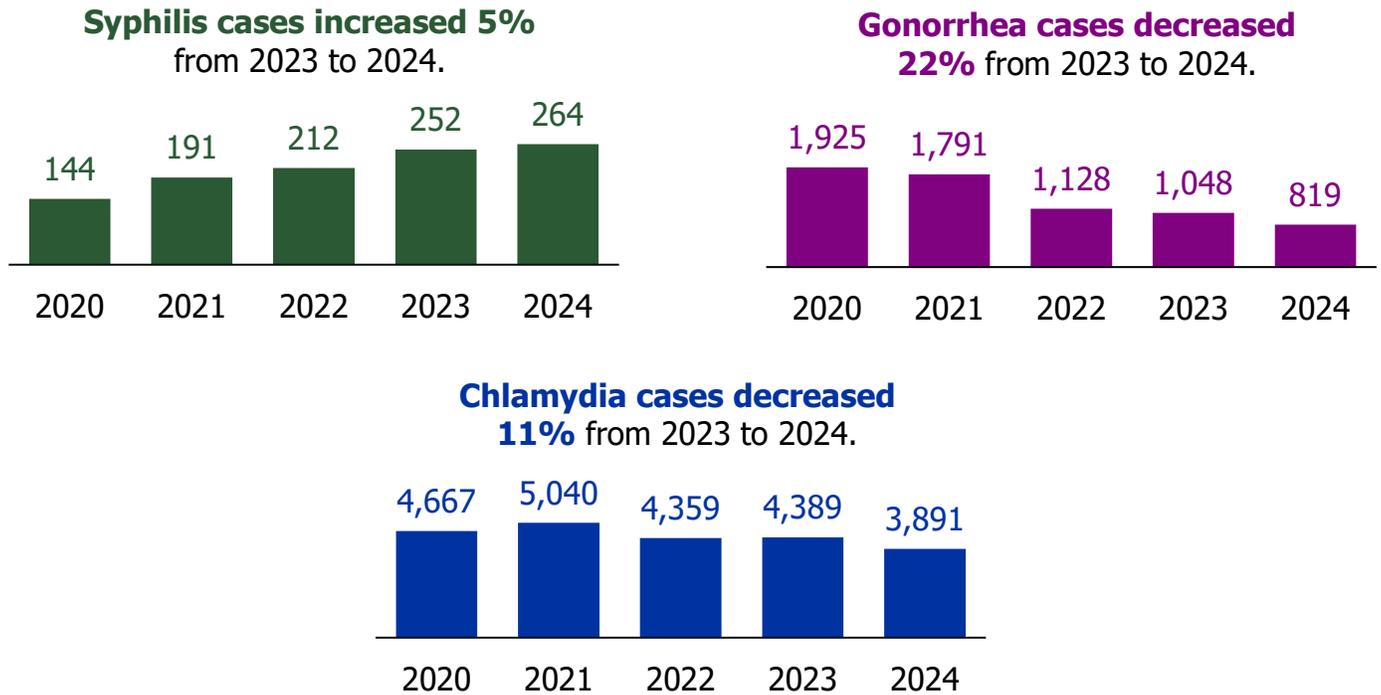
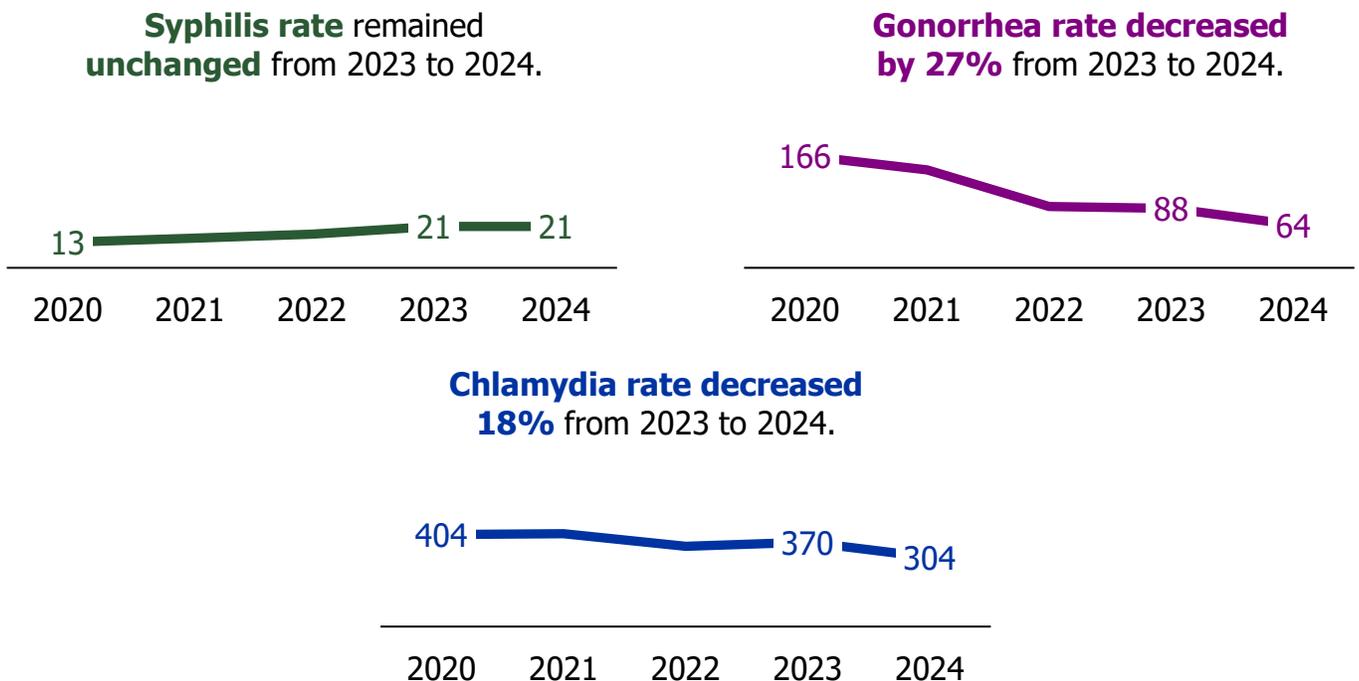


