



kindTM
CLINIC

CENTRAL TEXAS
**Community
Health Report
2023**



kindclinic.org

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Kind Clinic: Advancing Sexual Health Across Texas

Kind Clinic, a program of Texas Health Action, is dedicated to advancing sexual health and wellness through its healthcare services and community-based initiatives across Texas. The clinic provides care in a safe and supportive environment, offering the following comprehensive 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
- Intersex Care

In addition to the clinic-based services, Kind Clinic also delivers community-based programs, including mobile STI and HIV testing. Through this multifaceted approach, Kind Clinic aims to improve sexual health outcomes and promote wellness for individuals and communities throughout Texas.



About the Community Health Program

The Kind Clinic's Community Health Program offers comprehensive services to support the health of the local community. The program is responsible for providing free HIV and STI testing and treatment at a walk-in testing center located at 101 W. Koenig Ln, Austin, TX 78751.

The STI testing services include screening for HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and Hepatitis C. In addition to the walk-in testing center, the program also conducts community-based testing through field testing events or a mobile testing vehicle.

All STI testing and treatment services provided through the Kind Clinic's Community Health Program are available at no cost to patients. This program operates separately from the main Kind Clinic locations in Central and South Austin.



Fiscal Year 2023 Report

Sept 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023

This report only reflects the STI testing services provided through Kind Clinic's Community Health Program in Central Texas. It does not account for the additional STI testing and treatment offered at Kind Clinic's other locations or through Texas Health Action's telemedicine services.



10,724 – Total STI testing patient visits at Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing

18.41% STI & HIV Reactive Visits
1,974 total patient visits that resulted in a diagnosis for HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, or hepatitis c

