

# Central Texas Community Health Report

Fiscal Year 2022

September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022



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Austin, TX 78751

[www.texashealthaction.org](http://www.texashealthaction.org)

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**Kind Clinic, a program of Texas Health Action, advances sexual health wellness through locations across Texas by providing healthcare in a safe and supportive environment.**

**Kind Clinic Services:** PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis), Gender Affirming Care, HIV Medical Care, Chronic Hepatitis C Treatment, Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and treatment, community-based services with mobile STI and HIV testing.

### **Community Health Program**

Kind Clinic's Community Health Program is responsible for providing HIV/STI testing and treatment, and condom distribution at our walk-in testing center located at 101 W. Koenig Ln Austin, TX 78751, and community events via field testing or a mobile testing vehicle. STI testing includes HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and hepatitis C. Community Health Walk-In Testing operates separately from Kind Clinic locations in Central and South Austin.

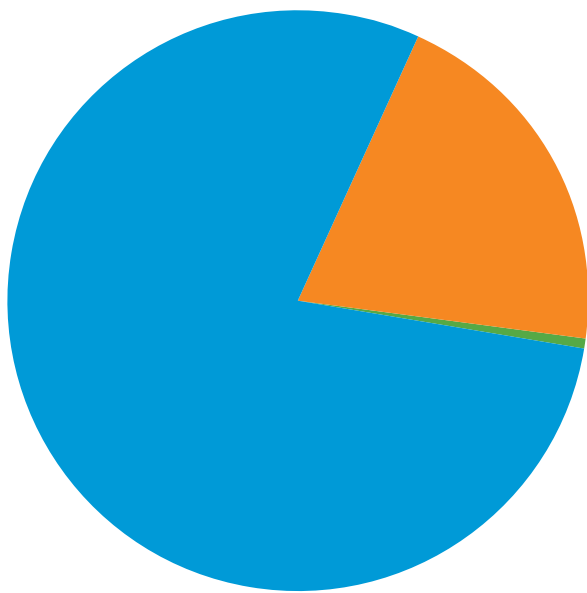
**All STI testing is available at no cost to the patient.**

# Fiscal Year 2022 Report

September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022

This report is only indicative of STI testing offered through Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing, including mobile testing vehicle, which is only a portion of all testing and treatment Texas Health Action provides. This report does not account for additional STI testing and treatment also offered at Kind Clinic locations in Central and South Austin and through telemedicine.

## Reactive STI Tests by Patient Visits



**11,260 Total STI patient visits at Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing**

**20.37% - STI Diagnoses**

2,294 total reactive STI tests for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, or hepatitis C

**0.40% - HIV Diagnoses**

45 Total HIV Diagnoses (43 new diagnoses, 2 previous diagnoses)

**79.23% - Non Reactive Visits**

**176% increase in patient visits for STI testing from FY 2021 to FY 2022**

**20.77% - STI Positivity Rate at Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing**

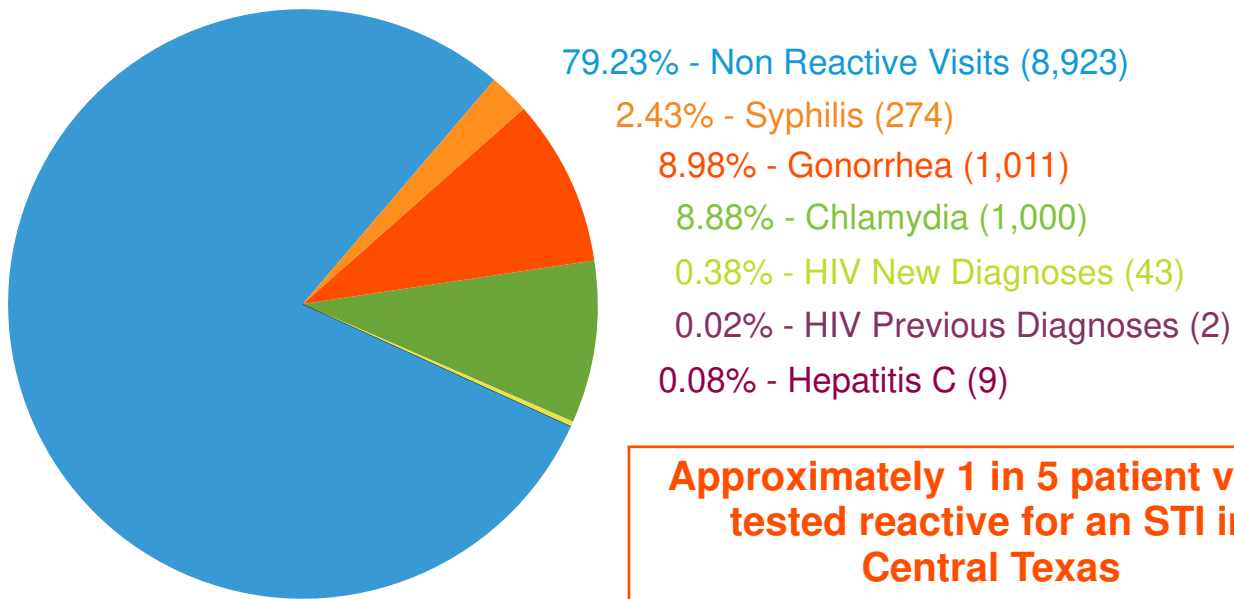
Demand for STI testing continues to grow in the City of Austin. Austin Public Health's STI Clinic saw a 38% increase in patients from FY 2021 to FY 2022 and 9,222 patient visits [\[1\]](#).

