

# Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance Report, 2021

BUREAU OF HEPATITIS, HIV, AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

*Envisioning a New York City without transmission or illness related to viral hepatitis, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections.* 

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) continue to increase and remain a public health concern, even in the face the COVID-19 pandemic. NYC Health Department observed large increases in chlamydia and gonorrhea rates in 2021 compared to 2020. A combination of reduced screening and testing and decreased transmission in 2020, likely related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, reduced detection of STIs in 2020 and continue to impact detection today. Nonetheless, notable inequities persisted in 2021 among reported cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis, underscoring the need to improve access to timely, high-quality sexual health services for all New Yorkers.

Data presented in this report are primarily for 2021. Selected data provide comparisons to other years, including 5-year trends through 2021 and cases reported to the NYC Health Department through the first half of 2022.

Key highlights include:

- The primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis rate in NYC decreased 1.5% from 2020 to 2021, with a 4.0% decrease among people reported to the NYC Health Department as male (males) and a 28.7% increase among people reported as female (females).
- After relatively low numbers of reported congenital syphilis cases in NYC from 2015-2017, followed by higher but stable case numbers from 2018-2020 (20 cases in 2018, 17 cases in 2019, and 17 cases in 2020), 2021 saw a substantial rise in congenital syphilis (24 cases). This increase corresponds to a surge in reported P&S syphilis cases among females over the same time period.
- From 2020-2021 in NYC, the chlamydia rate among males increased 13.2% and the chlamydia rate among females increased 5.2%; the gonorrhea rate among males increased 12.9% and the gonorrhea rate among females increased 4.2%.
- Females in NYC, particularly female adolescents and young adult women, continue to be disproportionately affected by chlamydia. The chlamydia rate among females ages 15-to-24 years was significantly higher than that for the overall female population. In 2021, approximately one-quarter (25%) of all female chlamydia cases were among females ages 10-19 years.
- In 2021, STI case rates (gonorrhea, early syphilis, and chlamydia) among residents of Chelsea-Clinton were the highest of all United Hospital Fund (UHF) neighborhoods in NYC. Other UHF neighborhoods with high STI case rates were Hunts Point-Mott Haven and Crotona-Tremont (chlamydia), Central Harlem-Morningside Heights and Williamsburg-Bushwick (gonorrhea), and Central Harlem-Morningside Heights and Crotona-Tremont (early syphilis).
- In NYC, gonorrhea and chlamydia disproportionately affect people living in very high poverty neighborhoods (30-100% of the population below the federal poverty level), with case rates approximately 2.5 times higher than rates among people living in low poverty neighborhoods (<10% below federal poverty level).
- Racial and ethnic inequities persist in the distribution of STIs in NYC. In 2021, the rate of reported P&S syphilis cases among Black New Yorkers was 2.9 times the rate among White New Yorkers (76.8 versus 26.6 cases per 100,000 population, respectively).

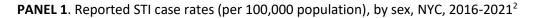
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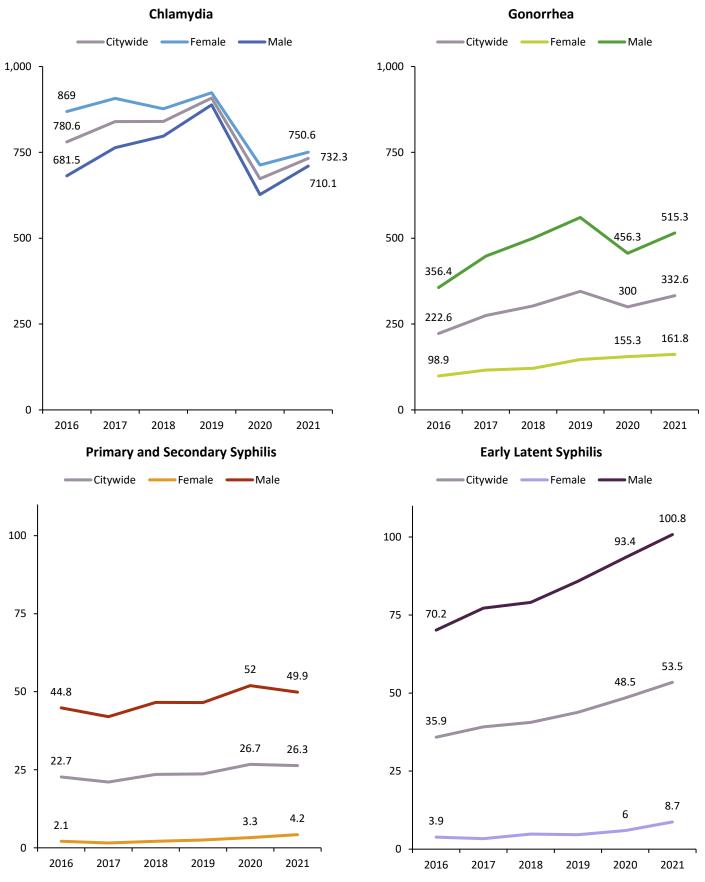
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**TABLE 1**. Reported STI case numbers and rates (per 100,000 population), NYC, 2020 to 2022 (half year; preliminary)

