

HIV & STIs in Utah

2021 Surveillance update

This update is for sexually transmitted infection (STI) surveillance data for the following reportable STIs in Utah: Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), chlamydia, gonorrhea, and primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis.

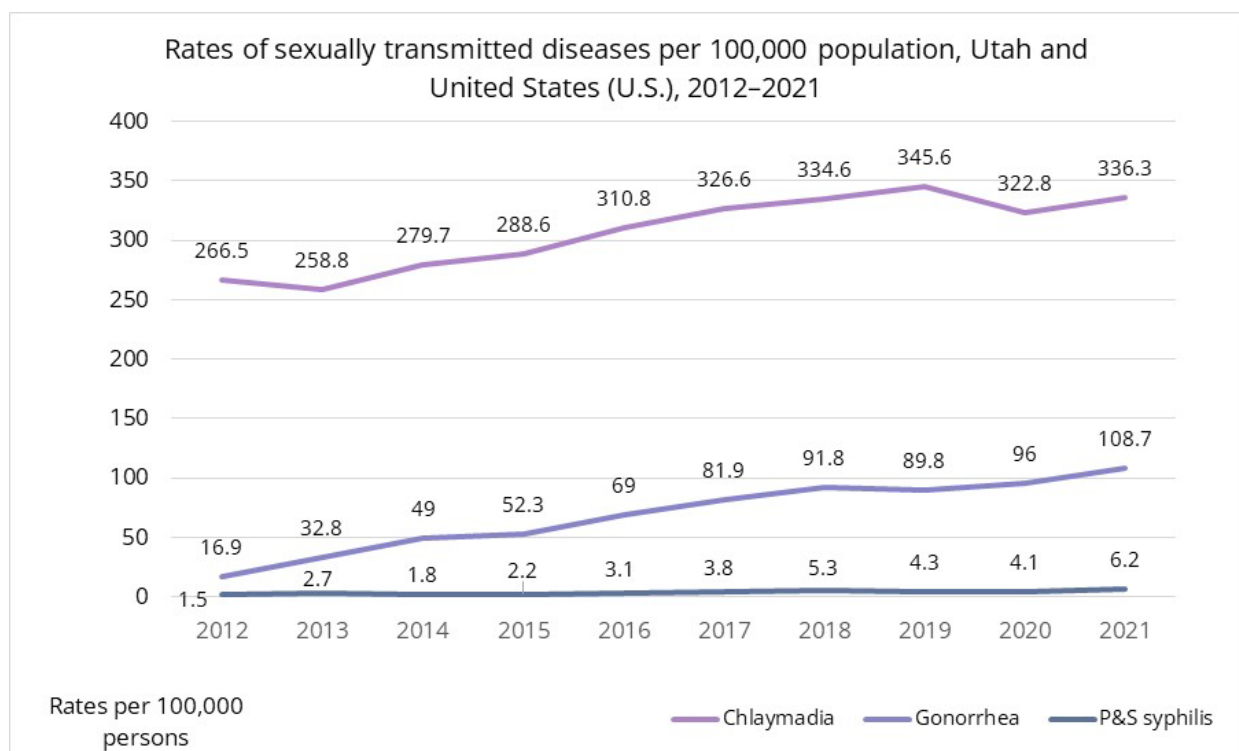
HIV: 135 | Chlamydia: 11,226 | Gonorrhea: 3,627 | P&S syphilis: 207

State STI trends

In 2021, the majority of STIs were reported along the Wasatch Front: 86% of HIV infections, 85% of chlamydia infections, 90% of gonorrhea infections, and 87% of P&S syphilis infections. Approximately 75% of the state's population live in this area, which suggests there is an over-representation of STI infections in this region.

Racial and ethnic minorities continue to shoulder a disproportionate burden of STIs in Utah. People who are Black or African American make up 1.5% of the population in Utah but account for 3.8% of all STI cases. People who are Hispanic or Latino make up 14.8% of Utah's population and account for 21.2% of all STI cases.

