



Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wisconsin, 2024

Syphilis in Females 15–44 Years

Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | STI Unit
P-03659 (12/2025)



Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Surveillance Report

Syphilis in Females 15–44 years, 2024

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 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, a total of **420 cases of syphilis were reported** among women aged 15–44 years, an 8% decrease from 2023 (459 cases). Of these cases, a majority (65%) were late latent stage. Looking specially at each stage of syphilis, the reported number of primary and secondary syphilis cases decreased by 18% in 2024 from 2023 (112 cases in 2023 to 77 cases in 2024). Similarly, non-primary and non-secondary cases decreased by 16% in 2024 from 2023 (106 cases in 2023 to 68 cases in 2024). There was a 14% increase in late latent stage of syphilis among reproductive age women in Wisconsin from 2023 to 2024.

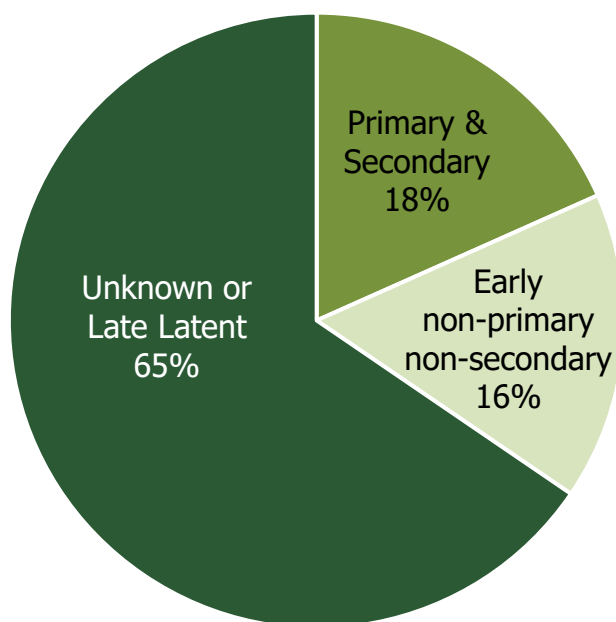


Figure 1.

Milwaukee County had the highest rate of syphilis among all other counties in Wisconsin in 2024.

Women of reproductive age with syphilis by county, Wisconsin, 2024.

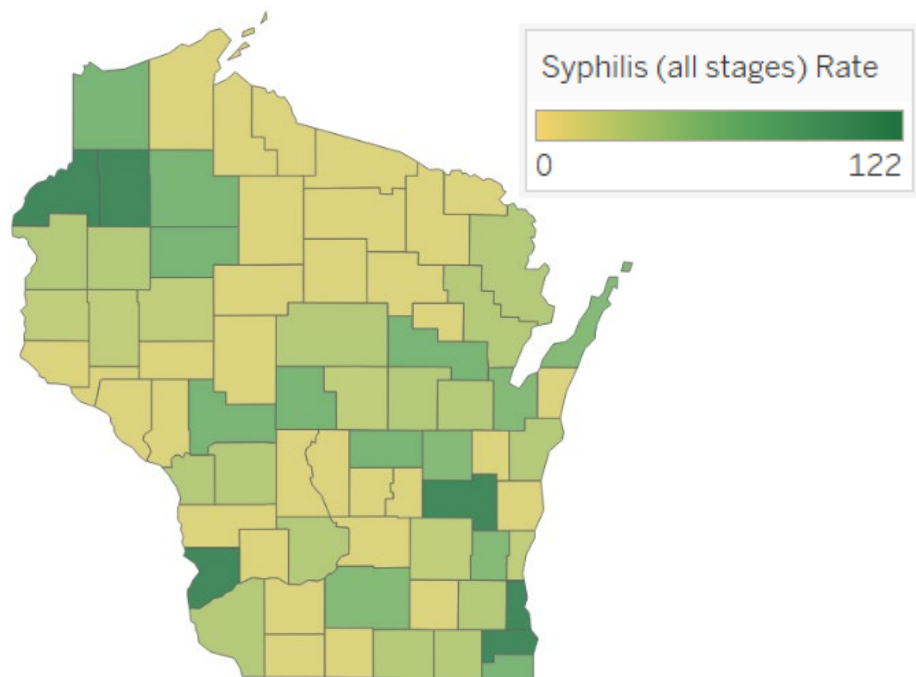


Figure 2.