Infection	2020	(final)	2021 (final)		2022 (half year; preliminary) <sup>1</sup>	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	
Chlamydia		·	·	•		
Citywide	56,167	673.23	62,011	732.34	31,704	
Female	31,105	713.25	33,051	750.59	16,707	
Male	24,975	627.22	28,860	710.11	14,954	
Gonorrhea			·			
Citywide	25,027	299.98	28,162	332.59	15,047	
Female	6,772	155.28	7,126	161.83	2,970	
Male	18,168	456.27	20,941	515.26	12,033	
Primary and Secondary Sy	vphilis	•				
Citywide	2,231	26.74	2,230	26.34	1,090	
Female	143	3.28	186	4.22	121	
Male	2,069	51.96	2,027	49.87	963	
Early Latent Syphilis		<u> </u>		•		
Citywide	4,043	48.46	4,526	53.45	2,299	
Female	260	5.96	384	8.72	207	
Male	3,719	93.40	4,096	100.78	2,066	
Unknown Duration or Late	e Syphilis	•				
Citywide	2,303	27.60	3,209	37.9	1,627	
Female	405	9.29	601	13.65	343	
Male	1,866	46.86	2,584	63.58	1,259	
Congenital Syphilis		•				
Citywide	17	17.18	24	27.67	9	
Lymphogranuloma Vener	eum	<u> </u>		1		
Citywide	8	0.10	4	0.05	5	
Female	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	
Male	8	0.20	4	0.09	1	
Neonatal Herpes			•			
Citywide	8	8.09	10	11.53	4	
Female	1	2.06	3	7.05	2	
Male	7	13.86	6	13.58	2	

<sup>1</sup> Includes cases diagnosed between January 2022 and June 2022 and reported to the New York City DOHMH as of December 15, 2022. 2022 data are preliminary and subject to change.





<sup>2</sup> Graphs show case rates (rounded to one decimal) for the first, second-to-last, and last observation to enable calculation of percent change over full six-year period and from previous year to most recent full year.

**TABLE 2A**. Reported chlamydia case numbers, rates (per 100,000 population), and ranks, by UHF neighborhood, NYC, 2021<sup>3</sup>