All reportable STIs represent 10-year highs, except HIV. Increases in rates could be attributed to health service availability and access to testing after the COVID-19 pandemic. It is difficult to determine conclusively if these trend deviations were caused by a change in sexual behaviors and/or testing behaviors, or by an unrelated set of circumstances.



2021 Surveillance update

Chlamydia

Chlamydia infections continue to be the most frequently reported STI in Utah. In 2021, the rate of chlamydia was 336.4 per 100,000 persons. This is an increase of 4.9% from 2020. Females averaged twice the rate of males, likely a result of higher rates of screening in women. The majority of chlamydia cases (58%) were among persons aged 15–24. Racial/ethnic minorities continued to be disproportionately affected by chlamydia in 2021 with the highest rates seen in people who are Black/African American (1627.7), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (855.5) and American Indian/Alaska Native (789.9).

Gonorrhea

In 2021, the gonorrhea case rate was 108.7 cases per 100,000 persons which represents a 13.7% increase from the 2020 rate, and a 33.5% rate increase over the past 5 years. This is more than a 1,008% rate increase since a low in 2011. It was the second most frequently reported STI in Utah. In 2021, 42% of gonorrhea cases were reported in people aged 20–29. Of the male gonorrhea cases, 42% were among men who have sex with men (MSM). This high rate in MSM likely is the reason the rate of gonorrhea in males has consistently been higher than among females over the past 10 years. Racial/ethnic minorities continued to be disproportionately affected by gonorrhea in 2021 with the highest rates seen in people who are Black/African American (891.9), American Indian/Native Alaska (290.2), and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (243.9).

P&S syphilis

P&S syphilis rates continue to rise with a rate of 6.2 cases per 100,000 persons. This represents a 51.2% increase from the 2020 rate, and a 63.1% increase in the past 5 years. In 2021, 71% of P&S syphilis cases were in MSM. Similar to what is observed with gonorrhea, rates in males were significantly higher than in females. The highest rates were among people aged 25–34 which accounts for 39% of all cases. Racial/ethnic minorities continued to be disproportionately affected by gonorrhea in 2021 with the highest rates seen in people who are Black/African American (37.8), Hispanic (11.9), and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (11.4).

For more information on the rates of STIs and HIV in Utah, contact: Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Communicable Diseases at 801-538-6191 or visit <https://epi.health.utah.gov/sexually-transmitted-disease/>

For more information on STI risks, symptoms, treatment, and prevention, visit <https://catchtheanswers.utah.gov/>

HIV & STIs in Utah

2021 Surveillance update

This update is for sexually transmitted infection (STI) surveillance data for the following reportable STIs in Utah: Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), chlamydia, gonorrhea, and primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis.

HIV: 135 | Chlamydia: 11,226 | Gonorrhea: 3,627 | P&S syphilis: 207

HIV

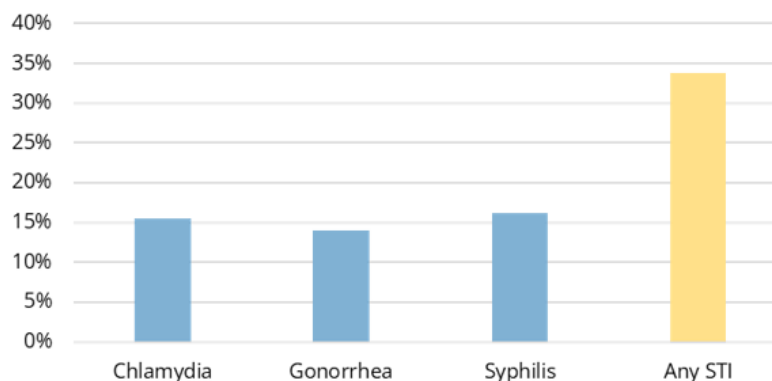
In 2021, 135 new HIV diagnoses were reported for a rate of 4.0 cases per 100,000 persons. This reflects no change in the rate of cases from 2020.