Unknown duration or late stage of syphilis accounted for 65% of infections.

Reported cases of syphilis among women of reproductive age by stage of infection, 2024.

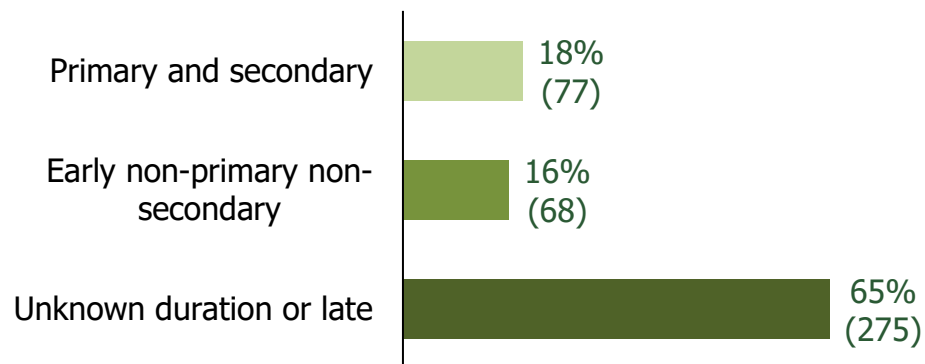


Figure 3.

In 2024, Black women accounted for 61% of reported primary and secondary syphilis cases among women of reproductive age in Wisconsin. Black women also had a higher rate of primary and secondary syphilis compared to other racial and ethnic groups in Wisconsin.

Reported cases and rates of primary and secondary syphilis among reproductive age women by race and ethnicity, 2024.

