

STI/HIV/Hepatitis B & C Update

2022

Louisiana

STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program State Profile, 2022 Update

Data Inclusion: Each profile contains new diagnoses of HIV, primary & secondary syphilis, early non-primary non-secondary syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, congenital syphilis, acute hepatitis B, chronic hepatitis B, acute hepatitis C, and chronic hepatitis C in Louisiana, 2022. Profiles are available for the state of Louisiana and all nine Public Health Regions. Data are reported as counts, proportions, and rates as defined below.

Data Sources: All data were collected and managed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of Public Health (OPH), STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program (SHHP) and closed between June-August 2023 for use in these profiles. At the time of this report, 2021 Census data were used to calculate rates.

STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program (SHHP) Mission and Vision:

SHHP MISSION

Our mission is to end the impacts of HIV, STI, and hepatitis by eliminating related health inequities and stigma for all communities in Louisiana.

SHHP VISION

Louisiana is a place where new HIV, STI and hepatitis diagnoses are rare, all people have high-quality health care and treatment, are free from discrimination, and can achieve their full potential for health and well-being across their lifespan.

Data Definitions:

Counts: Counts, also called frequencies, are the total number of events that occur in a defined period of time. The total number of diagnoses of gonorrhea reported in Louisiana during 2022 would be an example of a count or frequency, e.g. in 2022, 15,015 diagnoses of gonorrhea were reported in Louisiana.

Proportions: For many indicators, the proportion or percent of demographic groups is presented. This is calculated using the count of a subpopulation divided by the total case count. The proportion of gonorrhea diagnoses among males in 2022 is calculated by taking the count of gonorrhea diagnoses among males and dividing by the total count of gonorrhea diagnoses, and multiplying by 100. e.g. in 2022, 56% of gonorrhea diagnoses in Louisiana were among males.

Rates: Rates are the number of events that occur in a defined period of time, divided by the average population at risk of that event. In order to estimate the rate of gonorrhea in Louisiana during 2022, divide the count of gonorrhea diagnoses in 2022 by Louisiana's population (15,015 gonorrhea diagnoses divided by Louisiana's population of 4,624,047 = 0.003247). To make this value more interpretable, it is then multiplied by 100,000. The final rate is reported as 324.7 per 100,000 population. In other words, for every 100,000 people living in Louisiana, 325 were newly diagnosed with gonorrhea in 2022.

Data Disclaimers: The data within these profiles represents 2022 data as of frozen data files from June-August 2022. Please note that 2022 data may still be impacted from COVID-19.

For more information, visit the Louisiana Health Hub website at <https://louisianahealthhub.org/>.

Louisiana Demographic Summary

State Population Overview

According to the 2021 census, the state of Louisiana has 4,624,047 residents. Louisiana is divided into 64 county-equivalent units called parishes. In 2021, parish populations ranged from a low of 4,043 residents in Tensas Parish to a high of 453,301 residents in East Baton Rouge Parish.¹ While the state is considered rural, 84.3% of the population lives in urban areas. The estimated 15.7% of the population that lives in rural areas often experience poorer health outcomes and increased morbidity and mortality as compared to their urban counterparts. The 64 parishes are grouped into nine public health regions. In addition, Louisiana has nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), the largest of which is the New Orleans MSA (1,261,726), followed by the Baton Rouge MSA (851,216).¹



Demographics

According to the 2021 census, the racial and ethnic composition of Louisiana is 57.9% non-Hispanic White, 32.4% non-Hispanic Black, 1.8% non-Hispanic Asian, and 0.67% non-Hispanic Native American. Persons of Hispanic or Latinx origin make up an additional 5.6% of the population.¹

Age and Sex

According to 2021 census data, 51.0% of the population is female and 49.0% of the population is male.¹ Among Louisiana residents, 23.4% are under 18 years old, and 16.5% are 65 years or older. Young people 15 to 24 years old, comprise 12.9% of the state's population.¹

Education and Socioeconomic status

An estimated 86.7% of Louisiana residents over 25 years old have attained a high school degree or higher, and 26.4% of adults have a bachelor's degree or higher.¹ The median household income in Louisiana is \$52,087, which is lower than the national median household income of \$69,717.¹ In Louisiana, 18.8% of people live below the poverty level, compared to 12.8% nationally.^{1,3} In the 2022 United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings, Louisiana ranked 49th out of 50 for children in poverty with 27.0% of Louisiana children living in poverty as compare to 16.8% nationally.⁴ Women are also economically disadvantaged as the state ranked 48th out of 50 for women in poverty with 23.0% of Louisiana women 18-44 years old living in poverty as compared to 15.2% nationally.⁴

Health Indicators

In the 2022 United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings, Louisiana ranked 50th out of 50 in overall health in the United States.⁴ This national health survey compares a variety of health outcomes and health determinants in all state. A high premature death rate, high smoking rates, and a high economic hardship index contribute to the state's low health ranking. In addition, Louisiana has high rates of adults with obesity (35.9%) and adults with diabetes (12.6%).³ It is estimated that 14.4% of adults smoke nationally, however, 19.5% of Louisianans smoke.⁴ An estimated 24.0% of adults in Louisiana have ever been told by a health care professional they had depression or a depressive disorder.³ People in Louisiana also struggle to access mental health care. Louisianans were four times more likely to be forced out-of-network for mental health care than for primary care.⁶

In 2020, Louisiana's teen birth rate was 25.7 births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old. There are stark racial disparities in Louisiana's reproductive health outcomes.⁴ Teen pregnancy rates nearly are twice as high for Black females as compared to White females (35.3 births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old and 18.4 births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old, respectively).⁷ During pregnancy, 71.1% of pregnant people accessed prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.⁷ Pregnancy-associated mortality was twice as high among Black women as compared to White women (155.0 deaths per 100,000 live births and 80.5 deaths per 100,000 live births, respectively).⁷ The Louisiana infant mortality rate of 7.8 deaths per 1,000 live births is considerably higher than the national average of 5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births.⁴ Further, Black infants are twice as likely to experience low birth weight compared to White infants, 16.1% and 7.6%, respectively.⁷

Crime and Incarceration

In 2022, Louisiana had the 5th highest violent crime rate in the country with 639 offenses per 100,000 population as compared to 399 offenses per 100,000 population nationally.⁴ Louisiana has an incarceration rate of 1,094 per 100,000 people which is almost double the national incarceration rate of 664 per 100,000 people.⁸ At the end of 2022, 27,212 people were incarcerated with the Louisiana Department of Corrections.⁹ Approximately 64.9% of incarcerated people in Louisiana are Black and 34.6% are White.⁹ Incarcerated people in Louisiana are disproportionately impacted by mental illness. It is estimated that 40% of incarcerated adults have a history of mental illness and 70% of incarcerated youth have a mental health condition.⁶

Insurance Coverage

In 2021, 48.1% of adults in Louisiana had employer-sponsored health insurance, 31.9% were covered through Medicaid, and 10.2% were covered through Medicare.¹⁰ Uninsured adults comprise 9.4% of the state population as compared to an estimated 12.2% nationally.^{10,11} Among children, 39.1% had employer-sponsored health insurance, 53.7% were covered by Medicaid, and 6.1% were covered by Medicare.¹⁰ Only 2.6% of Louisiana children were uninsured as compared to an estimated 5.3% nationally.^{10,11} In the United States, 48.5% of the population is covered by employer-sponsored health insurance, 21.1% by Medicaid, and 14.3% by Medicare.¹¹



