***Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences***

**Summary for Norfolk County, Massachusetts, 2021**

Norfolk County is a county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Norfolk County is the wealthiest county in Massachusetts (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020). In 2020, the population was 725,981 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020\*).

**Chlamydia**

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported sexually transmitted infection (STI) both in the Commonwealth and nationally.

**Since 2011, there has been an overall increase in chlamydia cases statewide and in Norfolk County with the exception of 2020 due to COVID-19.** In 2021, the county rate was 263.4 per 100,000, while the statewide rate was 382.8 per 100,000. These can be compared to the national rate of 495.5 per 100,000.\*\*

**The county incidence rate among women remained higher** compared to men. In 2021, the incidence rate of chlamydia among women in Norfolk County was 311.4 per 100,000 while men had a rate of 209.3 per 100,000.

The overall county rate and sex specific rates were consistently lower than the statewide rates.



Data are current as of 10/24/2022 and are subject to change.

Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2011 through 2020 report, Oct 2016.

Data source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health/Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences/Division of STD Prevention.

**The chlamydia statewide and county incidence rate is highest among young adults**. In 2021, the incidence rate of chlamydia was highest among 20 to 24-year-olds in Norfolk County (1,665.7 per 100,000).

**Gonorrhea**

Gonorrhea is the second most frequently reported STI both in the Commonwealth and nationally.

**Since 2011, there has been an overall increase in gonorrhea cases statewide and in Norfolk County.** In 2021, the county rate was 63.4 per 100,000, while the overall state rate was 115.2 per 100,000. These can be compared to the national rate of 214.0 per 100,000.\*\*

**The county incidence rate among men remained higher compared** to women. In 2021, men accounted for 72.3% of all gonorrhea cases in Norfolk County with a rate of 92.8 per 100,000 while women had a rate of 35.6 per 100,000.

In 2020, the overall county rate, and the rate among Norfolk County men decreased, while the statewide rate and rate among Norfolk County women increased.



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Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2011 through 2020 report, Oct 2016.

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**The gonorrhea statewide and county incidence rate is highest among young adults.** In 2021, the number of cases and the incidence rate of gonorrhea in Norfolk County was highest among 20 to 24-year-olds (252.4 per 100,000).



Data are current as of 10/24/2022 and are subject to change.

Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2011 through 2020 report, Oct 2016.

Data source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health/Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences/Division of STD Prevention

**Early Syphilis◊**

Early syphilis has been on the rise in the Commonwealth and nationally since the early 2000s.‡

**Since 2011, the statewide and county rates of reported syphilis has continued to increase.** In 2021, the county rate was 12.0 per 100,000, while the statewide rate was 19.2 per 100,000. These can be compared to the national rate of 31.8 per 100,000.\*\*

**The early syphilis county rate among men was much higher** compared to the rate among women. In 2021, men accounted for 88.5% of all early syphilis cases with a rate of 22.0 per 100,000 while women had a rate of 2.7 per 100,000.



Data are current as of 10/24/2022 and are subject to change.

Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2011 through 2020 report, Oct 2016.

Data source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health/Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences/Division of STD Prevention.

**In 2021, the highest incidence rate of early syphilis in Norfolk County was reported among 40 to 44-year-olds** (33.1 per 100,000).



Data are current as of 10/24/2022 and are subject to change.

Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2011 through 2020 report, Oct 2016.

Data source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health/Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences/Division of STD Prevention

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\* 2020 population estimates were used to calculate 2021 disease rates throughout this report because 2021 population estimates had not been released at the time this report was published.

‡ Source: CDC: Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2021.

◊ Early syphilis is defined as primary, secondary and early syphilis not diagnosed in the primary or secondary stages within one year of infection.

§ Please note the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2021 data.

**2021 Statewide Massachusetts**

Chlamydia cases have increased by 38% from 2011 to 2019 and decreased by 22% in 2020 before increasing by 9% in 2021. This is possibly due to factors such as increased service utilization after health care clinics re-opened following the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Gonorrhea cases have increased 245% from 2011 to 2021 and was reported primarily among men.

Early syphilis cases have increased 170% from 2011 to 2021. From 2016 to 2021, a range of 31% to 39% of early syphilis cases were co-infected with HIV. In 2019, 2020, and 2021 congenital syphilis cases numbered 9, 10, and 9, respectively, after remaining between 0 and 4 from 2011 to 2018.