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

**Summary for Franklin County, Massachusetts, 2021**

Franklin County is a county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, established in 1811. In 2020, the population was 71,029 making it the smallest county on the Massachusetts mainland in terms of population (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, with the exception of 2020 due to COVID-19**§. However, Franklin County rate has fluctuated around a rate of 200 per 100,000, with a rate of 143.6 per 100,000 in 2021 while the statewide rate was 382.8 per 100,000.These can be compared to the national rate of 495.5 per100,000.‡

**The county incidence rate among women remained higher** compared to men. In 2021, the incidence rate of chlamydia among women in Franklin County was 170.2 per 100,000 while the rate among men was 112.7 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.

**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 Franklin County (1,289.3 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 Franklin County.** In 2021, the county rate was 45.1 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.‡

For the first time since 2015, in 2021 females accounted for the majority (53.1%) of gonorrhea cases in Franklin County with a rate of 46.7 per 100,000. The rate for men was 43.4 per 100,000.



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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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**In 2021, the incidence rate of gonorrhea in Franklin County was highest among 20 to 24-year-olds** (224.2 per 100,000).



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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

**Early Syphilis◊**

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

**In 2020, Franklin County reached a peak in the number of early syphilis per year with 6 cases** (8.4 per 100,000). In 2021, the county dropped to 2 cases and the county rate was 2.8 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. ‡



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.

Age and gender specific information for Franklin County is suppressed, and therefore not stated in this report.



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.