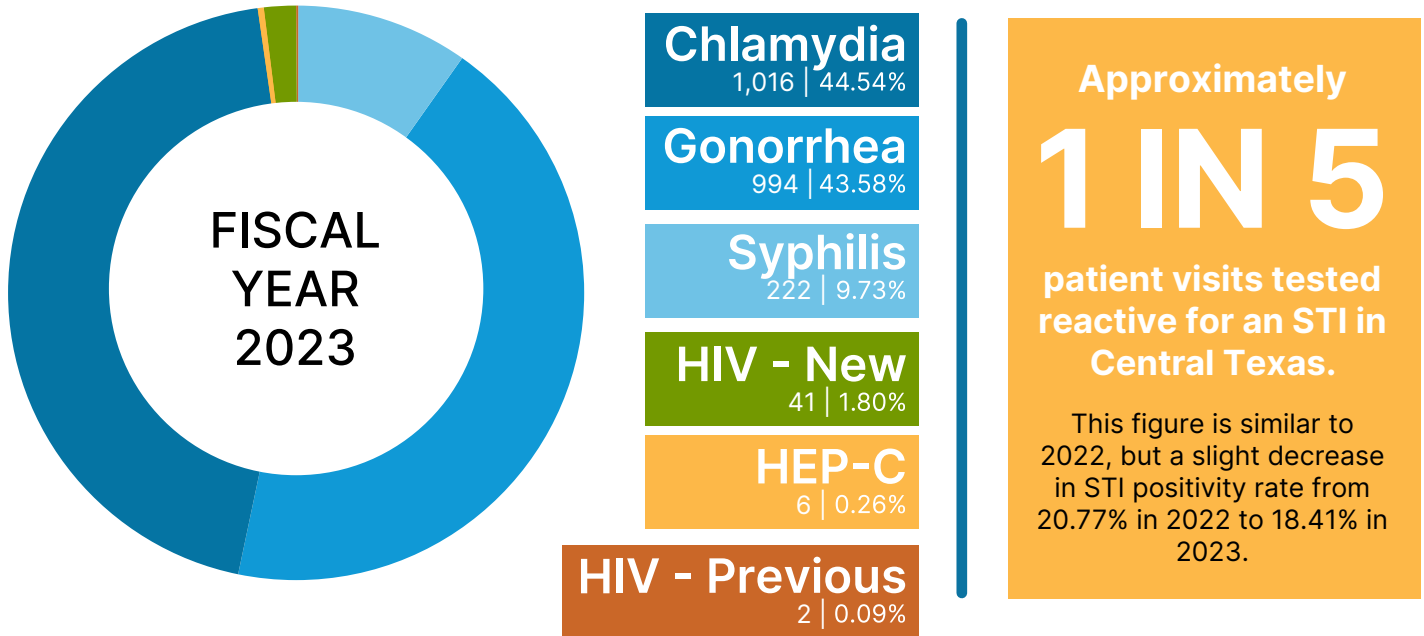
81.59% Non Reactive Visits
8,750 Total

18.41%

Positivity rate for individuals testing for STIs through Kind Clinic Community Health & Walk-In Testing Program.

Breakdown of STI Diagnoses

PERCENT BREAKDOWN OF STI DIAGNOSES



Texas Health Action offers STI testing and treatment services to all individuals, regardless of their membership in a priority population. Being part of a priority population does not impact the quality of care or access to services.