	All Ages			Teens and Young Adults (15-24 years)			
UHF Neighborhood	All Reported Sexes			Males		Females	
PRONV	Number	Rate	Rank	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
BRONX Kingsbridge Diverdele (101)	122	460.47	21	60	1 160 21	151	2 700 92
Kingsbridge - Riverdale (101)	432	469.47	31	60	1,169.21	151	2,799.82
Northeast Bronx (102)	2,003	972.66	12	375	3,024.93	774	6,111.67
Fordham - Bronx Park (103)	2,671	1,007.78	10	412	2,070	1,007	5,068.59
Pelham - Throgs Neck (104)	2,191	727.13	17	353	1,758.13	876	4,698.32
Crotona - Tremont (105)	2,846	1,346.84	3	438	2,775.22	1,178	7,338.08
High Bridge - Morrisania (106)	2,704	1,258.43	6	423	2,722.41	1,019	6,492.05
Hunts Point - Mott Haven (107)	1,949	1,405.58	2	320	2,949.8	773	7,513.91
BROOKLYN							
Greenpoint (201)	893	621.68	25	94	1,149.22	149	1,647.56
Downtown - Brooklyn Heights - Park Slope				140	1,350.44	325	2,657.28
(202)	1,364	511.27	27				
Bedford Stuyvesant - Crown Heights (203)	4,308	1,268.63	5	704	3,555.31	1,438	6,507.12
East New York (204)	2,426	1,230.29	7	435	3,235.45	899	6,312.39
Sunset Park (205)	577	477.58	30	62	823.96	174	2,510.26
Borough Park (206)	664	197.01	39	73	353.16	180	917.41
East Flatbush - Flatbush (207)	2,976	997.65	11	515	3,181.95	988	5,729.34
Canarsie - Flatlands (208)	1,708	823.84	14	322	2,798.74	632	5,208.38
Bensonhurst - Bay Ridge (209)	446	211.38	38	55	526.38	114	1,176.11
Coney Island - Sheepshead Bay (210)	818	276.23	37	122	790.48	298	1,988.2
Williamsburg - Bushwick (211)	2,588	1,159.24	8	363	2,281.77	682	4,201.1
MANHATTAN							
Washington Heights - Inwood (301)	2,408	922.8	13	292	1,691.95	643	3,921.68
Central Harlem - Morningside Heights (302)	2,285	1,281.85	4	386	3,208.01	716	5,093.25
East Harlem (303)	1,162	1,052.26	9	160	2,216.89	383	5,326.47
Upper West Side (304)	1,024	480.82	29	117	1,416	214	2,040.19
Upper East Side (305)	704	340.86	33	92	1,432.74	124	1,452.25
Chelsea - Clinton (306)	2,565	1,711.4	1	178	2,845.88	222	2,380.21
Gramercy Park - Murray Hill (307)	747	581.09	26	61	1,029.09	145	1,585.66
Greenwich Village - SoHo (308)	543	708.14	18	49	1,471.5	91	1,999.66
Union Square - Lower East Side (309)	1,469	811.56	15	216	1,808.31	405	2,722.93
Lower Manhattan (310)	381	649.71	22	45	1,314.53	90	1,996.55
QUEENS		0.00.2					
Long Island City - Astoria (401)	1,372	671.49	20	134	1,357.3	243	2,375.19
West Queens (402)	3,066	664.75	21	547	1,913.48	759	3,108.27
Flushing - Clearview (403)	762	294.08	36	75	635.35	216	1,841.31
Bayside - Little Neck (404)	131	142.33	41	12	282.67	40	1,000.35
Ridgewood - Forest Hills (405)	858	324.37	34	108	877.93	235	1,000.33
Fresh Meadows (406)	304	304.02	35	48	871.73	106	1,887.5
Southwest Queens (407)	1,168	412.98	32	157	912.54	404	2,369.53
Jamaica (408)	2,502	772.82	16 23	448 273	2,286.53	936 512	4,701.77
Southeast Queens (409)	1,403	643.55			2,295.71		4,131.39
Rockaway (410)	948	706.68	19	165	2,118.61	364	4,582.8
STATEN ISLAND	450	622.50	2.4	02	4574	100	2 550 00
Port Richmond (501)	450	622.59	24	82	1574	180	3,559.89
Stapleton - St. George (502)	618	481.07	28	104	1,280.36	262	3,215.06
Willowbrook (503)	143	151	40	17	314.36	51	982.45
South Beach - Tottenville (504)	278	140.37	42	45	385.05	123	1,102.01

<sup>3</sup> The rank assigned to each UHF neighborhood (total 42 UHFs) is based on the overall case rate per 100,000 population.

**TABLE 2B**. Reported gonorrhea case numbers, rates (per 100,000 population), and ranks, by UHF neighborhood, NYC, 2021<sup>4</sup>