HIV Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

New HIV Diagnoses
857

HIV Diagnosis Rate
18.5
per 100,000 population

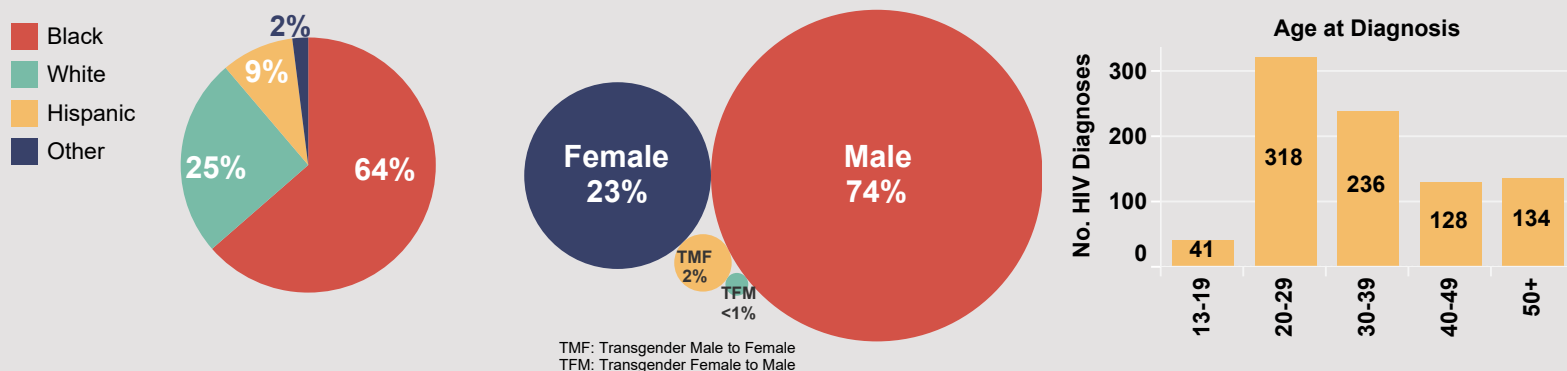
2021 National Ranking
3rd
Highest Diagnosis Rate

Of the 857 new HIV diagnoses in 2022:

The majority of diagnoses (64%) were among Black people.

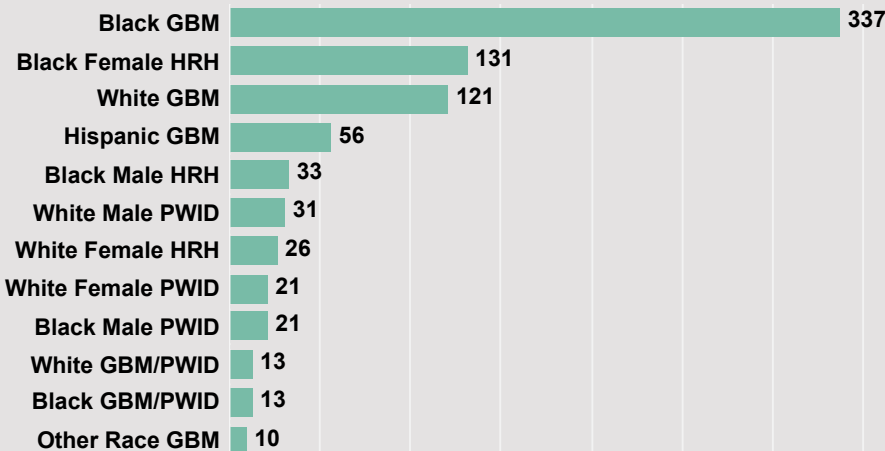
Males comprised 74% of diagnoses.

Over one-third of diagnoses (37%) were among people 20 to 29 years old.



Affected subpopulations

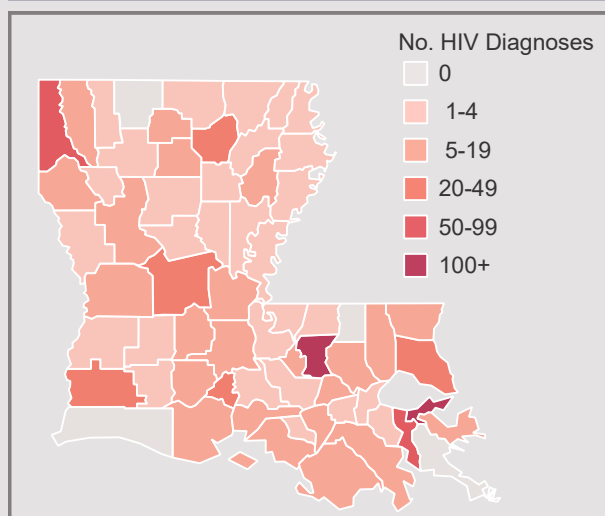
People of color and gay & bisexual men (GBM) are impacted by HIV more than other groups. Over one-third (39%) of diagnoses in 2022 were among Black GBM.



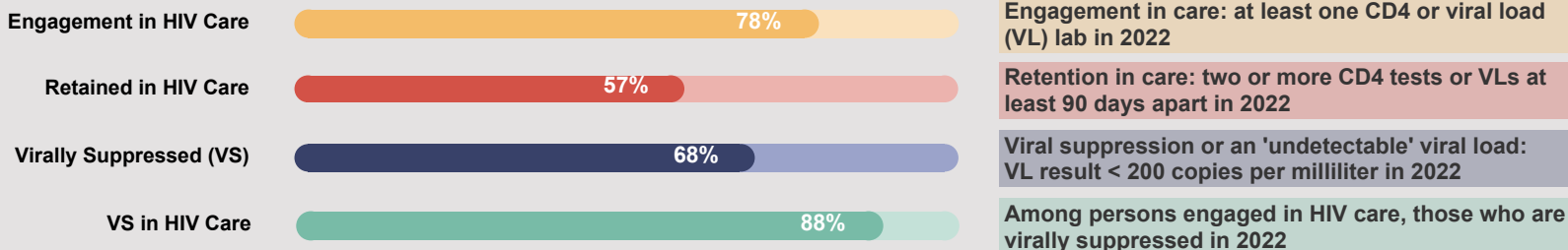
GBM = Gay & bisexual men; HRH = High risk heterosexual; PWID = People who inject drugs

Geographic distribution

Almost one-third of new HIV diagnoses in 2022 were from East Baton Rouge (15%) and Orleans (15%) parishes.



HIV Care among People Living with HIV in Louisiana in 2022:



Interpreting the Data: Please note that 2022 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

New P&S Syphilis
Diagnoses
1,225

P&S Syphilis
Diagnosis Rate
26.5
per 100,000 population

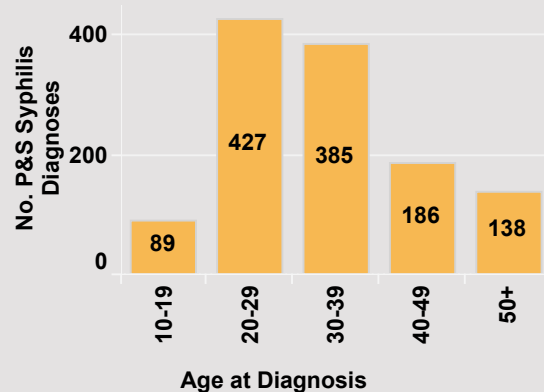
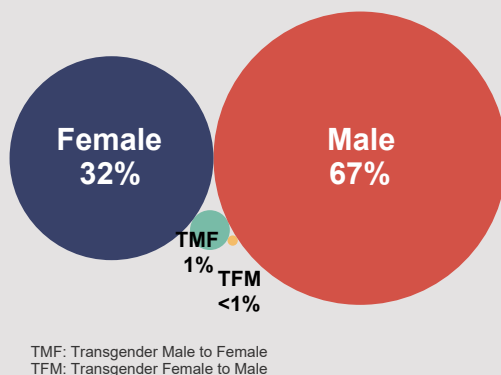
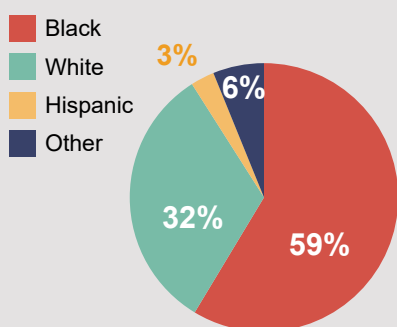
2022 National Ranking
9th
Highest Diagnosis Rate

Of the 1,225 P&S syphilis diagnoses in 2022:

The majority (59%) of diagnoses were among Black people.

