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

**Summary for Bristol County, Massachusetts, 2022**

Bristol County is a county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, established in 1685. Bristol County was named after its “shire town” (county seat), Bristol. In 2020, the population was 579,200 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020\*).

**Chlamydia**

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

**Since 2012, there has been an overall increase in reported chlamydia cases statewide except for 2020 due to COVID-19†, overall ranging from 23,930 cases in 2012 to 28,384 cases in 2022†**. Bristol county also experienced an overall increase in reported chlamydia cases, ranging from 1,672 in 2012 to 2,001 in 2022. In 2022, the county incidence rate of chlamydia infection was 339.8 per 100,000, while the statewide rate was 403.8 per 100,000. These can be compared to the national rate of 495.0 per 100,000.‡

Incidence rate of reported chlamydia cases per 100,000 population by sex, Bristol County, MA, 2012–2022.

Graph above depicts chlamydia rates (per 100,000) in MA and Bristol County by sex between 2012 and 2022. There are four lines: (1) MA rates begins at 358.5 and finishes at 403.8; (2) Bristol County rates begins at 302.5 and finishes at 339.8; (3) Bristol female rates begin at 420.2 and finishes at 425.2; (4) Bristol male rates begin at 176.6 and finish at 247.5.

Data are current as 12/15/2023 and are subject to change.

Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2012 through 2020 report, Oct 2016.

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

**The county incidence rate among females remained higher than that of males.** In 2022, the incidence rate of chlamydia among females in Bristol County was 425.2 per 100,000 while males had a rate that was nearly half that (247.5 per 100,000).

**The chlamydia statewide incidence rate is highest among young adults.** In 2022, the incidence rate of chlamydia was highest among 20-to-24-year-olds in Bristol County (2,011.8 per 100,000).

**Gonorrhea**

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

**Since 2012, there has been an overall increase in reported gonorrhea cases statewide, ranging from 2,665 cases in 2012 to 9,129 cases in 2022.** Bristol County also experienced an overall increase in reported gonorrhea cases, ranging from 139 cases in 2012 to 731 cases in 2022. In 2022, the county incidence rate of gonorrhea infection was 126.2 per 100,000, while the overall state rate was 129.9 per 100,000. These can be compared to the national rate of 194.4 per 100,000.‡

**Since 2012, the county incidence rate among males remained higher** compared to females. In 2022, males accounted for 56.2% of all gonorrhea cases in Bristol County with a rate of 146.4 per 100,000 while females had a rate of 107.0 per 100,000.

Incidence rate of reported gonorrhea cases per 100,000 population by sex, Bristol County, MA, 2012–2022.

Graph above depicts gonorrhea rates (per 100,000) in MA and Bristol County by gender between 2012 and 2022. There are four lines: (1) MA rates begins at 39.9 and finishes at 129.9; (2) Bristol County rates begins at 25.2 and finishes at 126.2; (3) Bristol female rates begin at 22.1 and finishes at 107.0; (4) Bristol male rates begin at 28.4 and finish at 146.4.

Data are current as of 12/15/2023 and are subject to change.

Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2012 through 2020 report, Oct 2016.

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

**Since 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.**

**The statewide and county incidence rate of gonorrhea is highest among young adults.** In 2022, the number of cases and the incidence rate of gonorrhea in Bristol County was highest among 20-to-24-year-olds (459.7 per 100,000).

Incidence rate of reported gonorrhea cases per 100,000 population by sex and age, Statewide, MA, 2012, 2022.

This graph shows the highest gonorrhea rate among male in 2012 was in the 20-24 year-old age group, which shifted to the 35-39-year-old age group by 2022. Among females, the age group with the highest gonorrhea rate was 20–24-year-olds during 2012 and 2022. 


Data are current as of 12/15/2023 and are subject to change.

Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2012 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 2012, there has been an overall statewide increase of reported early syphilis** **cases, ranging from 561 cases in 2012 to 1,593 cases in 2022**. Bristol County also experienced an overall increase of reported early syphilis cases, ranging from 26 cases in 2012 to 83 cases in 2022.

**Since 2012, the statewide and county rates of reported syphilis have continued to increase.** However, in 2022, the county incidence rate of early syphilis infection decreased to 14.3 per 100,000, compared to 22.1 per 100,000 in 2021.The statewide rate was 22.7 per 100,000. These can be compared to the national rate of 41.2 per100,000.‡

**The county rate of early syphilis among males was much higher** compared to the rate among females. In 2022, males accounted for 81.9% of all early syphilis cases in the county with a rate of 24.3 per 100,000 that was almost five times that of females (5.0 per 100,000).

Incidence rate of early syphilis cases per 100,000 population by sex, Bristol County, MA, 2012–2022.

Graph above depicts syphilis rates (per 100,000) in MA and Bristol County by gender between 2012 and 2022. There are four lines: (1) MA rates begins at 8.4
and finishes at 22.7; (2) Bristol County rates begins at 4.7 and finishes at 14.3; (3) Bristol female rates begin at 0.7 and finishes at 5.0; (4) Bristol male rates begin at 9.0 and finish at 24.3.


Data are current as of 12/15/2023 and are subject to change.

Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2012 through 2020 report, Oct 2016.

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

**In 2022, the highest incidence of early syphilis in Bristol County was reported among 25-to-29-year-olds** (37.1 per 100,000).

Incidence rate of reported early syphilis per 100,000 population by sex and age, Statewide, MA, 2012, 2022.

This graph shows the highest early syphilis rate among males in 2012 and 2022 was in the 30-34-year-old age group. The highest early syphilis among females in 2012 was in the 25–29-year-old age group, which shifted to the 35–39-year-old age group by 2022. 


Data are current as of 12/152023 and are subject to change.

Population denominators: Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2012 through 2020 report, Oct 2016.

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

**2022 Statewide Massachusetts**

Chlamydia cases have increased by 32% from 2012 to 2019 and decreased by 22% in 2020. From 2020 to 2022, there was a 15% increase in cases. This is possibly due to factors such as increased service utilization after health care clinics reopened following the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Gonorrhea cases have increased 243% from 2012 to 2022 and was reported primarily among males.

Early syphilis cases have increased 184% from 2012 to 2022. From 2017 to 2022, a range of 25% (in 2022) to 37% (in 2017) of early syphilis cases were co-infected with HIV. In 2020, 2021, and 2022 congenital syphilis cases numbered 10, 9, and 11, respectively, after remaining between 0 and 4 from 2011 to 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*2020 population estimates were used to calculate 2022 disease rates throughout this report because 2022 population estimates had not been released at the time this report was published.

†Please note the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2022 data.

‡Source: CDC: Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2022.

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