Priority populations are identified based on the disproportionate rates of HIV/AIDS impact within communities, as determined by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Austin Public Health (APH).

PRIORITY POPULATIONS:

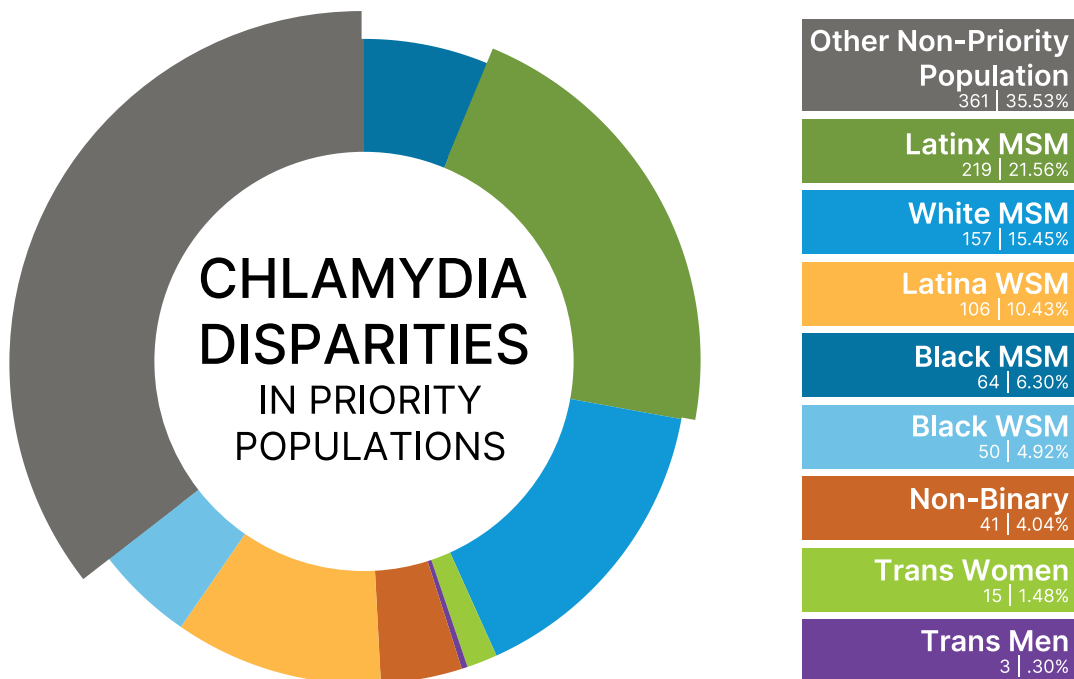
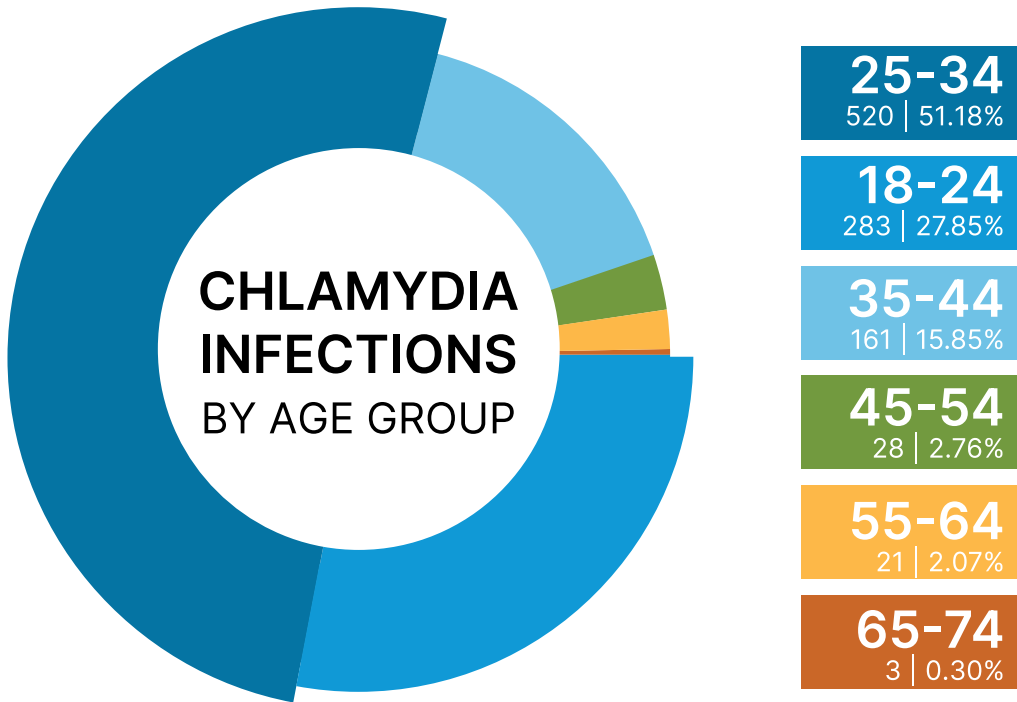
- Black men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Latinx MSM
- White MSM
- Trans Men
- Trans Women
- Non-Binary / Gender Non-Conforming individuals
- Latina women who have sex with men (WSM)
- Black WSM

