

Sexually transmitted infections in England, 2021

In 2021 there were

311,604

diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) made in England

Chlamydia **51%**

Gonorrhoea **16%**

Genital warts **9%**

Other STIs **23%**

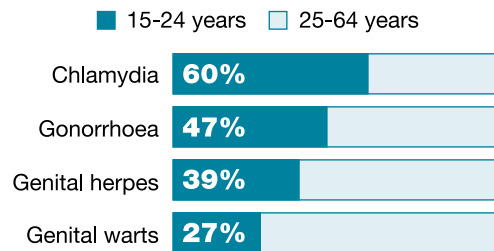
Note: 2021 data are affected by the reconfiguration of sexual health services during the national response to COVID-19

Percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding

Young heterosexuals are more likely to be diagnosed with an STI



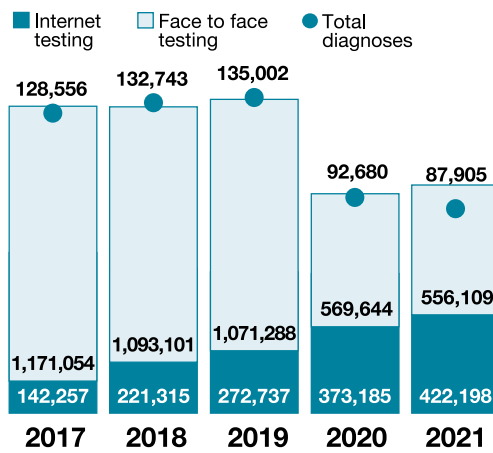
Among heterosexuals attending sexual health services, most chlamydia diagnoses were in people aged 15 to 24 years



Among heterosexuals aged 15 to 24 years, men are **three** and women are **five** times more likely to be diagnosed with an STI than their counterparts aged 25 to 64 years

Among people aged 15 to 24, in 2021 there was 4% increase in chlamydia tests and a 5% decrease in chlamydia diagnoses compared to 2020

The proportion of diagnoses made through Internet services increased from 36% in 2020 to 40% in 2021



Diagnoses of infectious syphilis (primary, secondary, early latent) increased between 2020 and 2021

Syphilis **8.4%**

Diagnoses of gonorrhoea increased between 2020 and 2021

Gonorrhoea **1.7%**

Neisseria gonorrhoeae has developed resistance to all antibiotics used for treatment, and is a high priority organism on the World Health Organization's global priority list of antibiotic-resistant bacteria



Ceftriaxone monotherapy is currently recommended as first-line therapy for gonorrhoea. While there was a trend towards improved ceftriaxone susceptibility among *N. gonorrhoeae* isolates in 2020, 4 ceftriaxone-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae* isolates were detected in the UK between December 2021 and February 2022



Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) are more likely to be diagnosed with bacterial STIs than other men

The majority of syphilis and gonorrhoea diagnoses in men were in GBMSM*

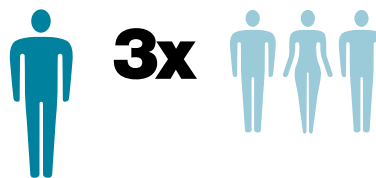
80% of syphilis

71% of gonorrhoea

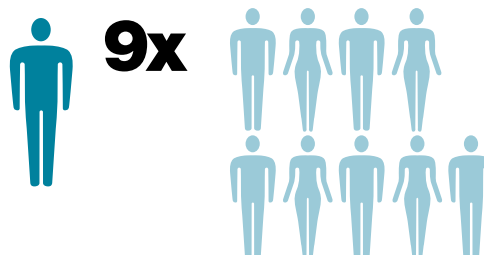
HIV-diagnosed MSM are **at least twice** more likely to be diagnosed with an acute bacterial STI than those that are HIV-negative or of unknown HIV status

People of Black ethnicity are disproportionately affected by STIs

The rate of **gonorrhoea** in people of Black ethnicity is 3x that of the general population



For **trichomoniasis**, the rate in people of Black ethnicity is 9x that of the general population



* The number of STI diagnoses in GBMSM in 2021 was adjusted to account for incomplete reporting of some sexual orientation data (please see the Technical Note in the annual report for full details)