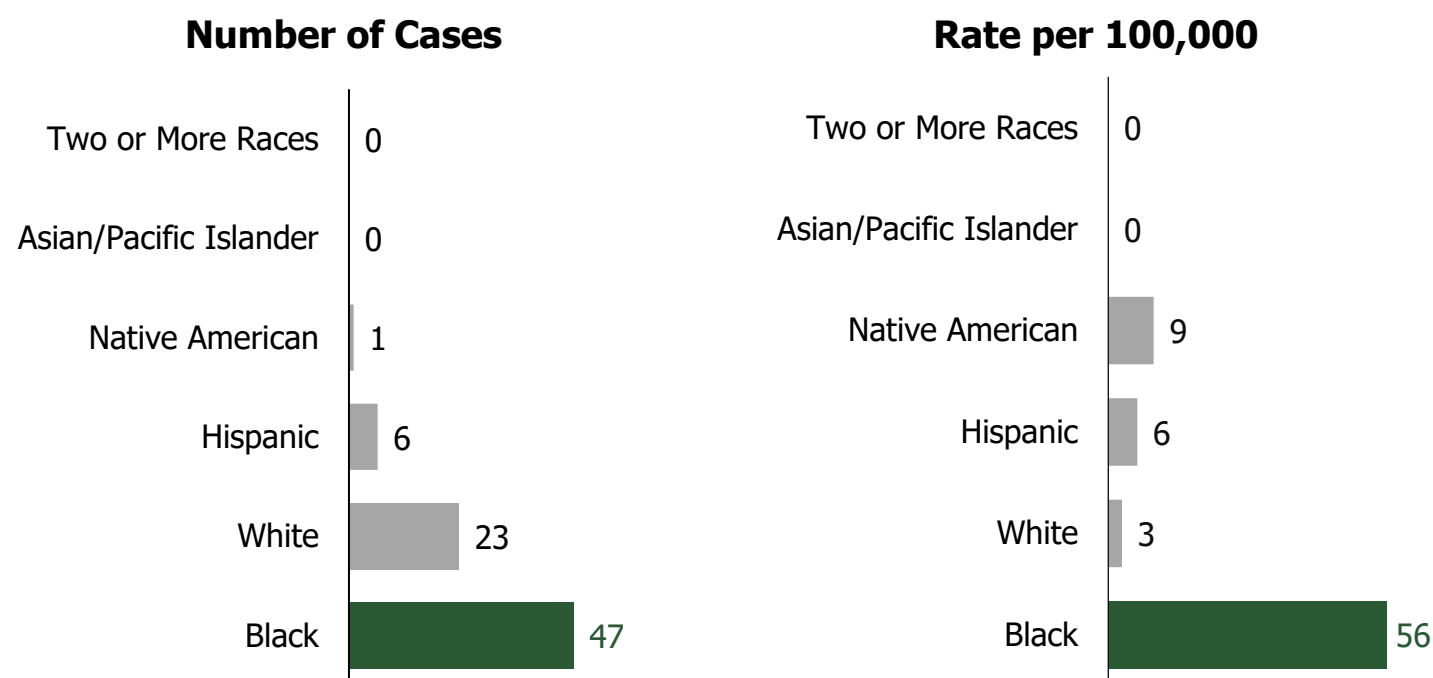


Figure 4.

In 2024, white women accounted for 30% of reported primary and secondary syphilis cases in Wisconsin but had the lowest rates of cases per 100,000 compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

Reported cases and rates of primary and secondary syphilis among reproductive age women by race and ethnicity, 2024.