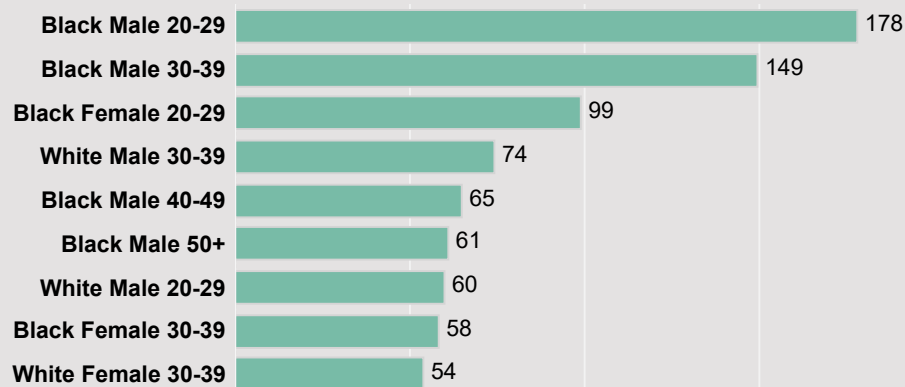
Males comprised 67% of diagnoses.

Over one-third of diagnoses (35%) were among people 20 to 29 years old.



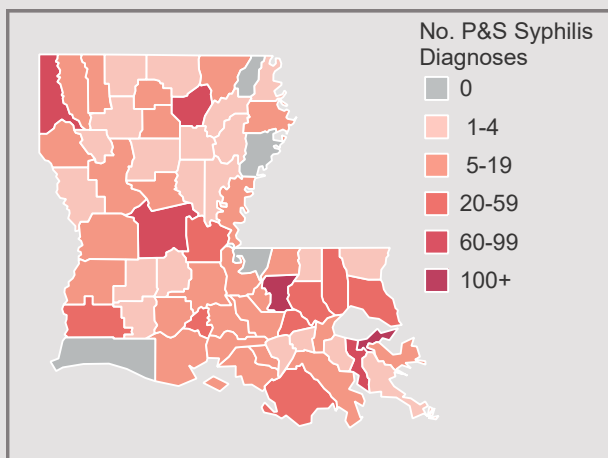
Affected subpopulations

People of color and males are impacted by P&S syphilis more than other groups. In 2022, over one-quarter (27%) of P&S syphilis diagnoses were among Black males 20-39 years old.

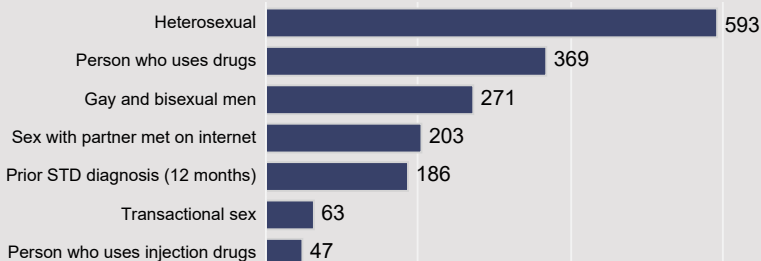


Geographic distribution

In 2022, almost one-third of new P&S diagnoses were from Orleans (16%) and East Baton Rouge (15%) parishes.



Behavioral Factors



*An individual can report more than one behavioral factor

Syphilis Treatment Guidelines

STAGE OF SYPHILIS	REGIMEN	DOSE/ROUTE
Primary, Secondary, or Early Non-Primary Non-Secondary (<12 months)	Benzathine Pencillin G*	2.4 million units IM in a single dose
Late or Unknown Duration Syphilis (>12 months)	Benzathine Penicillin G*	7.2 million units IM administered as 3 doses of 2.4 million units IM each, at 1-week intervals

*Benzathine Penicillin G is the only CDC approved treatment for pregnant women

Interpreting the Data: Please note that 2022 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Early Non-P&S Syphilis

Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

New Early Non-P&S
Syphilis Diagnoses
884

Early Non-P&S Syphilis
Diagnosis Rate
19.1
per 100,000 population

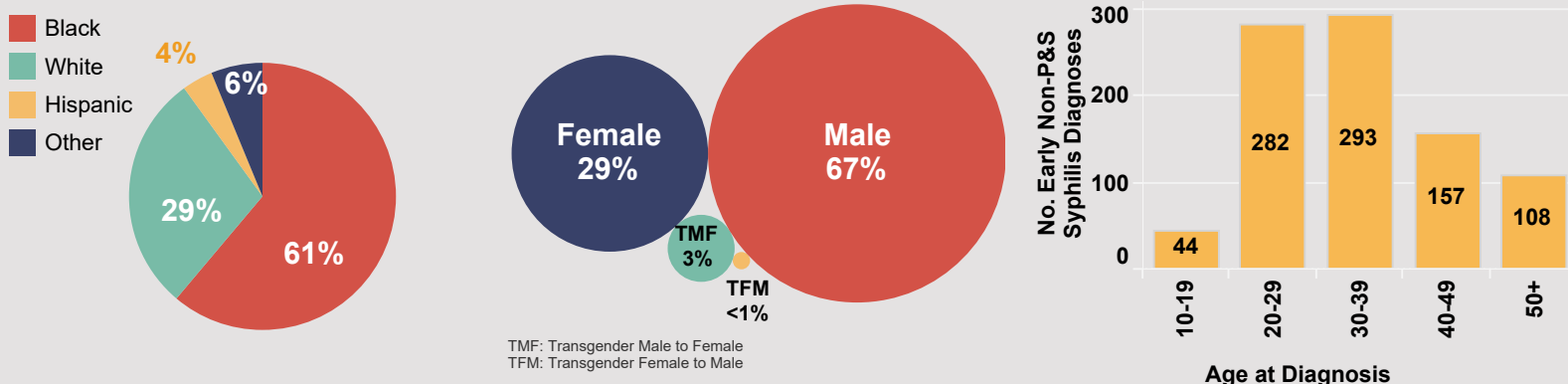
2021 National Ranking
13th
Highest Diagnosis Rate

Of the 884 early non-P&S syphilis diagnoses in 2022:

The majority (61%) of diagnoses were among Black people.