Other non-priority populations include individuals who do not identify with the higher-risk groups, such as men who have sex with women and women who have sex with women. These populations have a lower risk of contracting HIV and do not exhibit the disproportionate transmission rates of HIV and other STIs seen in priority populations.

Chlamydia Infections

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. Additionally, chlamydia infection raises the risk of contracting HIV. [\[1\]](#)

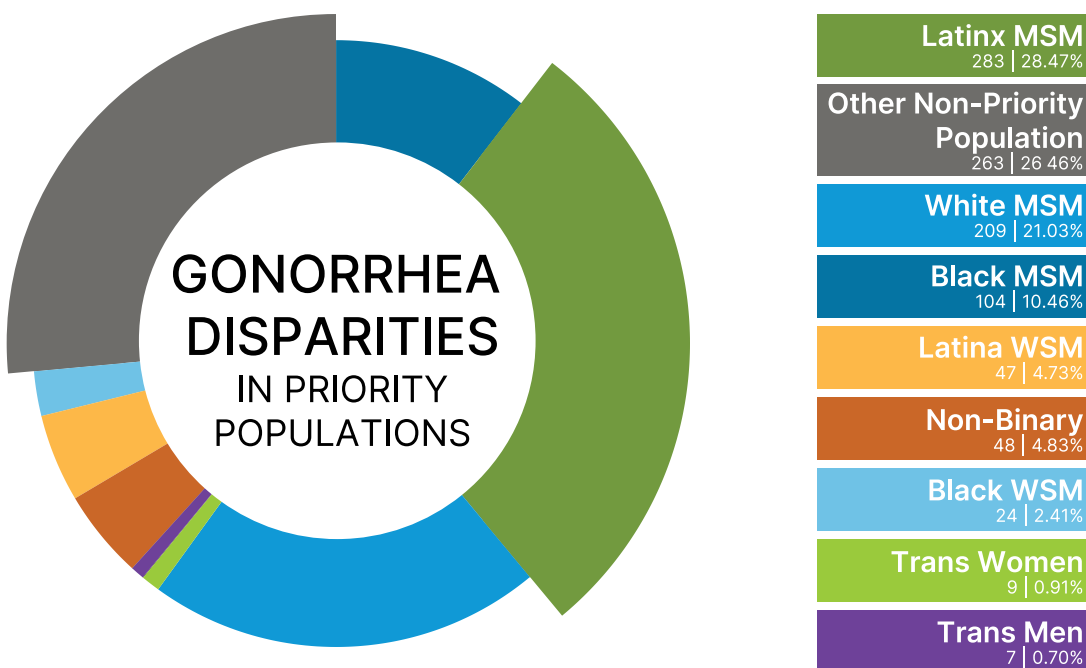
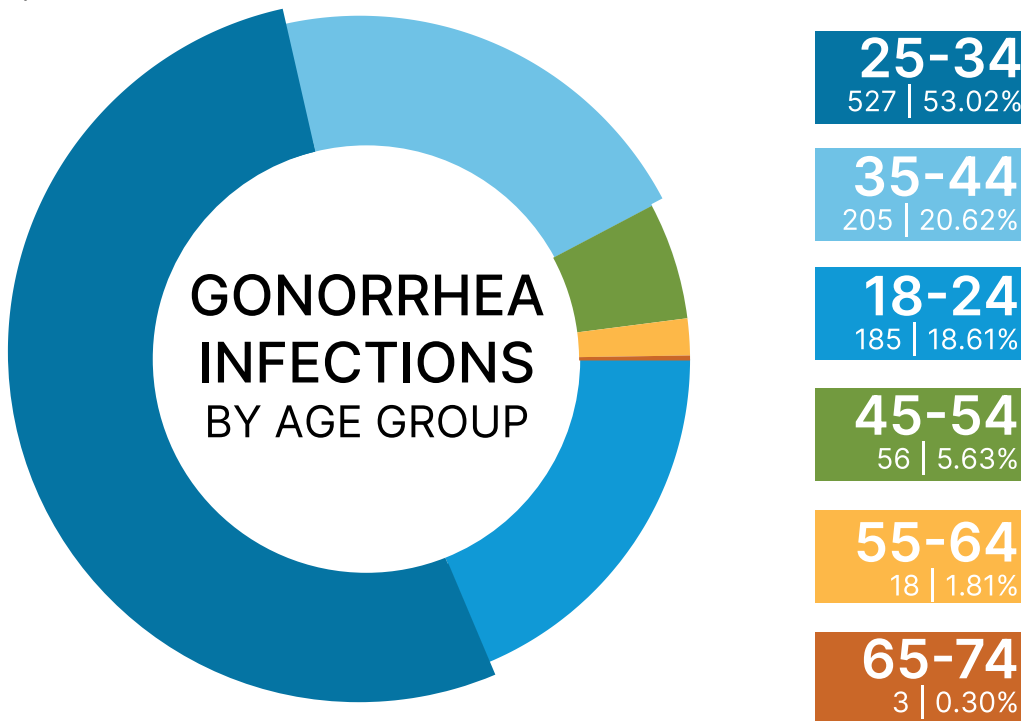
Percentage breakdowns are calculated based on the total number of diagnoses for this specific STI.



Gonorrhea Infections

Gonorrhea is an STI that can cause infection in the genitals, rectum, and throat. Gonorrhea often has no symptoms, but it can cause serious health problems, even without symptoms. People with gonorrhea may experience symptoms like painful urination and discharge. Gonorrhea can be treated with the right medication. Additionally, gonorrhea infection raises the risk of contracting HIV. [\[1\]](#)

