Sexually transmitted infections in England, 2022

In 2022 there were 392,453 diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) made in England.

- Chlamydia: 51%
- Gonorrhoea: 21%
- Genital warts: 7%
- Other STIs: 22%

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 and gonorrhoea diagnoses were in people aged 15 to 24 years.

- 15-24 years: 63%
- 25-64 years: 37%

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

Among women aged 15 to 24, in 2022 there was a 1% decrease in chlamydia tests and a 22% increase in chlamydia diagnoses compared to 2021.

The proportion of diagnoses in women made through Internet services increased from 42% in 2021 to 44% in 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.

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

- 81% of syphilis
- 68% of gonorrhoea

People of Black ethnicity are disproportionately affected by STIs.

The rate of gonorrhoea in people of Black ethnicity is 2x that of the general population.

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 2021, 9 ceftriaxone-resistant N. gonorrhoeae isolates were detected in the UK between January and June 2022.

The number of gonorrhoea diagnoses in 2022 was the largest annual number reported since records began, while the number of syphilis diagnoses was the largest annual number reported since 1948.

Infectious syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent) is increasing in both GBMSM, and heterosexual people.

© Crown copyright 2023
UKHSA publication number GOV-14785