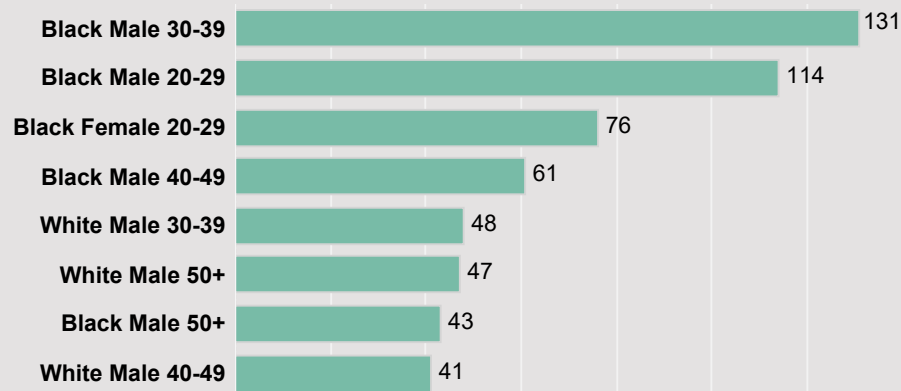
Males comprised 67% of diagnoses.

Almost two-thirds of diagnoses (65%) were 20 to 39 years old.



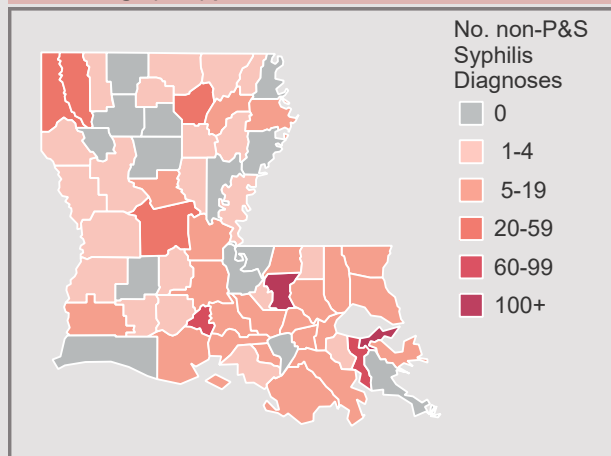
Affected subpopulations

People of color and males are impacted by early non-P&S syphilis more than other groups. In 2022, 28% of early non-P&S syphilis diagnoses were among Black males 20-39 years old.

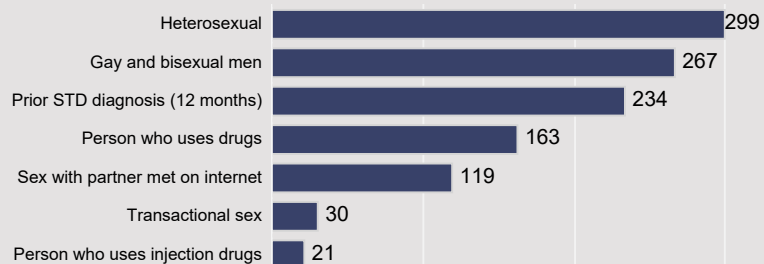


Geographic distribution

In 2022, the parishes with the highest number of early non-P&S syphilis diagnoses were Orleans (23%) and East Baton Rouge (13%) parishes.



Behavioral Factors



*An individual can report more than one behavioral factor

Syphilis Treatment Guidelines

STAGE OF SYPHILIS	REGIMEN	DOSE/ROUTE
Primary, Secondary, or Early Non-Primary Non-Secondary (<12 months)	Benzathine Pencillin G*	2.4 million units IM in a single dose
Late or Unknown Duration Syphilis (>12 months)	Benzathine Penicillin G*	7.2 million units IM administered as 3 doses of 2.4 million units IM each, at 1-week intervals

*Benzathine Penicillin G is the only CDC approved treatment for pregnant women

Interpreting the Data: Please note that 2022 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Congenital Syphilis (CS)

Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

Pregnant Mothers
Diagnosed with Syphilis
323

Congenital Syphilis Cases

115

Case count reflects the total number of individual infants

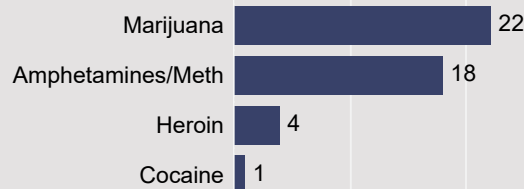
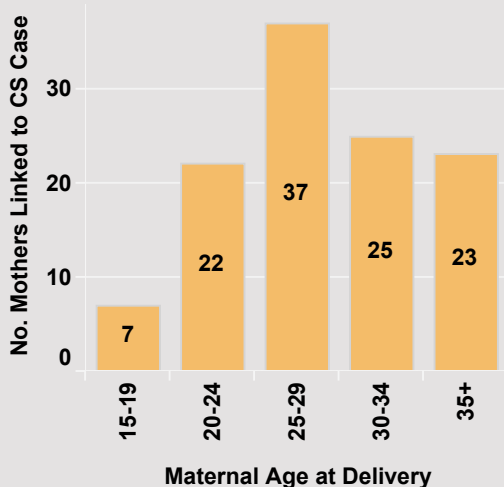
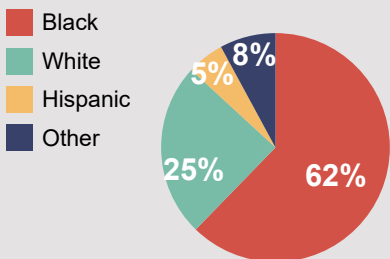
Infant Deaths Linked to
Congenital Syphilis
7

Of the 114 pregnant mothers linked to a 2022 CS case:

The majority (62%) were Black women.

Almost one-third (32%) of mothers were between 25 to 29 years of age at delivery.

Almost one-third (32%) had a positive toxicology screen during pregnancy.



1 in 490
live births were born with
CS in 2022

2022 National Ranking
7th
Highest Case Rate

Among pregnant mothers linked to a 2022 CS case:

Timely PNC 82%

Timely PNC with Timely Initial Test 93%

Timely PNC with Recommended Testing 51%

Those who received prenatal care (PNC) at least 60 days before delivery

Those who received timely PNC and were initially tested for syphilis at least 45 days before delivery

Those who received timely PNC, a timely initial test, and were re-tested for syphilis at least 45 days before delivery

Syphilis Guidelines for Pregnant Mothers

A case of congenital syphilis (CS) occurs when an infant is exposed to inadequately treated syphilis in utero or during delivery. This may result in stillbirth, death of the newborn, or significant future health and developmental problems.

Congenital syphilis is completely preventable through early detection of maternal syphilis and treatment that begins at least 30 days before delivery. Current treatment guidelines are as follows:

Primary, Secondary, or Early Non-Primary Non-Secondary Syphilis
2.4 M units benzathine penicillin (1 dose)

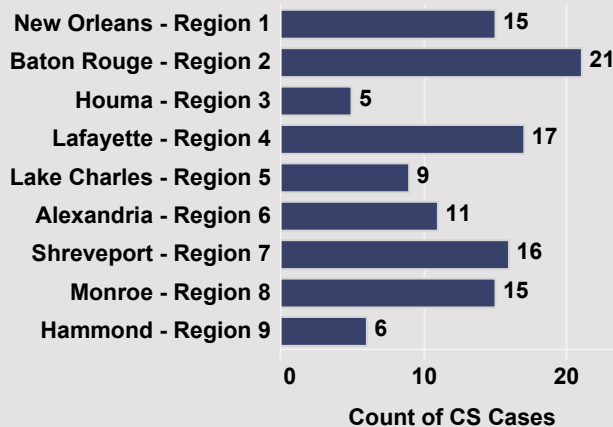
Unknown/Late Latent Syphilis
7.2 M units benzathine penicillin (3 doses, 7 days apart)

Louisiana Testing Law

Act 459 was passed in Louisiana in 2014. This requires "opt-out" syphilis and HIV testing for all women at the first prenatal visit, the 1st prenatal visit in the 3rd trimester, and at delivery (if testing/status is not noted in medical charts).