# Breakdown of STI Diagnoses

Whether or not someone who seeks STI testing is a member of a priority population, Texas Health Action provides STI testing and treatment services. Priority population status does not affect quality of care or ability to access services.

## STI Infections by Patient Visits

2,339 – Patient visits with reactive STI results for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, hepatitis C or HIV.



Priority populations are determined by disproportionate rates at which communities are impacted by HIV/AIDS as determined by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

PRIORITY POPULATIONS: Black men who have sex with men (MSM), Latinx MSM, White MSM, Trans Men, Trans Women, Non-Binary / Gender Non-Conforming.

NON-PRIORITY POPULATIONS: Heterosexual men and women including Black and Latinx people, Asian American and Pacific Islander MSM, Indigenous MSM.

# STI Treatment

When a patient tests reactive for an STI, they are immediately referred for treatment. Treatment can be administered in a variety of ways:

- Patient receives treatment same-day during their testing visit.
- Appointment for treatment is scheduled at a Kind Clinic location.
- Treatment medication is picked up at a Kind Clinic location.
- Kind Clinic providers send prescription to patient's preferred pharmacy.
- Patient informs Kind Clinic staff they have received treatment through another provider.

Our providers make their best effort to connect patients to treatment, but not all patients are confirmed to have received treatment. A patient can be informed of their infection, but in some cases, no record is found of them receiving treatment, or the patient is unable to be contacted about their STI infection.

**94.96%** Patients diagnosed with an STI or HIV received treatment at a Kind Clinic location instead of another provider.