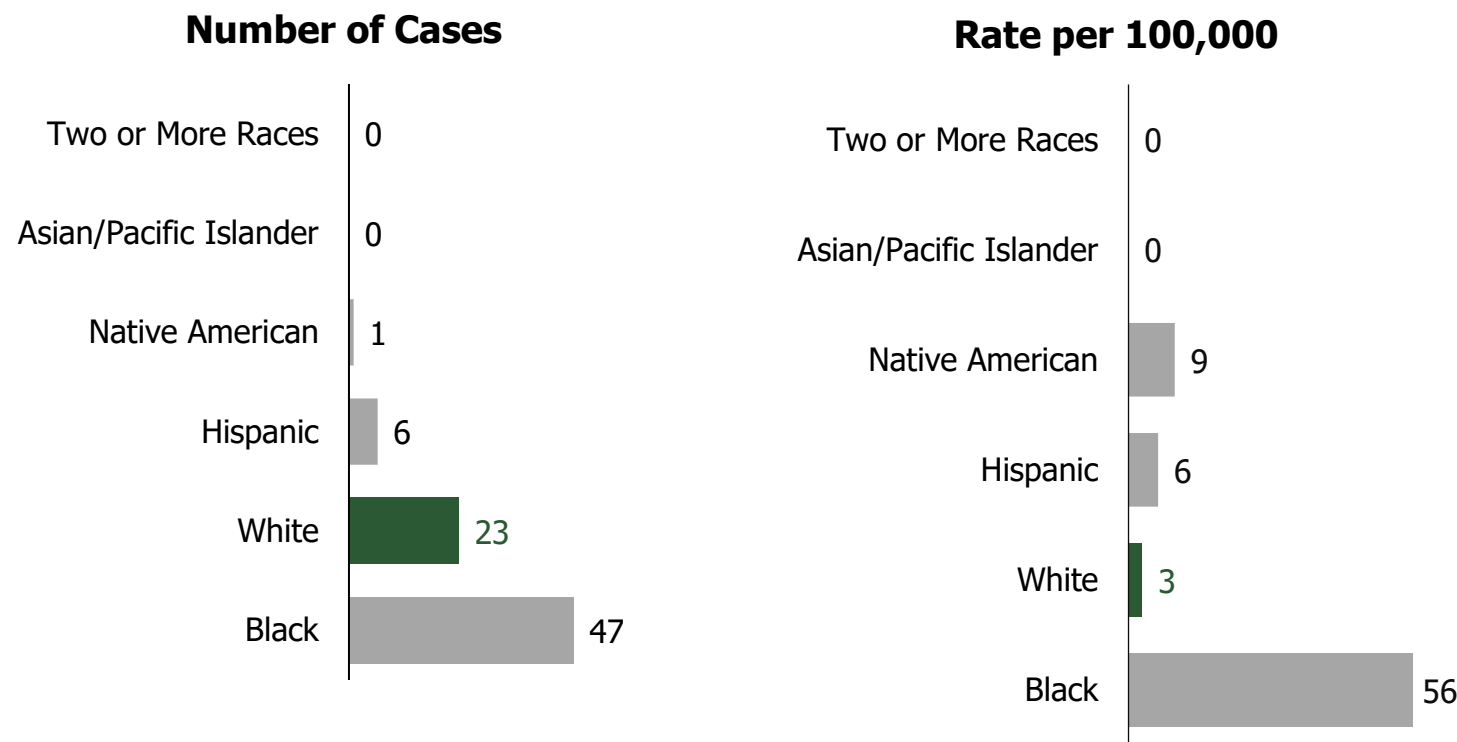
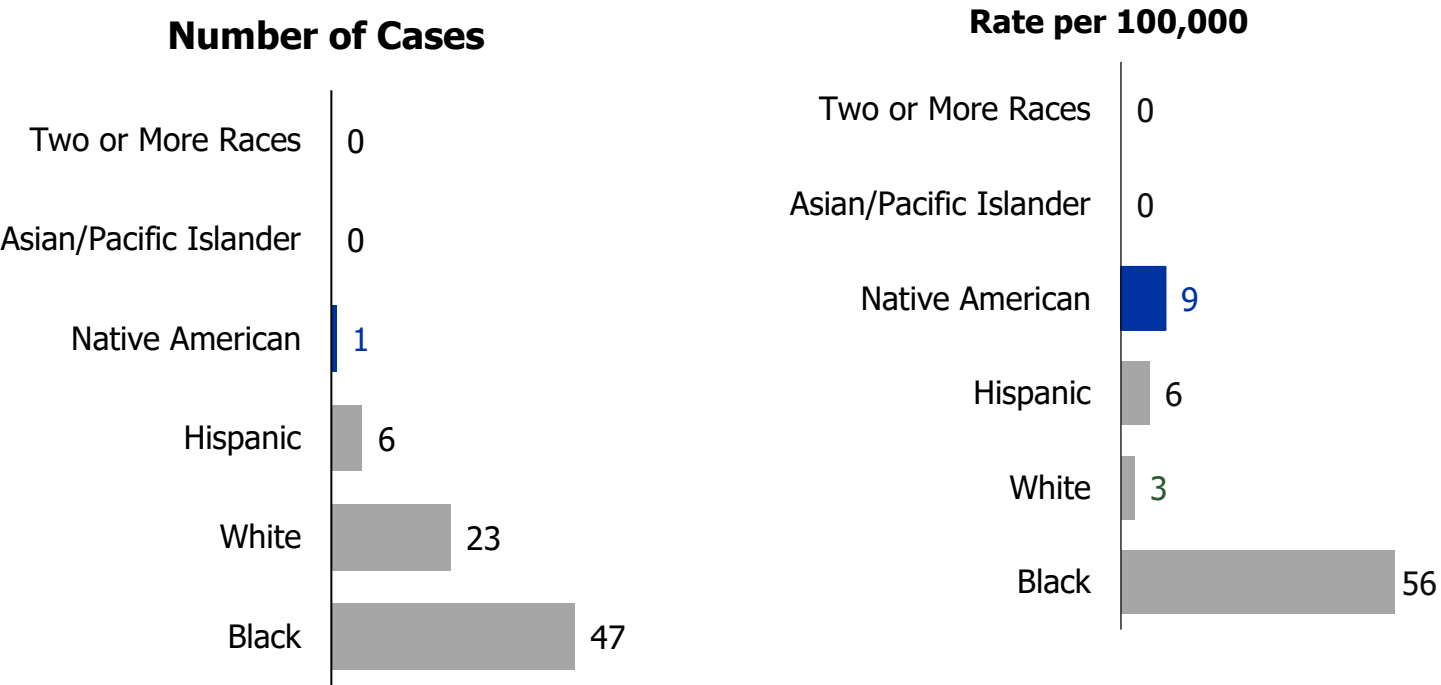