Geographic distribution

In 2022, the regions with the highest number of CS cases were Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Shreveport.





Gonorrhea Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

New Gonorrhea Diagnoses
15,015

Gonorrhea Diagnosis Rate
324.7
per 100,000 population

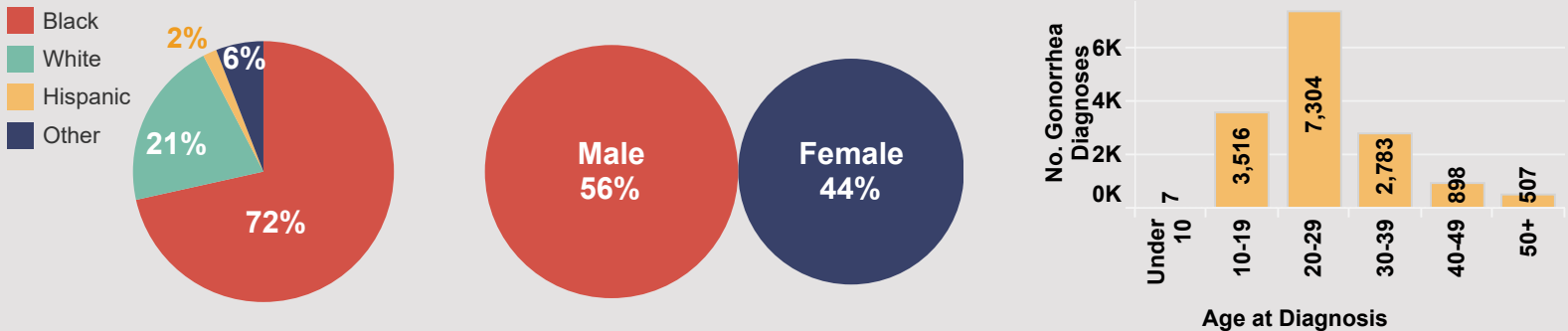
2022 National Ranking
3rd
Highest Diagnosis Rate

Of the 15,015 gonorrhea diagnoses in 2022:

The majority (72%) of diagnoses were among Black people.

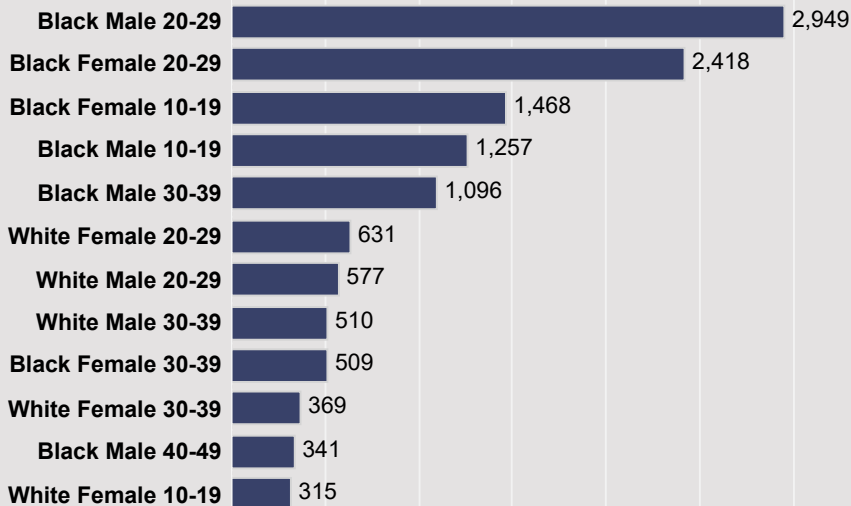
By sex at birth, males comprised 56% of diagnoses.

Almost half of diagnoses (49%) were among people 20 to 29 years old.



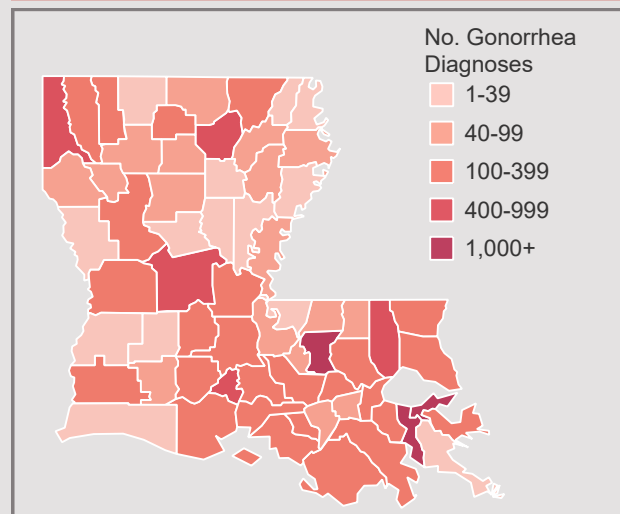
Affected subpopulations

Young people of color are impacted by gonorrhea more than other groups. Over half (54%) of gonorrhea diagnoses in 2022 were among Black people 10 to 29 years old.



Geographic distribution

In 2022, over one-third of new gonorrhea diagnoses were from Orleans (15%), East Baton Rouge (14%), and Jefferson (7%) parishes.



Gonorrhea Screening and Treatment Guidelines

Screening Recommendations:

All sexually active women and pregnant women, under 25 years of age, and sexually active women and pregnant women, 25 years of age and older, if at increased risk.

At least annually for sexually active gay and bisexual men (GBM).

Treatment:

Most cases can be treated with a single 500mg injection of ceftriaxone.

- Help minimize the threat of drug-resistant gonorrhea
- Test-of-cure for throat infections only
- Retest patients 3 months after treatment
- Treat partners



Chlamydia Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

New Chlamydia Diagnoses
36,200

Chlamydia Diagnosis Rate
782.9
per 100,000 population

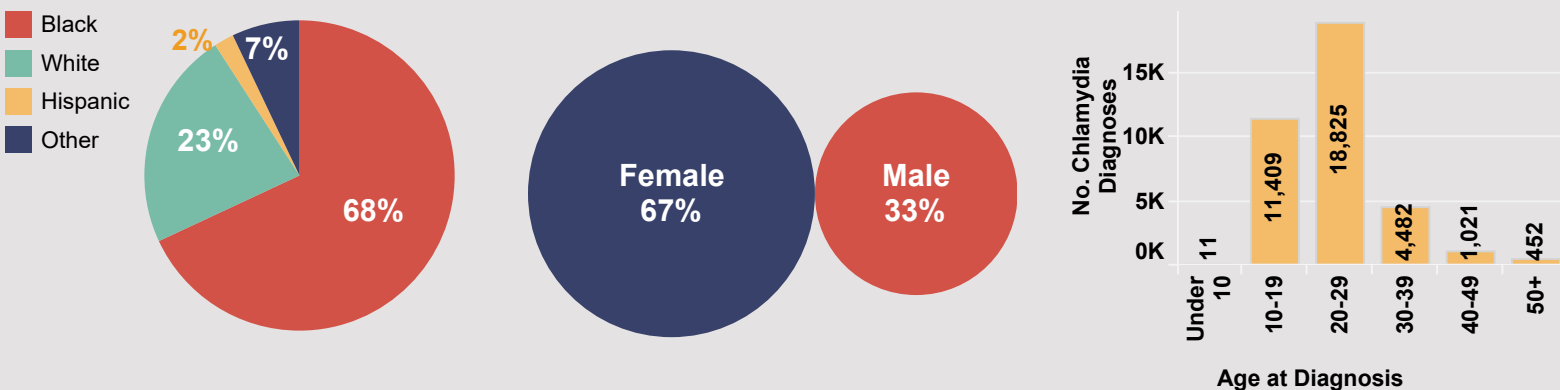
2022 National Ranking
1st
Highest Diagnosis Rate

Of the 36,200 chlamydia diagnoses in 2022:

The majority (68%) of diagnoses were among Black people.