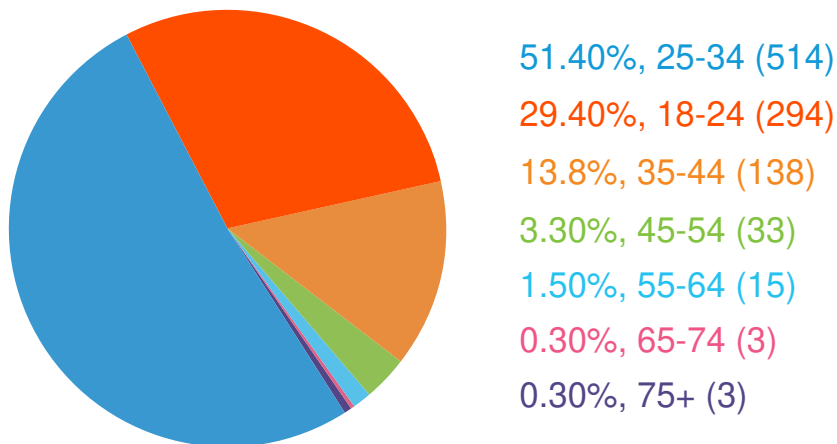


# STI Breakdown by Age Groups and Priority Populations

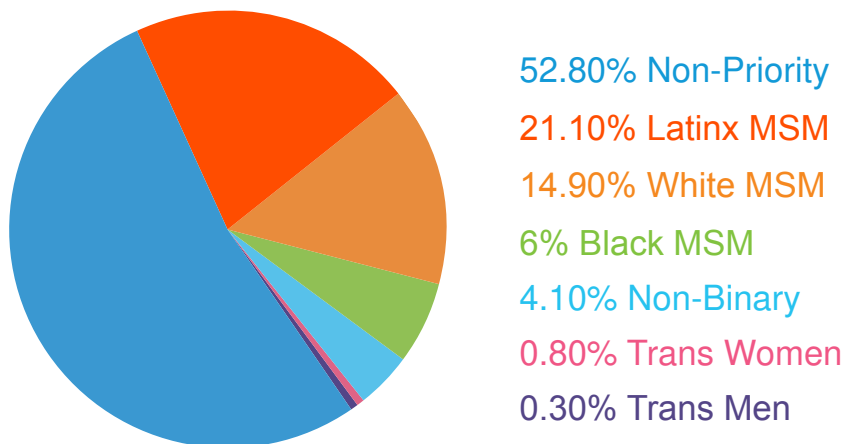
## Chlamydia Infections: 42.75% of Reactive STI Patient Visits

Sexually active people can get chlamydia through vaginal, anal, or oral sex without a condom with a partner who has chlamydia. Chlamydia often has no symptoms, but it can cause serious health problems, even without symptoms. Chlamydia can be treated with the right medication. [2]

### Chlamydia Infections by Age Group



### Chlamydia Disparities in Priority Populations

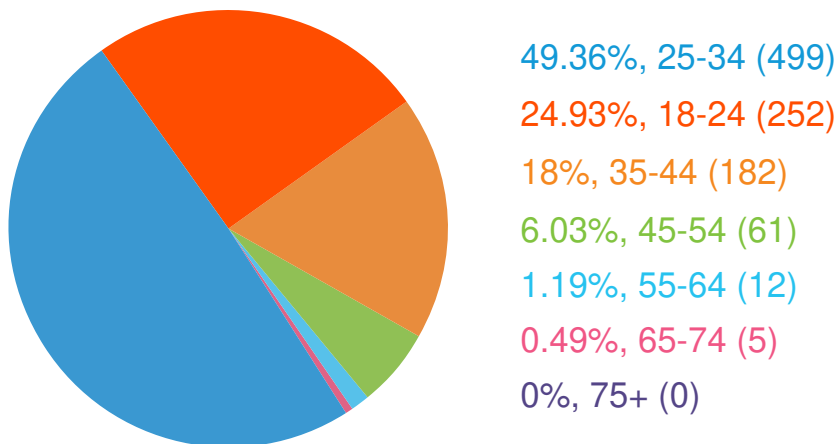


# STI Breakdown by Age Groups and Priority Populations

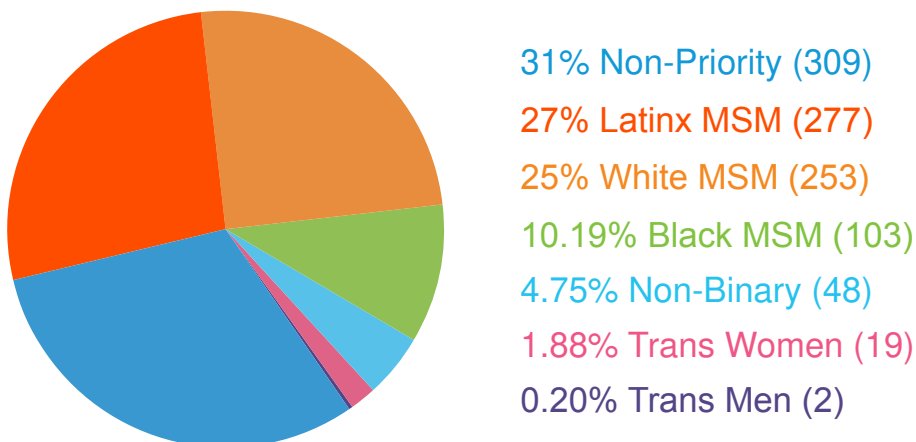
## Gonorrhea Infections: 43.22% of Reactive STI Patient Visits

Gonorrhea is an STI that can cause infection in the genitals, rectum, and throat. It is very common, especially among young people ages 15-24 years. Gonorrhea often has no symptoms, but it can cause serious health problems, even without symptoms. Gonorrhea can be treated with the right medication. [2]