Males consistently shoulder a much higher burden of HIV diagnoses than females. Most new diagnoses consistently occur in young men between the ages of 25 and 34.

MSM contact is the leading route of HIV transmission in Utah, followed by those who experience both MSM contact and intravenous drug use.

Approximately 1 in 3 new HIV diagnoses in 2021 were known to be co-infected with a reportable STI at the time of their HIV diagnosis. This demonstrates a significant overlap in at-risk populations. It is also medically consistent, as STIs often create skin abrasions or sores which may act as a portal for HIV to enter the body.

Coinfection with other reportable STIs is common among new HIV diagnoses in Utah, 2021



Note: The total percentages of individual STIs in the figure below is greater than the "Any STI" column because many clients were coinfecting with more than one STI.

For information on HIV prevention, testing, and treatment resources, visit <https://hivandme.com/>

For information on Ryan White Part B program, visit: <https://ptc.health.utah.gov/treatment/ryan-white>

Reported cases and rates of HIV and STIs, Utah, 2017–2021

	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Cases	Rate [§]	Cases	Rate [§]	Cases	Rate [§]	Cases	Rate [§]	Cases	Rate [§]
HIV	117	3.8	122	3.9	133	4.1	133	4.1	135	4.0
PLWDH [¶]	2,411	77.7	2,620	83.1	2,724	85.0	2,908	88.8	3,085	92
Chlamydia	10,135	326.8	10,558	334.8	11,072	345.4	10,488	320.4	11,226	336.3
Gonorrhea	2,541	81.9	2,895	91.8	2,884	90.0	3,127	95.5	3,627	108.7
Syphilis, primary	47	1.5	77	2.4	53	1.7	67	2.0	84	2.5
Syphilis, secondary	71	2.3	93	2.9	86	2.7	68	2.1	123	3.7
Syphilis, early latent	87	2.8	105	3.3	120	3.7	82	2.5	132	4.0
Syphilis, late or unknown	98	3.2	147	4.7	172	5.4	138	4.2	195	5.8
Syphilis, congenital	0	0.0	<11	—	<11	—	<11	—	<11	—

Reported cases and rates of HIV and STIs by local health district, Utah, 2021

	HIV		Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		P&S Syphilis		EL Syphilis	
	Cases	Rate [§]	Cases	Rate [§]	Cases	Rate [§]	Cases	Rate [§]	Cases	Rate [§]
Bear River	0	0.0	428	214.3	62	31.0	<11	—	<11	—
Central Utah	0	0.0	146	181.6	28	34.8	<11	—	<11	—
Davis County	<11	1.9*	965	275.1	254	72.4	22	6.1	<11	—
Salt Lake County	84	7.2	5,832	491.6	2,346	197.7	117	10.0	89	7.5
San Juan	<11	—	42	289.9	13	89.7	<11	—	0	0.0
Southeastern Utah	<11	—	81	202.5	15	37.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Southwest Utah	<11	1.9*	674	247.7	152	55.9	14	5.3	<11	—
Summit County	<11	—	111	257.6	22	51.1	<11	—	0	0.0
Tooele County	<11	—	197	257.0	76	99.2	<11	6.9*	<11	—
TriCounty	0	0.0	126	221.2	23	40.4	<11	—	<11	—
Utah County	23	3.4	1,603	234.0	349	50.9	22	3.3	21	3.1
Wasatch County	0	0.0	51	141.0	19	52.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Weber-Morgan	<11	3.4*	970	362.1	268	95.8	14	5.2	<11	3.2*
Total cases	135		11,226		3,627		207		132	

[§] Rate per 100,000 persons

[¶] Estimated number of PLWDH as of December 31 of the reported year (does not include new HIV diagnoses)

* Use caution in interpreting, the estimate has a relative standard error greater than 30% and does not meet DHHS standards for reliability. Rate estimates with relative standard errors greater than 50% have been suppressed.

The data sources: DHHS, UT-NEDSS (reportable disease surveillance system) and population data from Utah Population Committee estimates by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.