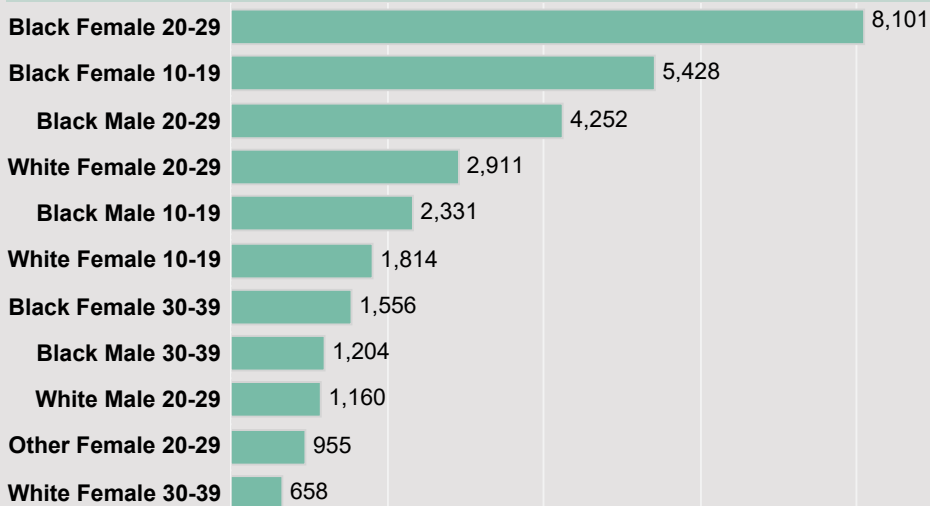
By sex at birth, females comprised 67% of diagnoses.

Over half of diagnoses (52%) were among people 20 to 29 years old.



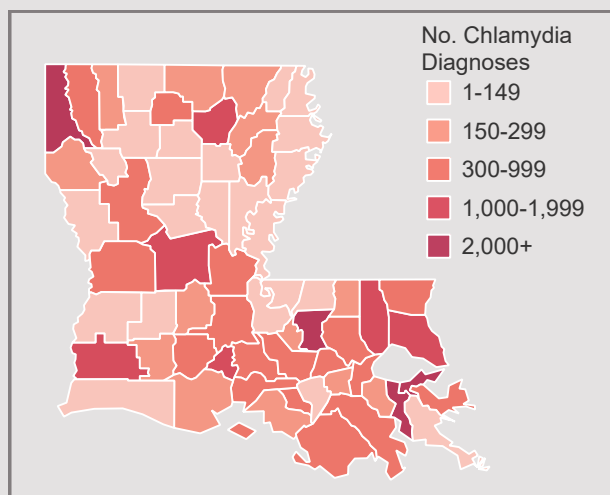
Affected subpopulations

People of color and young females are impacted by chlamydia more than other groups. Over one-third (37%) of chlamydia diagnoses in 2022 were among Black females 10 to 29 years old.



Geographic distribution

In 2022, over one-third of new chlamydia diagnoses were from East Baton Rouge (14%), Orleans (12%), Jefferson (8%), and Caddo (6%) parishes.



Chlamydia Screening and Treatment Guidelines

Screening Recommendations:

All sexually active women and pregnant women, under 25 years of age, and sexually active women and pregnant women, 25 years of age and older, if at increased risk.

At least annually for sexually active gay and bisexual men (GBM).

Treatment:

Adults and adolescents:

Recommended: Doxycycline 100 mg orally 2x/day for 7 days

Alternatives: Azithromycin 1 gm orally in a single dose OR Levofloxacin 500 mg orally 1x/day for 7 days

Pregnancy:

Recommended: Azithromycin 1 gm orally in a single dose

Alternatives: Amoxicillin 500 mg orally 3x/day for 7 days



Acute Hepatitis B Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

Acute HBV Diagnoses

29

Acute HBV Diagnosis Rate

0.6

per 100,000 population

3

acute HBV diagnoses
reported recent injection
drug use

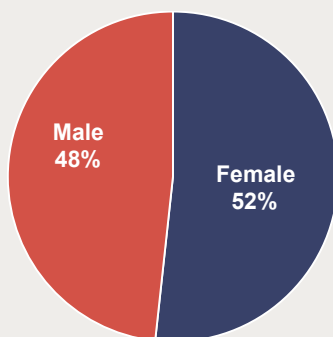
Of the 29 acute HBV diagnoses in 2022:

52% of diagnoses were female.

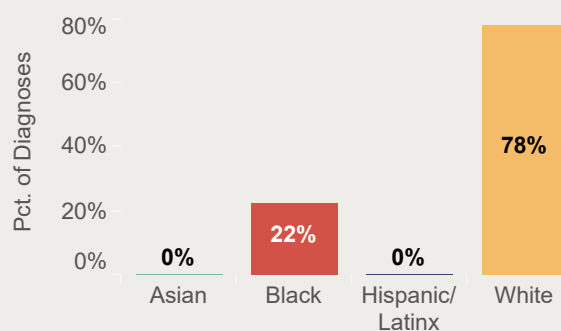
78% of diagnoses were among White people and
22% of diagnoses were among Black people.

65% of diagnoses were
between 40-59 years old.

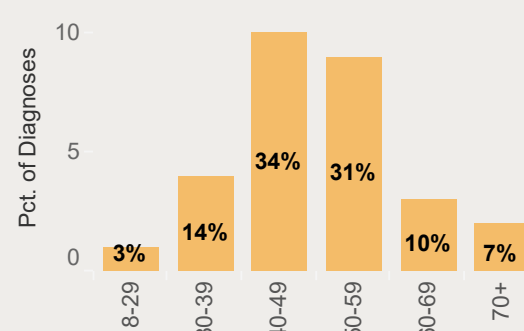
BirthSex



Race/Ethnicity

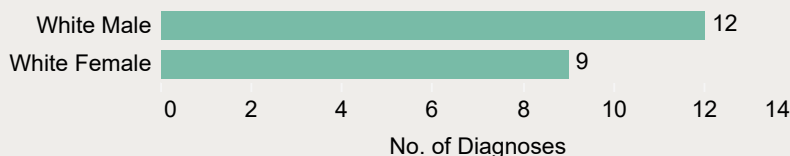


AgeGroup



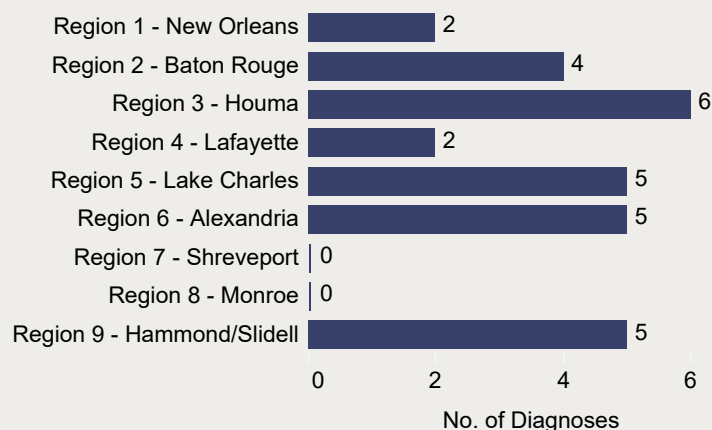
Affected Subpopulations

White males and White females had the highest number of acute HBV diagnoses.