### Gonorrhea Infections by Age Group



### Gonorrhea Disparities in Priority Populations



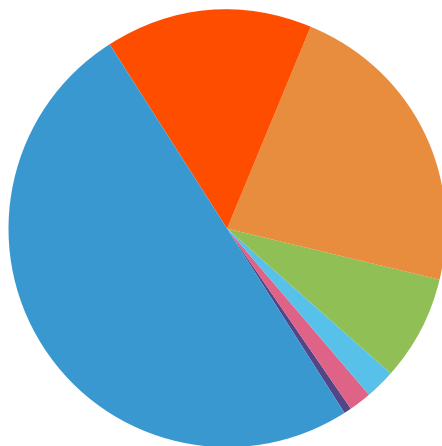


# STI Breakdown by Age Groups and Priority Populations

## Syphilis Infections: 11.71% of Reactive STI Patient Visits

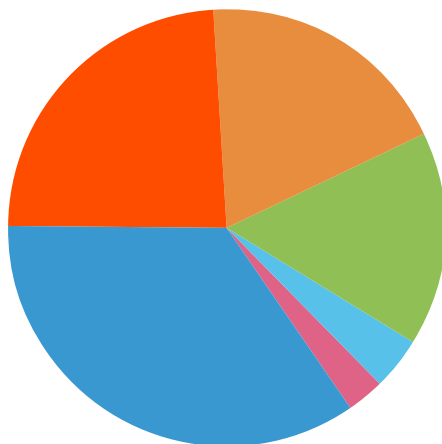
Syphilis may be contracted through direct contact with a syphilis sore during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Infection develops in stages (primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary). Each stage can have different signs and symptoms. Syphilis is curable with the right antibiotics. [2]

### Syphilis Infections by Age Group



- 50%, 25-34 (137)
- 22.63%, 35-44 (62)
- 15.33%, 18-24 (42)
- 7.66%, 45-54 (21)
- 2.19%, 55-64 (6)
- 1.82%, 65-74 (5)
- 0.36%, 75+ (1)

### Syphilis Disparities in Priority Populations



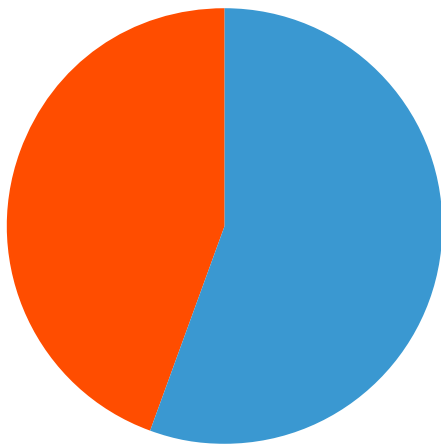
- 35% Latinx MSM (95)
- 24% White MSM (65)
- 19% Non Priority (52)
- 16.06% Black MSM (44)
- 4.01% Non-Binary (11)
- 2.55% Trans Women (7)
- 0% Trans Men (0)

# STI Breakdown by Age Groups and Priority Populations

## Hepatitis C Infections: 0.38% of Reactive STI Patient Visits

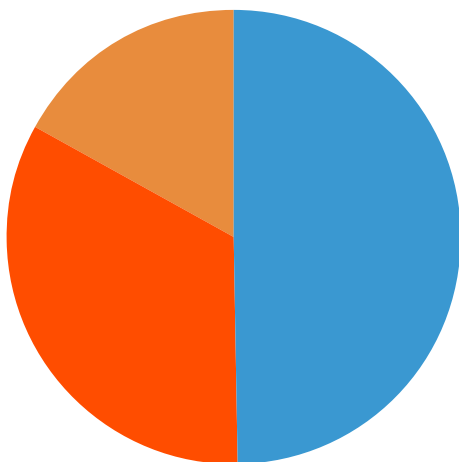
Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). For some people, hepatitis C is a short-term illness, but for more than half of people who become infected with the hepatitis C virus, it becomes a long-term, chronic infection. [2]

### Hepatitis C Infections by Age Group



55.56%, 25-34 (5)  
44.44%, 35-44 (4)  
0%, 35-44 (0)  
0%, 45-54 (0)  
0%, 55-64 (0)  
0%, 65-74 (0)  
0%, 75+ (0)

### Hepatitis C Disparities in Priority Populations



50% Latinx MSM (3)  
33.33% Non-Binary (2)  
17% Other (1)  
0% Black MSM (0)  
0% Trans Women (0)  
0% Trans Men (0)

# STI Breakdown by Age Groups and Priority Populations

## HIV Diagnoses & Linkage to Care: 1.92% of Reactive STI Patient Visits

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). People with HIV who take HIV medicine as prescribed and get and keep an undetectable viral load will not transmit HIV to their HIV-negative partners through sex. This is sometimes called treatment as prevention or undetectable = untransmittable (U=U). [2]

**97.78%**

Patients diagnosed with HIV and linked to care.