	All Ages			Teens and Young Adults (15-24 years)			
UHF Neighborhood	All Reported Sexes			-	les		nales
	Number	Rate	Rank	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
BRONX	4.60	472.00		27	526.4.4	20	527.74
Kingsbridge – Riverdale (101)	160	173.88	30	27	526.14	29	537.71
Northeast Bronx (102)	765	371.49	16	151	1,218.04	181	1,429.22
Fordham - Bronx Park (103)	1,014	382.59	15	178	894.32	175	880.84
Pelham - Throgs Neck (104)	775	257.2	24	159	791.91	178	954.68
Crotona - Tremont (105)	1,247	590.13	6	262	1,660.06	265	1,650.76
High Bridge - Morrisania (106)	1,211	563.59	8	217	1,396.60	249	1,586.38
Hunts Point - Mott Haven (107)	837	603.63	5	141	1,299.75	204	1,982.97
BROOKLYN							
Greenpoint (201)	581	404.48	13	67	819.12	25	276.44
Downtown - Heights - Park Slope (202)	745	279.25	21	94	906.72	74	605.04
Bedford Stuyvesant - Crown Heights (203)	2,240	659.64	4	397	2,004.91	384	1,737.64
East New York (204)	1,010	512.2	9	200	1,487.56	207	1,453.46
Sunset Park (205)	139	115.05	34	28	372.11	13	187.55
Borough Park (206)	230	68.24	38	29	140.30	22	112.13
East Flatbush - Flatbush (207)	1,266	424.4	12	238	1,470.49	198	1,148.19
Canarsie - Flatlands (208)	538	259.5	23	124	1,077.78	112	923
Bensonhurst - Bay Ridge (209)	120	56.87	39	18	172.27	14	144.43
Coney Island - Sheepshead Bay (210)	275	92.87	35	43	278.61	56	373.62
Williamsburg - Bushwick (211)	1,480	662.93	3	233	1,464.60	133	819.28
MANHATTAN							
Washington Heights - Inwood (301)	1,309	501.64	10	160	927.10	128	780.68
Central Harlem - Morningside Heights (302)	1,372	769.67	2	251	2,086.04	148	1,052.79
East Harlem (303)	651	589.52	7	97	1,343.99	113	1,571.52
Upper West Side (304)	628	294.88	20	60	726.15	33	314.61
Upper East Side (305)	339	164.14	31	34	529.49	15	175.68
Chelsea - Clinton (306)	2,273	1,516.58	1	144	2,302.28	61	654.02
Gramercy Park - Murray Hill (307)	472	367.17	17	33	556.72	38	415.55
Greenwich Village - SoHo (308)	344	448.62	11	37	1,111.14	23	505.41
Union Square - Lower East Side (309)	702	387.83	14	107	895.79	57	383.23
Lower Manhattan (310)	201	342.76	19	29	847.14	12	266.21
QUEENS							
Long Island City - Astoria (401)	738	361.2	18	71	719.17	44	430.07
West Queens (402)	993	215.3	27	170	594.68	68	278.47
Flushing - Clearview (403)	193	74.48	37	21	177.90	18	153.44
Bayside - Little Neck (404)	34	36.94	42	2	47.11	7	175.06
Ridgewood - Forest Hills (405)	315	119.09	33	58	471.48	19	153.87
Fresh Meadows (406)	85	85.01	36	19	345.06	17	302.71
Southwest Queens (407)	378	133.65	32	62	360.37	50	293.26
Jamaica (408)	832	256.99	25	156	796.20	183	919.26
Southeast Queens (409)	382	175.22	29	78	655.92	71	572.91
Rockaway (410)	354	263.89	22	73	937.33	79	994.62
STATEN ISLAND							
Port Richmond (501)	161	222.75	26	44	844.59	29	573.54
Stapleton - St. George (502)	247	192.27	28	50	615.56	56	687.19
Willowbrook (503)	36	38.01	41	3	55.48	7	134.85
South Beach - Tottenville (504)	94	47.46	40	19	162.58	20	179.19