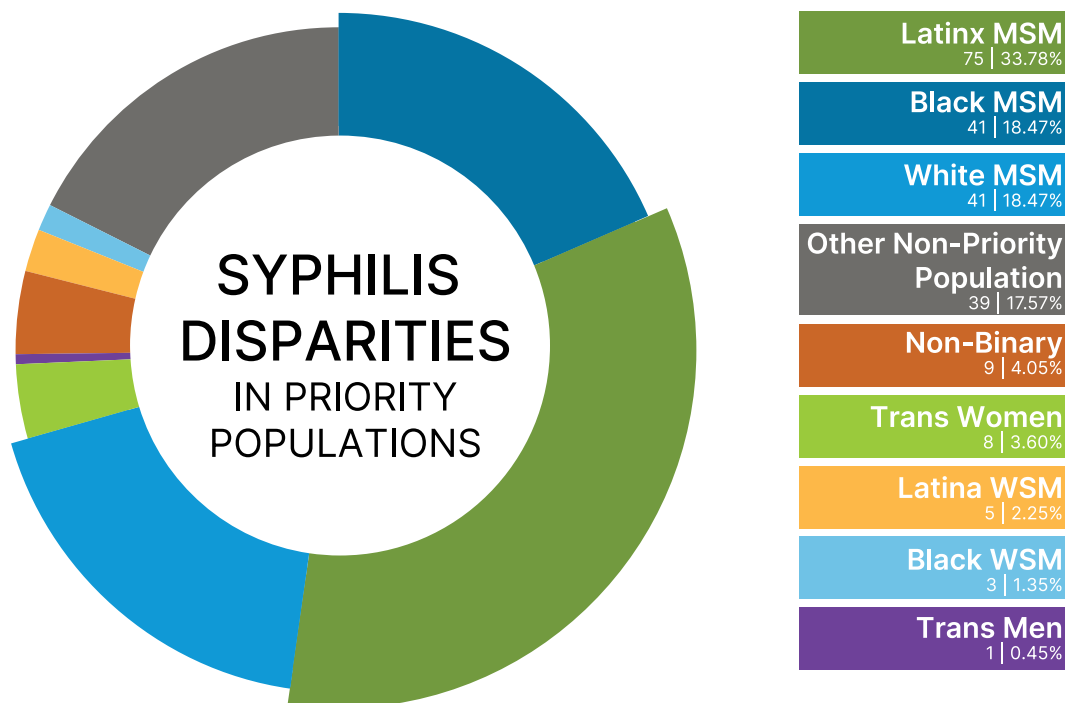
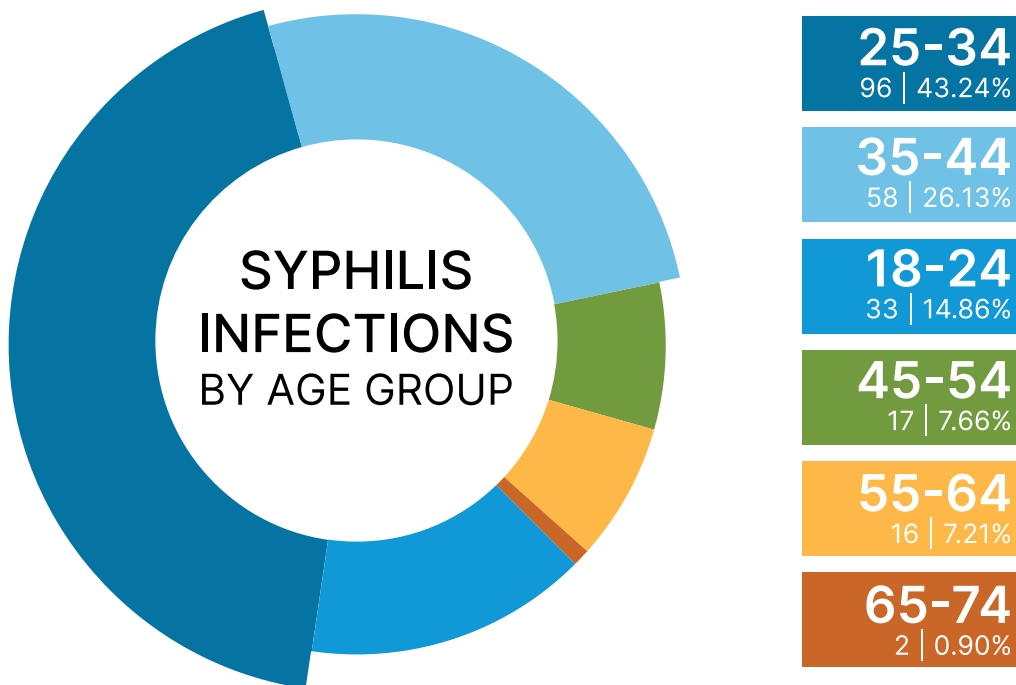
Percentage breakdowns are calculated based on the total number of diagnoses for this specific STI.