Geographic distribution

The Houma Region had the largest number of diagnoses, followed by the Lake Charles, Alexandria and Hammond/Slidell regions.



Prevention and Treatment

A safe and effective vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis B. The most common ways that hepatitis B is spread is by injection drug use and sexual contact. HBV can also be spread during childbirth if appropriate prophylaxis isn't given. Some people may clear HBV on their own, while others will progress to a long-term chronic illness. For those who progress to a chronic illness, treatment is available to prevent liver damage, but it is not curative.



Chronic Hepatitis B Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

Chronic HBV Diagnoses

920

Chronic HBV Diagnosis Rate

19.9

per 100,000 population

Driven by HBV & HCV, Louisiana had the **3rd** highest rate of liver and bile duct cancers and **4th** highest rate of death from liver and bile duct cancers (2018).

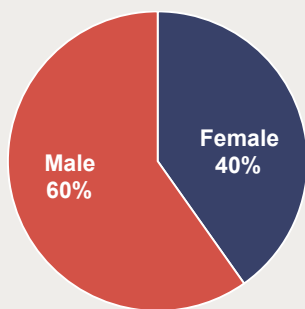
Of the 920 new chronic HBV diagnoses in 2022:

60% of diagnoses were male.

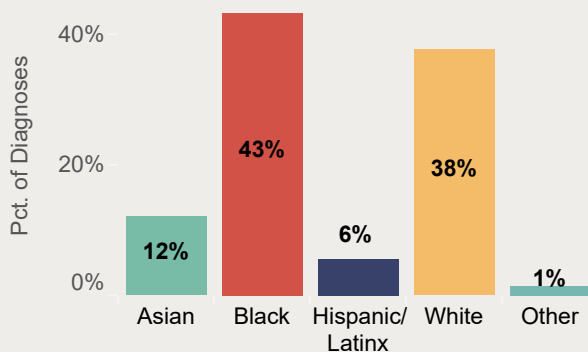
43% of diagnoses were among Black people and 38% of diagnoses among White people.

People 30-59 years old accounted for the majority of diagnoses.

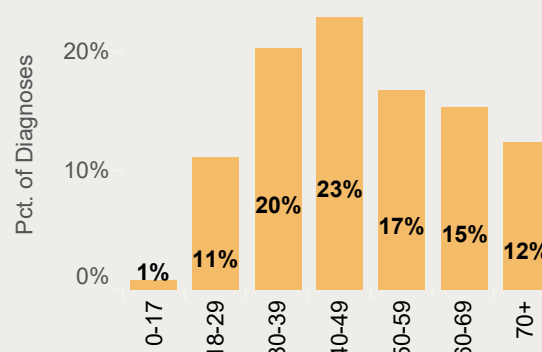
BirthSex



Race/Ethnicity



AgeGroup



Affected Subpopulations

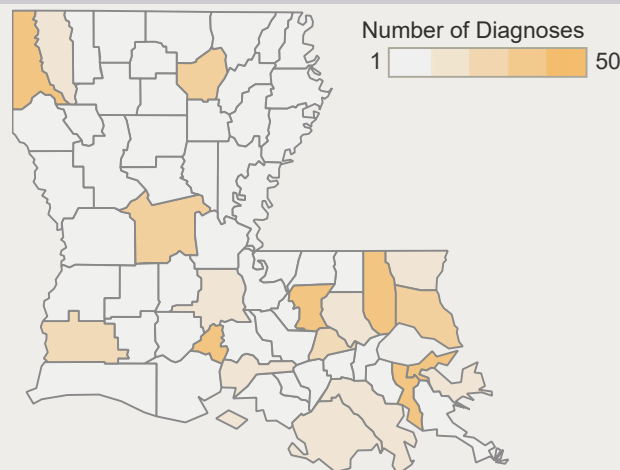
White males 40-49 and Black males 50-59 had the highest number of chronic HBV diagnoses.

White Male 40-49	50
Black Male 50-59	50
Black Male 40-49	49
Black Male 60-69	46
Black Male 30-39	38
White Male 50-59	37
Black Female 40-49	35
White Male 60-69	33
Black Female 30-39	33
White Male 30-39	31

Number of Diagnoses

Geographic distribution

East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans Parish had the highest number of chronic HBV diagnoses.



Prevention and Treatment

A safe and effective vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis B. The most common ways that hepatitis B is spread is by injection drug use and sexual contact. HBV can also be spread during childbirth if appropriate prophylaxis isn't given. Some people may clear HBV on their own, while others will progress to a long-term chronic illness. For those who progress to a chronic illness, treatment is available to prevent liver damage, but it is not curative.

Interpreting the Data: Please note that 2022 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Acute Hepatitis C Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

Acute HCV Diagnoses

165

Acute HCV Diagnosis Rate

3.6

per 100,000 population

43

acute HCV diagnoses reported
recent injection drug use

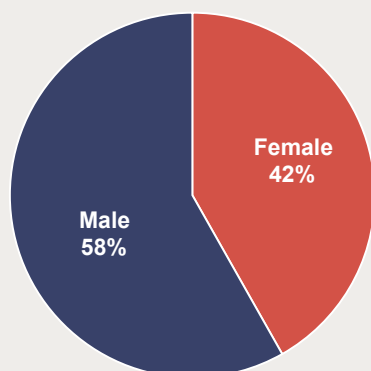
Of the 165 acute HCV diagnoses in 2022:

58% of diagnoses were male.

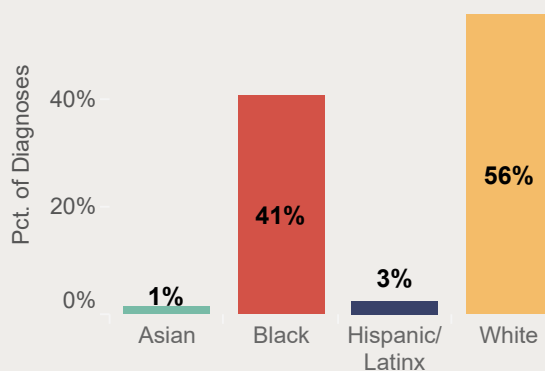
56% of diagnoses occurred in White people
and 41% in Black people.

The majority of diagnoses were among people
18-39 years old.