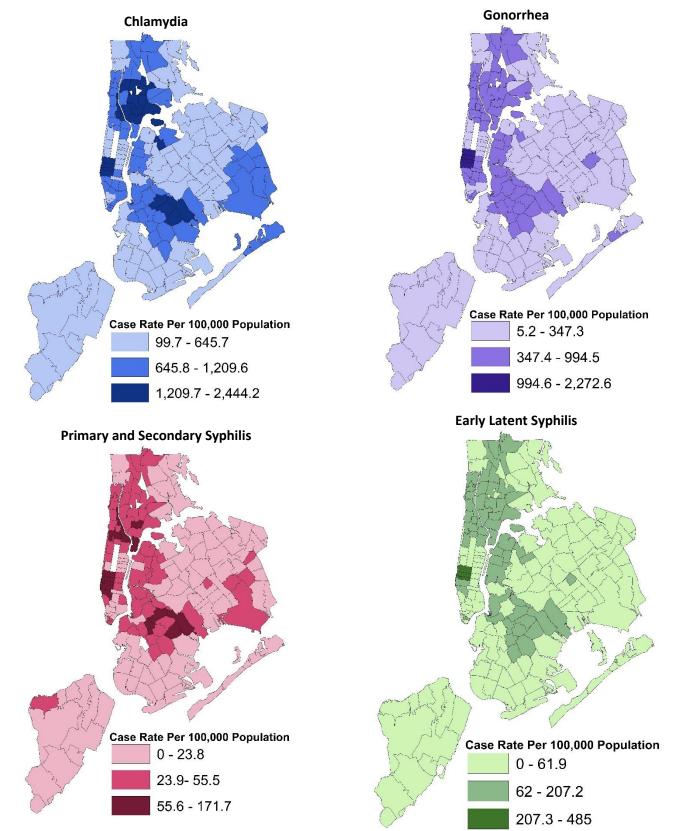
<sup>4</sup> The rank assigned to each UHF neighborhood (total 42 UHFs) is based on the overall case rate per 100,000 population.

**TABLE 2C**. Reported early syphilis (primary, secondary, early latent) case numbers, rates (per 100,000 population), and ranks, by UHF neighborhood, NYC, 2021<sup>5</sup>

UHF Neighborhood	All			Males		Females	
	Number	Rate	Rank	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
BRONX							
Kingsbridge – Riverdale (101)	39	42.39	28	37	88.28	1	2
Northeast Bronx (102)	147	71.39	18	125	132.58	19	17.02
Fordham - Bronx Park (103)	375	141.49	7	326	256.72	45	32.6
Pelham - Throgs Neck (104)	207	68.69	19	171	119.4	34	21.5
Crotona - Tremont (105)	339	160.43	4	282	282.07	51	45.8
High Bridge - Morrisania (106)	304	141.48	8	262	257.95	37	32.66
Hunts Point - Mott Haven (107)	203	146.4	6	162	243.31	35	48.55
BROOKLYN							
Greenpoint (201)	103	71.71	17	98	137.97	4	5.5
Downtown - Brooklyn Heights - Park Slope							
(202)	146	54.72	23	133	105.64	12	8.52
Bedford Stuyvesant - Crown Heights (203)	474	139.59	9	433	277.44	39	21.25
East New York (204)	234	118.67	11	201	219.38	32	30.31
Sunset Park (205)	43	35.59	31	41	66.19	2	3.4
Borough Park (206)	68	20.17	36	65	38.83	3	1.77
East Flatbush - Flatbush (207)	314	105.26	13	288	210.52	24	14.86
Canarsie - Flatlands (208)	92	44.37	27	78	83.7	12	10.51
Bensonhurst - Bay Ridge (209)	28	13.27	38	26	25.2	2	1.85
Coney Island - Sheepshead Bay (210)	62	20.94	35	50	35.46	12	7.74
Williamsburg - Bushwick (211)	305	136.62	10	285	260.19	20	17.59
MANHATTAN							
Washington Heights - Inwood (301)	390	149.46	5	372	293.29	16	11.93
Central Harlem - Morningside Heights (302)	323	181.19	2	295	354.29	25	26.32
East Harlem (303)	190	172.06	3	174	329.73	16	27.75
Upper West Side (304)	165	77.47	15	161	163.93	4	3.48
Upper East Side (305)	86	41.64	29	81	87.72	2	1.76
Chelsea - Clinton (306)	534	356.29	1	518	668.61	12	16.58
Gramercy Park - Murray Hill (307)	94	73.12	16	91	151.31	2	2.92
Greenwich Village - SoHo (308)	52	67.81	21	51	132.35	1	2.62
Union Square - Lower East Side (309)	123	67.95	20	117	136	5	5.27
Lower Manhattan (310)	31	52.86	24	28	97.17	3	10.06
QUEENS					•••••		
Long Island City - Astoria (401)	230	112.57	12	223	218.85	6	5.86
West Queens (402)	370	80.22	14	344	144.34	24	10.76
Flushing - Clearview (403)	48	18.53	37	43	34.64	5	3.7
Bayside - Little Neck (404)	8	8.69	42	8	18.16	0	0
Ridgewood - Forest Hills (405)	83	31.38	32	77	60.27	5	3.66
Fresh Meadows (406)	12	12	39	11	22.98	1	1.92
Southwest Queens (407)	127	44.91	26	114	81.15	11	7.73
Jamaica (408)	183	56.52	20	114	101.91	22	12.96
Southeast Queens (409)	53	24.31	34	47	45.55	5	4.35
Rockaway (410)	50	37.28	34	47	69.97	3	4.33
STATEN ISLAND	50	57.20	30	40	09.97	5	4.5
Port Richmond (501)	35	48.42	25	29	81.71	6	16.31
Stapleton - St. George (502)	40	48.42 31.14	33	35	55.77		7.61
· · · · ·	40	31.14 11.61	40	35 8	17.34	5	6.18
Willowbrook (503)							