Figure 2.

## In the Southern Region in 2024, the syphilis rate remained unchanged from 2023. However, the rate has increased 62% from 2020.

Five-year rate trend of reported STI cases, Southern Region, 2020–2024



## Key takeaways from 2024 data:



Sexually transmitted infections are widespread, impacting people of all racial and ethnic groups, genders, and ages in the Southern Region. The most impacted populations include people between the ages of 15–34 years.



The rates of syphilis remained unchanged from 2023 to 2024, but syphilis is the only STI that has increased since 2020. The rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea have been declining since 2020 in the Southern Region.



In the southern region, the syphilis rate among males was 3.6 times higher than among females. Similarly, the gonorrhea rate among males was 2.1 times higher than among females. Racial and ethnic disparities were also observed: the syphilis rate among Black individuals was 19.8 times higher than among white individuals, 13.2 times higher than among Asian individuals, 4.2 times higher than among Native American individuals, and 2.5 times higher than among Hispanic individuals.

# Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infection (STIs) Surveillance Report

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

### Southern Region - 2024

	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Total</b>	3,861	100%	302	816	100%	64	215	100%	17	4,892	100%	382
<b>Gender</b>												
Male	1,393	36%	216	545	67%	84	155	72%	24	2,093	43%	324
Female	2,445	63%	386	253	31%	40	57	27%	9	2,755	56%	435
Transgender Female	6	0%	-	5	1%	-	2	1%	-	13	0%	-
Transgender Male	9	0%	-	3	0%	-	1	0%	-	13	0%	-
Unknown	8	0%	-	10	1%	-	0	0%	-	18	0%	-
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	1,785	46%	168	359	44%	34	80	37%	8	2,224	45%	209
Black	1,027	27%	2,117	293	36%	604	61	28%	126	1,381	28%	2,847
Native American	18	0%	377	2	0%	*	2	1%	*	22	0%	461
Asian	106	3%	235	19	2%	42	5	2%	*	130	3%	288
Two or More Races	27	1%	103	3	0%	*	6	3%	23^	36	1%	138
Hispanic	597	15%	661	84	10%	93	54	25%	60	735	15%	814
Other/Unknown	301	8%	-	56	7%	-	7	3%	-	364	7%	-
<b>Age</b>												
0-4	2	0%	*	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	2	0%	*
5-9	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
10-14	29	1%	39	4	0%	*	0	0%	0	33	1%	44
15-19	971	25%	1,121	94	12%	109	4	2%	*	1,069	22%	1,234
20-24	1,369	35%	1,355	183	22%	181	26	12%	26	1,578	32%	1,562
25-29	684	18%	801	153	19%	179	39	18%	46	876	18%	1,026
30-34	387	10%	464	117	14%	140	41	19%	49	545	11%	653
35-39	185	5%	224	95	12%	115	37	17%	45	317	6%	384
40-44	116	3%	138	75	9%	89	19	9%	23	210	4%	250
45-49	53	1%	72	42	5%	57	17	8%	23	112	2%	153
50+	65	2%	14	53	6%	11	32	15%	7	150	3%	32