Syphilis Infections

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. Additionally, syphilis infection raises the risk of contracting HIV. [\[1\]](#)

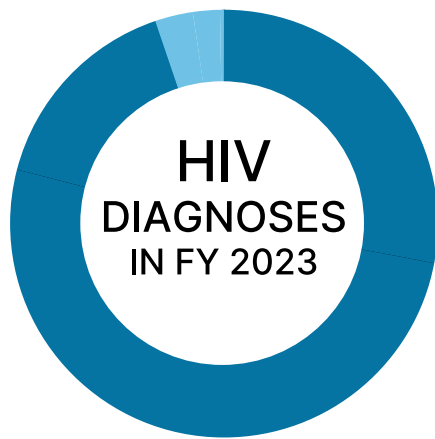
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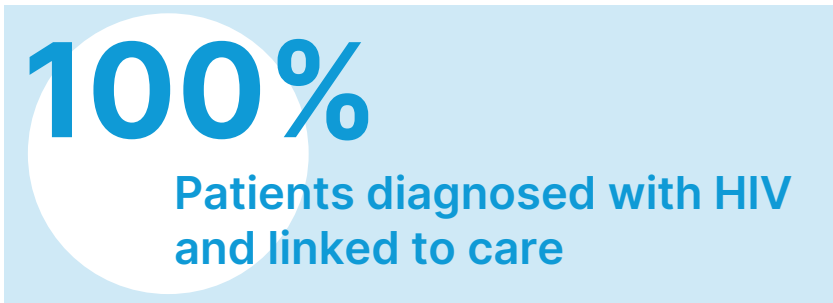
HIV Diagnoses & Linkage to Care



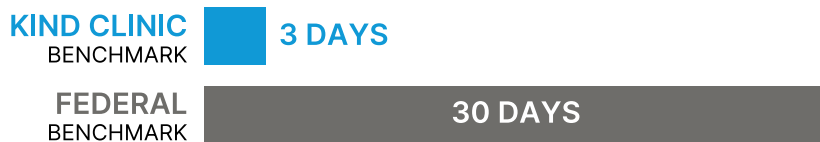
HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). People with HIV who take HIV medicine as prescribed and achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load will not transmit HIV to their HIV-negative partners through sex. This is sometimes called treatment as prevention or undetectable = untransmittable (U=U). HIV can be prevented with Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a medication taken by HIV-negative individuals to reduce their risk of contracting HIV.) [\[1\]](#).



New HIV Diagnoses 41 95.35%
Previous HIV Diagnoses 2 4.65%



HIV LINKAGE TO CARE TIMEFRAME (DAYS)



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.

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. [\[2\]](#)

Kind Clinic aims to link patients diagnosed with HIV to care within 72 hours (3 days) of diagnosis. Community Health staff can immediately schedule an appointment with a medical provider at a Kind Clinic location for newly diagnosed patients or those who have fallen out of care. Community Health Workers and Case Managers support people living with HIV in accessing and remaining in care.

STI Treatment

When a patient tests reactive for an STI, they are immediately referred for treatment, which can be administered in various ways:

- Same-day treatment during their testing visit.
- Scheduling a treatment appointment at a Kind Clinic location.
- Picking up treatment medication at a Kind Clinic location.
- Kind Clinic providers sending prescriptions to the patient's preferred pharmacy.
- Patient informing Kind Clinic staff that they have received treatment from another provider.

Over 90% of patients received treatment through the Kind Clinic after their diagnosis, highlighting the effectiveness of integrated treatment options within the Community Health Program. While our providers strive to connect all patients with treatment, some cannot be confirmed to have received it due to a lack of records or being unreachable regarding their STI infection.



**EFFECTIVE
TREATMENT
TYPES:**

37%

of patients receive treatment at the time of testing.

35%

of patients have a treatment appointment scheduled at Kind Clinic.