<sup>5</sup> The rank assigned to each UHF neighborhood (total 42 UHFs) is based on the overall case rate per 100,000 population.

#### PANEL 2. Reported STI case rates (per 100,000 population), by ZIP code of residence, NYC, 2021<sup>6-7</sup>



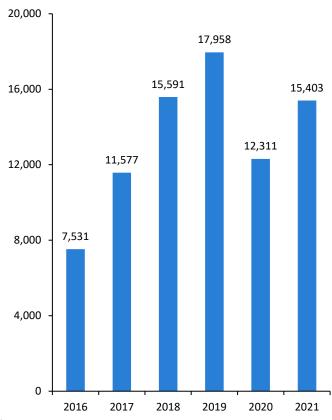
<sup>6</sup> Maps cannot be compared directly because the classification of case rates per 100,000 population was determined by natural jenks (breakpoints) in the data, and therefore, vary by pathogen.

<sup>7</sup> Maps display STI case rates (per 100,000 population) by Modified ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (MODZCTA). Please see the "Notes" section for a description of the different geographies used to present STI data in NYC.

Males Females Age Rate Number Rate Number 0-9 years 1.64 8 2 0.39 10-14 years 286 122.94 39 15.91 15-19 years 8,144 3,578.87 2,944 1266.37 20-24 years 11,375 4,462.95 6,385 2679.99 25-29 years 6,478 1,835.23 6,492 1994.02 30-34 years 3,164 864.13 5,637 1571.68 35-39 years 1,533 488.19 3,156 1024.2 40-44 years 273.89 771 1,778 664.92 45-49 years 168.07 445 915 372.38 50-54 years 346 125.61 700 272.21 55-59 years 280 99.69 469 181.85 60-64 years 144 53.51 231 96.57 65+ years 73 9.17 107 18.44

**TABLE 3.** Reported chlamydia case numbers and rates(per 100,000 population), by sex and age, NYC, 2021

**FIGURE 1.** Reported rectal gonorrhea and chlamydia case numbers among males, NYC, 2016-2021<sup>8</sup>

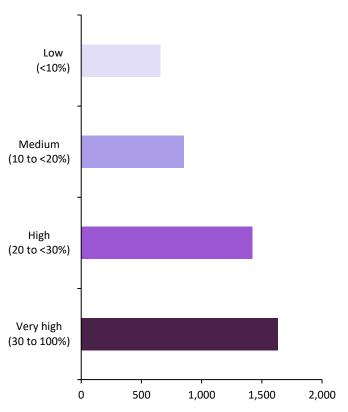


<sup>8</sup> Defined as gonorrhea and chlamydia cases reported with at least one positive test from a rectal specimen

**TABLE 4.** Reported gonorrhea case numbers and rates(per 100,000 population), by sex and age, NYC, 2021

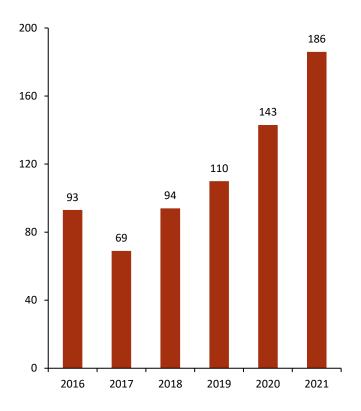
	Fei	males	Males		
Age	Number Rate		Number	Rate	
0-9 years	1	0.21	1	0.2	
10-14 years	69	29.66	23	9.38	
15-19 years	1,592	699.6	1,084	466.29	
20-24 years	2,309	905.93	3,393	1,424.15	
25-29 years	1,399	396.34	4,946	1,519.16	
30-34 years	842	229.96	4,919	1,371.49	
35-39 years	400	127.38	2,824	916.46	
40-44 years	204	72.47	1,566	585.64	
45-49 years	120	45.32	810	329.65	
50-54 years	77	27.95	649	252.38	
55-59 years	67	23.85	483	187.28	
60-64 years	25	9.29	158	66.05	
65+ years	19	2.39	82	14.13	