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

# Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Surveillance Report

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

### Southern Region - 2024

Southern	Chlamydia			Gonorrhea			Syphilis			Total		
	Case	Percent	Rates	Case	Percent	Rates	Case	Percent	Rates	Case	Percent	Rates
Adams	24	0.6%	112	4	0.5%	19	1	0.5%	5	29	0.6%	135
Columbia	108	2.8%	186	11	1.3%	19	2	0.9%	3	121	2.5%	208
Crawford	21	0.5%	132	2	0.2%	13	2	0.9%	13	25	0.5%	157
Dane	2,274	58.9%	395	541	66.3%	94	143	66.5%	25	2,958	60.5%	514
Dodge	149	3.9%	169	21	2.6%	24	21	9.8%	24	191	3.9%	216
Grant	89	2.3%	173	15	1.8%	29	3	1.4%	6	107	2.2%	208
Green	70	1.8%	189	7	0.9%	19	0	0.0%	0	77	1.6%	208
Iowa	35	0.9%	146	0	0.0%	0	1	0.5%	4	36	0.7%	150
Jefferson	147	3.8%	171	16	2.0%	19	4	1.9%	5	167	3.4%	195
Juneau	47	1.2%	177	6	0.7%	23	0	0.0%	0	53	1.1%	199
Lafayette	26	0.7%	153	1	0.1%	6	0	0.0%	0	27	0.6%	159
Richland	20	0.5%	116	1	0.1%	6	0	0.0%	0	21	0.4%	122
Rock	602	15.6%	366	168	20.6%	102	27	12.6%	16	797	16.3%	485
Sauk	211	5.5%	320	18	2.2%	27	11	5.1%	17	240	4.9%	364
Vernon	38	1.0%	122	5	0.6%	16	0	0.0%	0	43	0.9%	138
<b>Region total</b>	<b>3,861</b>	100.0%	302	<b>816</b>	100.0%	64	<b>215</b>	100.0%	17	4,892	100.0%	382

# Wisconsin Syphilis Surveillance Report - Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 people by Stage of Infection, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Age Southern Region – 2024

	Primary			Secondary			Early Latent			Early Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	100%	1	<b>21</b>	100%	2	<b>36</b>	100%	3	<b>70</b>	100%	5
<b>Sex/Gender</b>		0%										
Male	13	100%	2	13	62%	2	30	83%	5	56	80%	9
Female	0	0%	0	8	38%	1	6	17%	1^	14	20%	2
Transgender Female	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	8	62%	1^	14	67%	1	16	44%	2	38	54%	4
Black	2	15%	*	5	24%	10^	8	22%	16^	15	21%	31
Native American	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Asian	1	8%	*	0	0%	0	2	6%	*	3	4%	*
Two or More Races	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	2	6%	*	2	3%	*
Hispanic	2	15%	*	1	5%	*	6	17%	7^	9	13%	10^
Other/Unknown	0	0%	-	1	5%	-	2	6%	-	3	4%	-
<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	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
20-24	2	15%	*	5	24%	5^	2	6%	*	9	13%	9^
25-29	3	23%	*	2	10%	*	8	22%	9^	13	19%	15
30-34	0	0%	0	4	19%	*	4	11%	*	8	11%	10^
35-39	3	23%	*	4	19%	*	7	19%	8^	14	20%	17
40-44	3	23%	*	2	10%	*	4	11%	*	9	13%	11^
45-49	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	5	14%	7^	5	7%	7^
50+	2	15%	*	4	19%	*	6	17%	1^	12	17%	3

\*\*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 Southern Region - 2024

	Early Total			Late Latent			Congenital			All Stages Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	100%	5	<b>145</b>	100%	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	0%	0	<b>215</b>	100%	17
<b>Sex/Gender</b>												
Male	56	80%	9	99	68%	15	0	0%	0	155	72%	24
Female	14	20%	2	43	30%	7	0	0%	0	57	27%	9
Transgender Female	0	0%	-	2	1%	-	0	0%	-	2	1%	-
Transgender Male	0	0%	-	1	1%	-	0	0%	-	1	0%	-
Unknown	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-	0	0%	-
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>												
White	38	54%	4	42	29%	4	0	0%	0	80	37%	8
Black	15	21%	31	46	32%	95	0	0%	0	61	28%	126
Native American	0	0%	0	2	1%	*	0	0%	0	2	1%	*
Asian	3	4%	*	2	1%	*	0	0%	0	5	2%	11^
Two or More Races	2	3%	*	4	3%	*	0	0%	0	6	3%	23^
Hispanic	9	13%	10^	45	31%	50	0	0%	0	54	25%	60
Other/Unknown	3	4%	-	4	3%	-	0	0%	-	7	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	0	0%	0	5	3%	6^	0	0%	0	5	2%	6^
20-24	9	13%	9^	19	13%	19	0	0%	0	28	13%	28
25-29	13	19%	15	30	21%	35	0	0%	0	43	20%	50
30-34	8	11%	10^	39	27%	47	0	0%	0	47	22%	56
35-39	14	20%	17	37	26%	45	0	0%	0	51	24%	62
40-44	9	13%	11^	17	12%	20	0	0%	0	26	12%	31
45-49	5	7%	7^	19	13%	26	0	0%	0	24	11%	33
50+	12	17%	3	28	19%	6	0	0%	0	40	19%	8

\*\*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. 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.

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For more information contact:

[Wisconsin STI Unit](#)

201 E. Washington Ave.

PO Box 2659

Madison, WI 53703

Telephone: 608-266-7365