Figure 5.

Native American women accounted for only 1% 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, 2024.



Key takeaways from 2024:



The rate of reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis among reproductive age women decreased by 8% from 2023 to 2024.



The rate of primary and secondary syphilis was highest among Black women in 2024. Hispanic women had the second highest rate of primary and secondary syphilis in 2024, which is a change from 2023 when Native American women had the second highest rate. White women had the lowest rate of primary and secondary syphilis in 2024, for the second year in a row.



Of all syphilis cases reported among women of reproductive age in 2024, 65% were of unknown duration or late stage, followed by primary and secondary syphilis at 18%, and early non-primary, non-secondary syphilis at 16%. This distribution suggests delayed detection and inadequate early screening for syphilis among women of reproductive age.

Wisconsin Syphilis Surveillance Report

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

Women 15-44 years of age - 2024

	Primary and Secondary combined			Non-primary Non-secondary			Unknown Duration or Late			All Stages Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Total	77	100%	7	68	100%	6	275	100%	25	420	100%	38
Race/Ethnicity												
White	23	30%	3	7	10%	1^	61	22%	7	91	22%	11
Black	47	61%	56	46	68%	55	133	48%	159	226	54%	270
American Indian	1	1%	*	1	2%	*	13	5%	119	15	4%	137
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	1	2%	*	3	1%	*	4	1%	*
Two or More Races	0	0%	0	1	2%	*	1	0%	*	2	0%	*
Hispanic	6	8%	6^	10	15%	10^	58	21%	56	74	18%	72
Other/Unknown	0	0%	-	2	3%	-	6	2%	-	8	2%	-
Age												
15-19	3	4%	*	4	6%	*	18	7%	10	25	6%	13
20-24	15	20%	7	29	43%	14	51	19%	25	95	23%	47
25-29	20	26%	11	9	13%	5^	66	24%	37	95	23%	53
30-34	20	26%	11	15	22%	8	71	26%	40	106	25%	60
35-39	10	13%	5^	5	7%	*	43	16%	24	58	14%	32
40-44	9	12%	5^	6	9%	3^	26	9%	14	41	10%	23
Region of residence												
Northeastern	7	9%	3^	0	0%	0	41	15%	18	48	11%	21
Northern	2	3%	*	0	0%	0	7	3%	9^	9	2%	11^
Southeastern	58	75%	14	61	90%	15	180	65%	43	299	71%	72
Southern	7	9%	3^	6	9%	3^	33	12%	14	46	11%	20
Western	3	4%	*	1	2%	*	14	5%	9	18	4%	12