**FIGURE 2.** Reported chlamydia and gonorrhea case rates (per 100,000 population), by area-based poverty level, NYC, 2021<sup>9</sup>

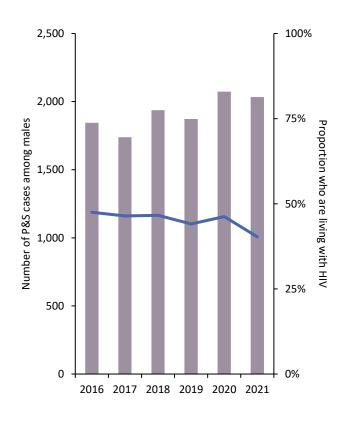


<sup>9</sup> See "Notes" for a description of area-based poverty levels

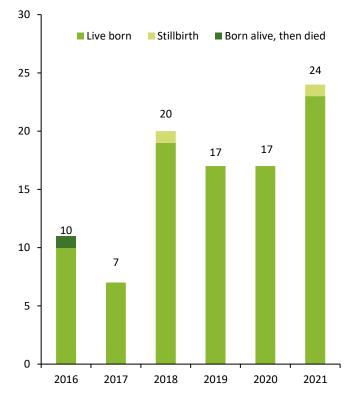
# **FIGURE 3.** Reported P&S syphilis case numbers among females, NYC, 2016-2021



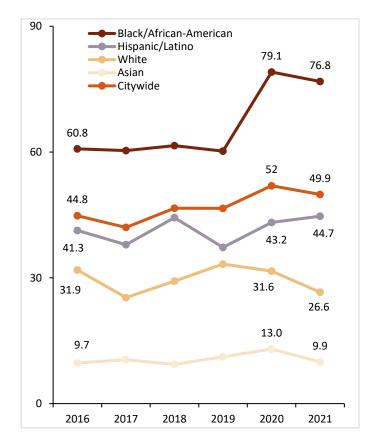
**FIGURE 5.** Reported P&S syphilis case numbers among males, and proportion with diagnosed HIV, NYC, 2016-2021



**FIGURE 4.** Reported congenital syphilis case numbers, by vital status, NYC, 2016-2021



**FIGURE 6.** Reported P&S syphilis case rates (per 100,000) among males, by race/ethnicity, NYC, 2016-2021



# **Technical Notes**

#### **Public health reporting**

The NYC Health Department receives reports from providers and laboratories for a number of infectious diseases, including STIs, as required by the <u>NYC Health Code</u>. Basic demographic information on the person being tested is reported to the NYC Health Department, including name, address, and date of birth. The following STIs are reportable to the NYC Health Department within 24 hours of diagnosis:

- Chlamydia
- Chancroid
- Gonorrhea
- Granuloma inguinale (donovanosis)

- Herpes, neonatal (infants ≤ 60 days)
- Lymphogranuloma venereum
- Syphilis (all stages, including congenital)

Annual summary data are limited to NYC residents at time of STI diagnosis.

#### Case counts vs. rates

NYC Health Department reports both counts and case rates. We report rates to allow comparison between different groups — such as by sex — with differently sized populations. For example, we may report that the rate of gonorrhea cases is 100 per 100,000 males in NYC. That means for every 100,000 males living in NYC, there are 100 males reported with a gonorrhea infection.

#### Calculation of rates per 100,000 people

Rates were calculated using interpolated intercensal population estimates, updated in 2021 by NYC Health Department's Bureau of Epidemiology Services. The NYC Health Department produced these population estimates based on estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau and NYC Department of City Planning. Because of the schedule for releasing updated population estimates, 2019 and 2020 rates per 100,000 were calculated with 2018 and 2019 population estimates, respectively.

