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

**Summary for Bristol County, Massachusetts, 2021**

Berkshire County is a county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, established in 1761. Berkshire County is one of the eight counties in Massachusetts that exist only as a historical geographic region and has no county government. In 2020, the population was 129,026 (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 Bristol County, with the exception of 2020 due to COVID-19**§. In 2021, the county rate was 345.5 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 than that of men.** In 2021, the incidence rate of chlamydia among women in Bristol County was 447.9 per 100,000 while men had a rate that was nearly half that (234.3 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.

**The chlamydia statewide incidence rate is highest among young adults.** In 2021, the incidence rate of chlamydia was highest among 20 to 24-year-olds in Bristol County (2,044.2 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 Bristol County.** In 2021, the county rate was 107.9 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.‡

**Since 2012, the county incidence rate among men remained higher** compared to women. In 2021, men accounted for 55.8% of all gonorrhea cases in Bristol County with a rate of 124.6 per 100,000 while women had a rate of 92.3 per 100,000

**In 2021, the county incidence rate for males rebounded and surpassed the overall statewide rate, after dipping below the statewide rate in 2020 for the first time since 2014.**



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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 statewide and county incidence rate of gonorrhea is highest among young adults.** In 2021, the number of cases and the incidence rate of gonorrhea in Bristol County was highest among 20 to 24-year-olds (505.7 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

**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 22.1 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 county rate of early syphilis among men was much higher** compared to the rate among women. In 2021, men accounted for 90.6% of all early syphilis cases in the county with a rate of 41.4 per 100,000 that was ten times that of women (4.0 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 of early syphilis in Bristol County was reported among 30 to 34-year-olds** (68.6 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.