### HIV Diagnoses in FY 2022

43 New HIV Diagnoses

2 Previous HIV Diagnoses

Previous HIV diagnoses are individuals who are already living with HIV and come to Community Health to test to receive proof of diagnoses for the purpose of getting back into treatment.

## HIV Linkage to Care Timeframe (Days)

Kind Clinic Benchmark **3 Days**

Federal Benchmark **30 Days**

The federal benchmark for linkage to care for newly diagnosed HIV patients is a visit with an HIV medical provider within 1 month (30 days) of HIV diagnosis. The federal year 2025 goal is to have successful linkage to care in at least 95% of persons newly diagnosed with HIV. [3]

Most Kind Clinic patients diagnosed with HIV are linked to care within 72 hours (3 days) of diagnosis. Walk-In Testing staff can immediately schedule an appointment with a medical provider at a Kind Clinic location for patients newly diagnosed with HIV or those who have fallen out of care.

## Year-to-Date HIV Diagnoses in Fiscal Year 2023

We do not yet have year-to-date data and analysis on all STI diagnoses for FY 2023 (Sept. 1, 2022 – Aug. 31, 2023) but can share trends for new HIV diagnoses and Kind Clinic's effectiveness at reaching priority populations where there are disproportionate rates of infection.

**In the first half of FY 2023 (Sept. 1 – Feb. 28, 2023), Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing saw an HIV positivity rate of 2% among Hispanic/Latinx men who have sex with men, which is four times the 0.5% average positivity rate in other priority populations. This high positivity rate demonstrates Kind Clinic's ability to reach and provide testing to historically marginalized communities, and immediately connect newly diagnosed individuals to HIV care.**

This high positivity rate is consistent with state trends that show a rate of new HIV infection among Hispanic/Latinx men who have sex with men that is higher than the general population.



## What the Data Tells Us

Texas Health Action is impactful in the services being provided. People who seek care at Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing tend to be 18-34 years old, which is the primary age of people testing positive for STIs or HIV [4]. This age group is primarily considered working-or-college aged and is considered the most sexually active age group. Accessing health care is frequently not considered a priority for this age group as they are routinely healthier than the older populations. The health care choices this age group makes are often based on affordability, accessibility, and overall trustworthiness with providers.

Services provided through the Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing allow those at highest risk of acquiring an STI or HIV infection to easily access testing, risk reduction counseling, health education and treatment in an affirming and trusting environment. Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing stands out as not only a high-performing testing provider in Austin, but also as a treatment center for those diagnosed with STI, with almost 95% of patients receiving treatment through Kind Clinic. While other providers may only be able to diagnose an STI, Kind Clinic stands out as a provider that can diagnose and offer treatment to patients without the need to refer out, which may cause delays in treatment or lack of treatment entirely.

In addition, the data demonstrates that persons and priority populations turn to Kind Clinic for their sexual health and STI testing needs due to the clinic's efficacy at reaching and building trust with communities that are disproportionately impacted by STI's and HIV, which is consistent with national trends [5]. Elimination of health disparities is a needed focus in healthcare to truly have an impact on the health outcomes of LGBTQIA+ individuals. At Kind Clinic, our data demonstrates that we are impactful in our efforts to reach Black and Latinx MSM populations that are disproportionately impacted by STIs and HIV. The ability to access affordable, safe, and affirming healthcare is a key solution to reduce the burden of HIV and STIs in the priority populations we serve.

## Impact in Travis County

In 2020, there were 4,056 cases of gonorrhea in Travis County [6]. In 2022, Kind Clinic diagnosed 1,011 cases of gonorrhea. In 2020, there were 669 cases of syphilis (early, primary, secondary) in Travis County [6]. In 2022, Kind Clinic diagnosed 274 cases of syphilis. While 2022 STI/HIV data is not yet available from the State, it is evident that Kind Clinic's walk-in testing services are identifying and treating a significant proportion of the STIs being diagnosed in Travis County.