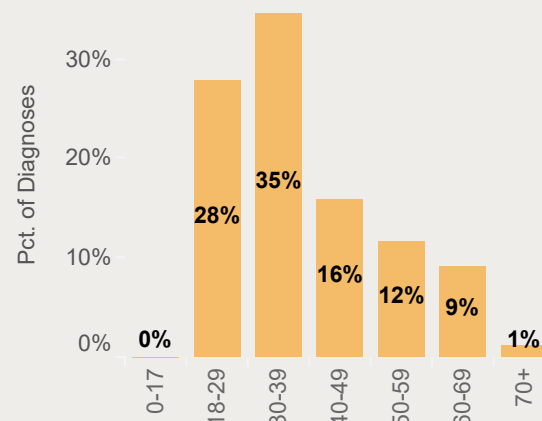
Birth Sex



Race/Ethnicity

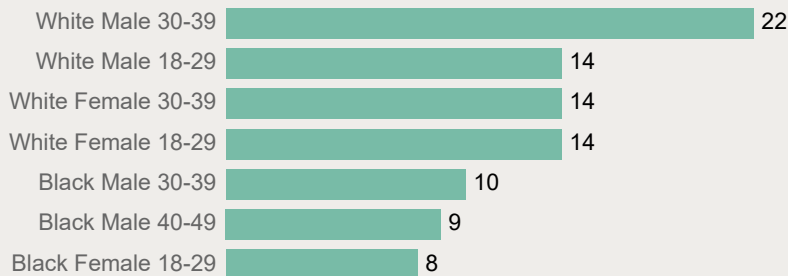


Age at Diagnosis



Affected Subpopulations

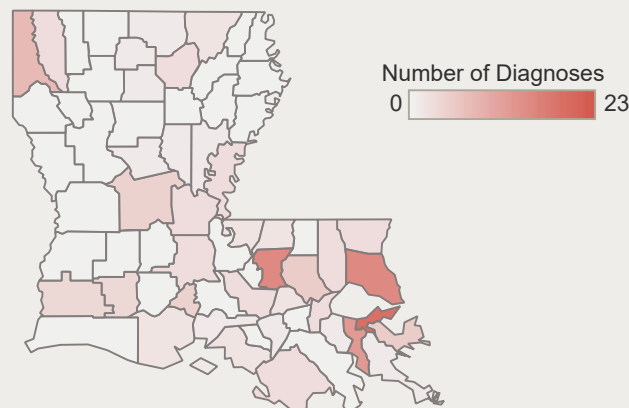
White males 30-39 had the highest number of acute HCV diagnoses.



Number of Diagnoses

Geographic Distribution

East Baton Rouge, St. Tammany, Orleans, and Jefferson Parishes had the highest number of new diagnoses.



Hepatitis C: A Disease We Can Cure

The Louisiana Department of Health is committed to creating a "Hep C Free Louisiana" where hepatitis C is no longer a threat to public health, the quality of life for our citizens is improved, and health inequities related to hepatitis C are eliminated. Getting tested is the first step in eliminating HCV. CDC recommends universal testing of **ALL** adults for hepatitis C at least once in their lifetime. Visit louisianahealthhub.org to find out where to get tested & treated.



Chronic Hepatitis C Annual Summary - 2022

Louisiana

Chronic HCV Diagnoses

4,132

Chronic HCV Diagnosis Rate

89.4

per 100,000 population

Driven by HBV & HCV, Louisiana had the **3rd** highest rate of liver and bile duct cancers and **4th** highest rate of death from liver and bile duct cancers (2018).

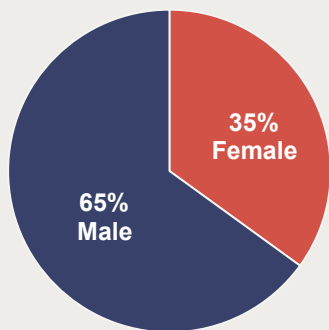
Of the 4,132 new chronic HCV diagnoses in 2022:

Males comprised 65% of diagnoses.

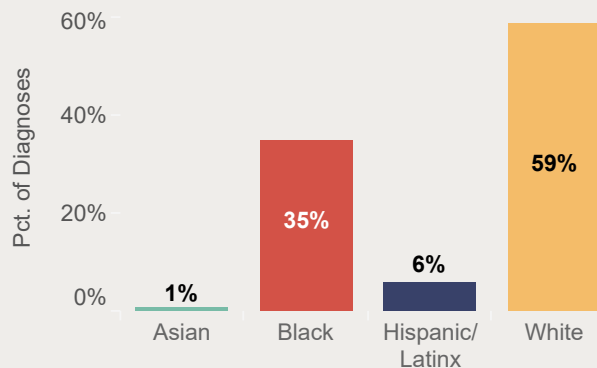
59% of diagnoses were among White people and 34% of diagnoses were among Black people

The highest percentage of diagnoses were among people 60-69 and 30-39 years old.

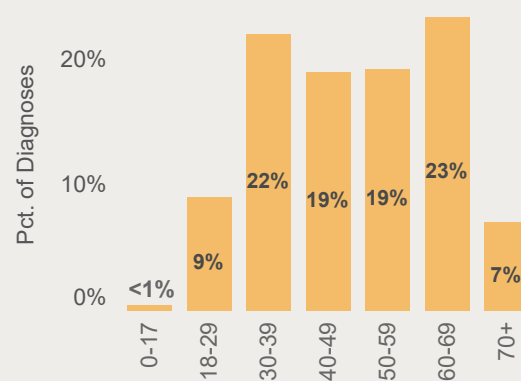
Birth Sex



Race/Ethnicity

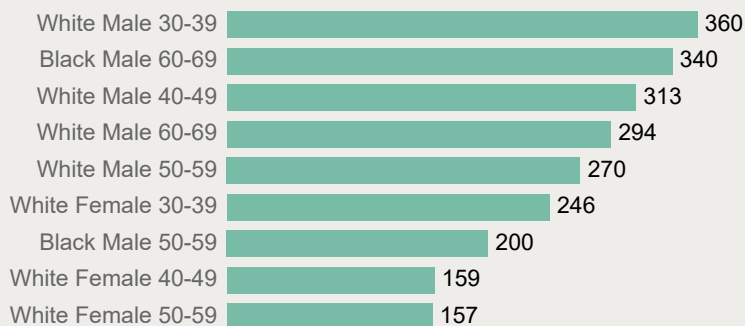


Age at Diagnosis



Affected Subpopulations

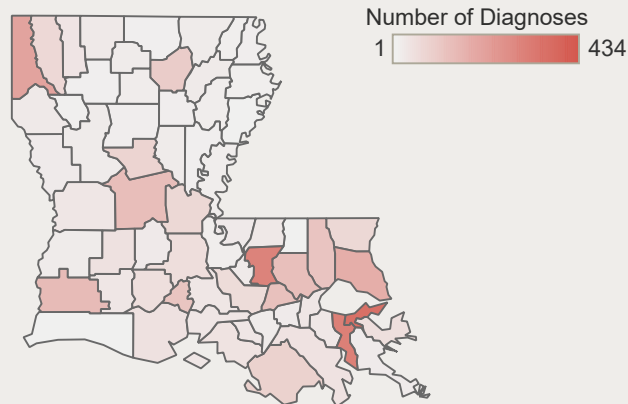
White males 30 to 39 years old and Black males 60 to 69 years old had the highest number of diagnoses.



Number of Diagnoses

Geographic Distribution

East Baton Rouge, Orleans, and Jefferson Parish had the highest number of diagnoses.



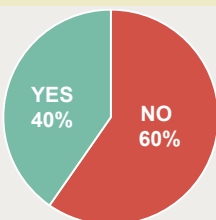
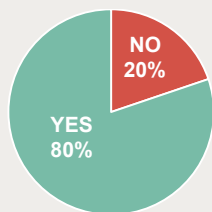
Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment

In 2022, 80% of individuals with positive diagnostic tests also had confirmatory testing done.

As of December 2022, 40% of individuals with confirmed HCV have evidence of an HCV negative lab and have cleared the virus.

HCV antibody testing with reflex to confirmatory testing, HCV RNA test, should be utilized to ensure complete diagnostic testing. Doing so, reduces the number of required healthcare visits and streamlines treatment.

A safe and effective treatment is available to cure hepatitis C. Treatment for hepatitis C is available at no cost for everyone enrolled in Medicaid and people who are incarcerated in Louisiana. Visit louisianahealthhub.org to find out more.



Interpreting the Data: Please note that 2022 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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