For congenital syphilis and neonatal herpes, rates were calculated using the number of live births among NYC residents. Because of the schedule for releasing updated vital statistics data, 2019 and 2020 rates per 100,000 were calculated with 2018 and 2019 live birth counts, respectively.

#### **Reported sex**

Information on the sex of people reported with an STI is based primarily on laboratory-reports and provider-reports received by the STI Program in the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and STIs. The following options are included on the report form: male, female, and transgender. There is not yet an option for reporting sex assigned at birth or gender identity via routine reporting; therefore, the providers and facilities who order the STI testing are responsible for classifying transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary people into the "reported sex" categories. Due to the relatively small number of STI cases reported among transgender people, data on these cases are not included in annual summary data at this time. Information on sex assigned at birth and gender identity are collected from case investigation or partner services interviews for specific infections (e.g., syphilis), but this information is missing for the majority of people reported with an STI.

#### **Reported race and ethnicity**

Race and ethnicity information is often missing in reportable disease surveillance, particularly when laboratory reporting is the predominant reporting mechanism as it is for STI surveillance. Information for race and ethnicity also comes from provider reports, and, for people with specific infections (e.g., syphilis), from interviews conducted as part of case investigation or partner services.

Starting in 2019, in alignment with federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standards, information on race/ethnicity was aggregated into the following mutually-exclusive categories:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black
- Latino/a

- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Other
- Unknown
- White

The Latino/a category includes people of any race, and all other categories exclude those who identified as Latino/a. Population denominators are not calculated for people who identified as "Other" and "Unknown," and consequently, rates per 100,000 cannot be calculated; annual summary data include counts (but not rates) for these groups.

Racial inequities in STI rates can be attributed to long-term structural racism, not biological or personal traits. The disproportionate burden of STIs among people of color in NYC reflects the impact of structural racism, which prevents communities of color from accessing vital resources and opportunities, and negatively affects overall health and well-being. Read more about what the Health Department is doing to address health equity on the <u>our website</u>.

# Reported geography: ZIP codes, Modified Zip Code Tabulation Areas, and United Hospital Fund neighborhoods

The NYC Health Department uses multiple levels of geography to report STI data. Each person reported with an STI is classified based on their ZIP code of residence at the time of report. People with a missing or inaccurate ZIP code are excluded from tables with geographic information.

It can be challenging to map data by ZIP code because a ZIP code does not refer to an area, but rather a collection of points that make up a mail delivery route. Therefore, the NYC Health Department uses ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) which were created by the U.S. Census Bureau and are representative of geographic locations of populated areas. The ZCTA geography was developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. The modified ZCTA (MODZCTA) geography combines census blocks with smaller populations to allow more stable estimates of population size for rate calculation.

To present data at the neighborhood level, people reported with an STI are assigned to a United Hospital Fund (UHF) neighborhood based on their ZIP code of residence. This level of geography includes groups of contiguous ZIP codes and was created by the NYC Health Department, the United Hospital Fund, and other City agencies in the 1980s. More information about the different levels of geography is available on the <u>NYC Health Department's website</u>.

#### Poverty groups

Area-based poverty groups were classified in a manner consistent with NYC Health Department practices to <u>describe and monitor inequities in NYC</u>. Neighborhood poverty measures are defined as the percentage of people earning below the Federal Poverty Threshold (FPT) within a ZCTA, per the American Community Survey 2015-2019. The standard cut-points for defining categories of neighborhood-level poverty in NYC are:

- Low: <10% of residents in ZCTA living below the FPT
- Medium: 10% to <20% living below the FPT
- High: 20% to <30% living below the FPT
- Very high: ≥30% residents living below the FPT

# **Additional Resources**

NYC Sexual Health Clinics:	https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/sexual-health- clinics.page
Provider reporting of STIs, including HIV:	https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/reporting-and- services/reporting-central.page
	https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/hiv-aids- how-to-report-a-diagnosis.page
NYC Syphilis Registry:	<u>https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/std/hcp</u> -syphilis-registry-check.pdf
Provider resources on STIs:	<u>https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/health-</u> topics/stds.page
Email address to request STI training and education for organizations and medical providers:	<u>STItraining@health.nyc.gov</u>
Other Bureau Surveillance Reports	HIV Surveillance Annual Report 2021
	Hepatitis A, B, and C Annual Report 2021

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