*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 – 2024

Region/County	Primary and Secondary			Early Latent			Late Latent			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Northeastern												
Brown	2	28.6%	*	0	0%	0.0	10	24.4%	19	12	25%	23
Calumet	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Door	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0.0	1	2.4%	*	1	2%	*
Fond du lac	1	14.3%	*	0	0%	0.0	14	34.1%	74	15	31%	79
Green Lake	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
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	2	4.9%	*	2	4%	*
Marinette	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0.0	1	2.4%	*	1	2%	*
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	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0.0	1	2.4%	*	1	2%	*
Outagamie	1	14.3%	*	0	0%	0.0	3	7.3%	*	4	8%	*
Shawano	1	14.3%	*	0	0%	0.0	2	5.9%	*	3	6%	*
Sheboygan	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Waupaca	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	1	2.4%	*	1	2%	*
Waushara	0	0%	0	0	0%	0.0	1	2.4%	*	1	2%	*
Winnebago	2	28.6%	*	0	0%	0.0	5	12.2%	*	7	15%	21^
Region total	7	100%	3^	0	0%	0.0	41	100%	18	48	100%	21

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Wisconsin Syphilis Surveillance Report

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

Women 15-44 years of age – 2024

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
Bayfield	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Florence	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Forest	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Iron	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
Lincoln	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Marathon	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	3	43%	*	3	33.3%	*
Oneida	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Portage	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	1	14%	7	1	11.1%	*
Price	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Sawyer	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	1	14%	40	1	11.1%	*
Taylor	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Vilas	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Wood	2	100%	16	0	0.0%	0	2	29%	16	4	44.4%	*
Region total	2	100%	*	0	0.0%	0	7	100%	9^	9	100%	11^

*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 – 2024

	Primary and Secondary			Early Latent			Late Latent			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Southeastern												
Kenosha	4	7%	*	4	7%	*	2	1%	*	10	3%	30^
Milwaukee	45	78%	22	53	87%	26	147	82%	73	245	82%	121.7
Ozaukee	1	2%	*	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	0%	*
Racine	8	14%	22^	2	3%	*	16	9%	45	26	9%	73
Walworth	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	2	1%	*	2	1%	*
Washington	0	0%	0	1	2%	*	5	3%	*	6	2%	26^
Waukesha	0	0%	0	1	2%	*	8	4%	11^	9	3%	13^
Region total	58	100%	14.5	61	100%	15	180	100%	45	299	100%	74.9

Southern	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Adams	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Columbia	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Crawford	1	14.3%	*	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	1	2%	*
Dane	5	71.4%	*	4	66.7%	*	27	81.8%	21	36	78%	28
Dodge	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	1	3.0%	*	1	2%	*
Grant	0	0.0%	0	1	16.7%	*	0	0.0%	0	1	2%	*
Green	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
Jefferson	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Juneau	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
Richland	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Rock	1	14.3%	*	1	16.7%	*	3	9.1%	*	5	11%	*
Sauk	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	2	6.1%	*	2	4%	*
Vernon	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0
Region total	7	100%	3^	6	100%	2^	33	100%	13	46	100%	18

Wisconsin Syphilis Surveillance Report

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

Women 15-44 years of age – 2024

	Primary and Secondary			Early Latent			Late Latent			Total		
	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates	Cases	Percent	Rates
Western												
Barron	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	7%	*	1	6%	*
Buffalo	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Burnett	0	0%	0	1	100%	*	0	0%	0	1	6%	*
Chippewa	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	7%	*	1	6%	*
Clark	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Douglas	2	67%	*	0	0%	0	2	14%	*	4	22%	*
Dunn	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	7%	*	1	6%	*
Eau Claire	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	*
Jackson	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	7%	*	1	6%	*
La Crosse	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	3	21%	*	3	17%	*
Monroe	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	7%	*	1	6%	*
Pepin	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	*
Pierce	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Polk	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	7%	*	1	6%	*
Rusk	1	33%	*	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	6%	*
St. Croix	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	1	7%	*	1	6%	*
Trempealeau	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0
Washburn	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	2	14%	*	2	11%	*
Region total	3	100%	*	1	100%	1	14	100%	9	18	100%	12
All regions	77	100%	7	68	100%	6	275	100%	25	420	100%	38
Institutions	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
State total	77	100%	7	68	100%	6	275	100%	25	420	100%	38

* 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 include 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 (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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