There is a known disproportionate impact of HIV/STIs within communities of color. Black and Latinx MSM make up one third of those who were diagnosed with gonorrhea, and one half of syphilis diagnoses. Black residents of Travis County are approximately 9% of the population, but Black MSM make up 16% of Kind Clinic's syphilis diagnoses, further highlighting the disparities that persist.

**This report is only indicative of STI testing offered through Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing, which is only a portion of all testing and treatment that Texas Health Action provides. This report does not account for additional STI testing and treatment also offered at Kind Clinic locations in Central and South Austin and through telemedicine. If we were to include the significant additional STI testing provided at both Austin locations, Kind Clinic would make up an even larger portion of all STI and HIV diagnoses in Austin and Travis County.**



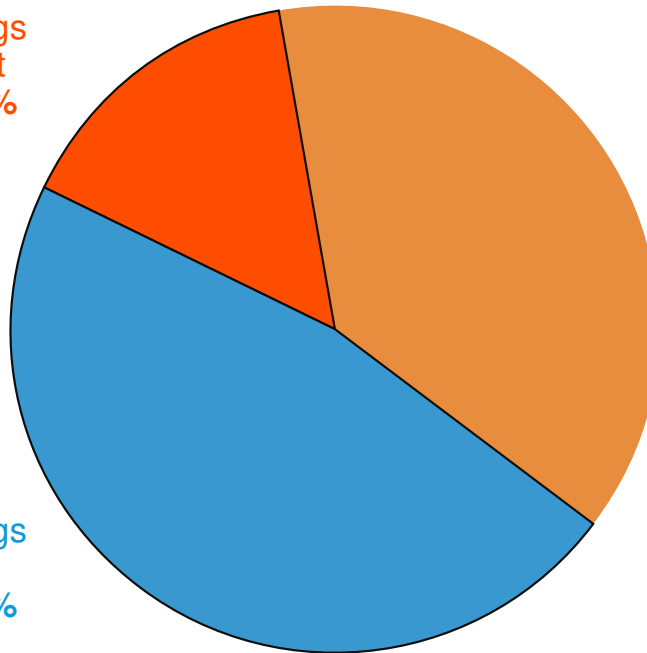
## Funding for Kind Clinic’s Walk-In STI Testing

While Texas Health Action provides additional STI testing beyond just HIV, the Department of State Health Services only provides funds for Kind Clinic’s HIV testing. There is no Local, State or Federal funding for the additional STI testing that Kind Clinic offers at no cost to patients at our walk-in testing.

STI testing and treatment at Kind Clinic’s Community Health Walk-In Testing is only possible through our 340B program savings--which saw a \$9+ million reduction of funding in 2022. Kind Clinic currently remains operational because of reserves and “rainy day” funds THA has set aside over the years to fund its operations [7].

### Funding for Kind Clinic’s Walk-In STI Testing Program

THA 340B Savings  
for STI Treatment  
**\$200,000.00, 15%**



DSHS Funding for  
HIV Testing  
**\$500,000.00, 38%**

THA 340B Savings  
for STI Testing  
**\$620,000.00, 47%**

**\$820,000 additional funds are required to sustain Kind Clinic’s Walk-In Testing and Treatment program to meet current capacity.**

For Texas Health Action to continue providing STI testing and treatment services through Kind Clinic Walk-In Testing, additional funds are required to sustain the program and continue providing these services to people in Central Texas. The financials detailed are only to fund the current patient volume at Walk-In Testing, and do not account for growing demand, or for the additional STI testing offered at Kind Clinic locations in Central and South Austin.

## Citations

1. Austin Public Health. 2023. [Austin Public Health's Sexual Health Clinic Addresses Rising STI Rates in Travis County During National Public Health](#)
2. [Division of STD Prevention, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
3. The White House. 2021. National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States 2022–2025. Washington, DC [[The White House: Washington](#)]
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [National Overview of STDs, 2021.](#)
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [STD Health Equity.](#)
6. Texas Department of State Health Services. [Texas Health Data, Sexually Transmitted Diseases.](#)
7. Austin American Statesman. [Clinics are losing funding for HIV prevention drugs and screenings. Here's what that means.](#)