93.69%

Percentage of patients who received treatment through the Kind Clinic after their diagnosis.

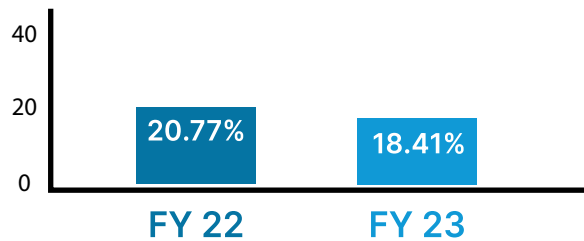


Impact of Our Walk-In Testing Program & Transmission Trends



Positivity Rate

STI positivity rate at Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing



Approximately
1 IN 5
patient visits tested reactive for an STI in Central Texas.

INSIGHTS

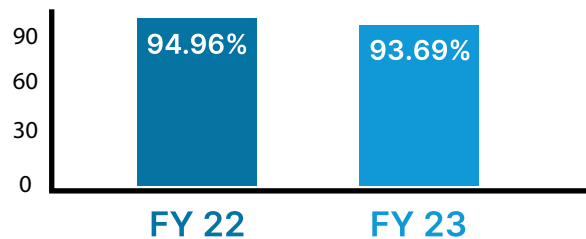
Texas Health Action effectively delivers essential services through its programs and reaching communities most impacted by HIV and other STIs. The majority of individuals utilizing the Walk-In Testing service at Kind Clinic are between 18 and 34 years old, aligning with the demographic most affected by STIs and HIV. This age group, often in college or starting their careers, is particularly sexually active, which corresponds with the observed increase in STI positivity rates year over year.

This trend mirrors the national rise in STI transmissions. Kind Clinic remains committed to effectively serving communities that are disproportionately impacted by HIV and other STIs.

Impact of Our Walk-In Testing Program & Transmission Trends

Access to Treatment

Percentage of patients diagnosed with an STI or HIV who receive treatment at a Kind Clinic location rather than another provider



INSIGHTS

Kind Clinic's Walk-In Testing provides essential services, enabling those at highest risk for STIs or HIV to access testing, risk reduction counseling, health education, and treatment in a supportive and nonjudgmental environment. Notably, Kind Clinic excels not only as a premier testing facility in Austin but also as a treatment provider, with over 90% of diagnosed patients choosing to receive their treatment directly through us. This high engagement rate significantly contributes to the reduction of new transmissions by facilitating immediate and seamless treatment access. Unlike other providers who may diagnose but then refer patients elsewhere, Kind Clinic stands out by offering both diagnosis and treatment onsite, eliminating the delays or discontinuation of care that can occur with external referrals.

Having treatment options and registered nurses integrated into walk-in testing results in 37% of patients getting treatment same-day and 35% having the ability to book a treatment appointment at Kind Clinic. The best reason for quick treatment is to reduce complications for the person, such as scarring leading to ectopic pregnancies, prolonged antibiotic treatment, or hospitalization. The second-best reason is to prevent the spread of infections to others. Lastly, outpatient oral medications are the least costly option compared to other levels of care.

Continued Disproportionate Impact on MSM of Color

INSIGHTS

The data underscores that communities disproportionately impacted by STIs and HIV, particularly Black and Latinx MSM, significantly utilize Kind Clinic for their sexual health and STI testing. This is due to the clinic's success in reaching and building trust within these communities, aligning with national trends. There is a crucial need to address health disparities to enhance the health outcomes of LGBTQIA+ individuals. Kind Clinic's efforts are notably effective in engaging Black and Latinx MSM, who are disproportionately affected by STIs and HIV. Ensuring access to affordable, safe, and affirming healthcare is vital for alleviating the burden of HIV and STIs in these priority groups.

Black and Latinx MSM account for 27.86% and 39.46% of gonorrhea diagnoses, respectively. They also constitute 52% of syphilis infections. While Black residents make up about 9% of Travis County's population, Black MSM represent 18% of Kind Clinic's syphilis diagnoses, further accentuating the existing disparities.

Citations

1. [Division of STD Prevention, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
2. **The White House. 2021. National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States 2022–2025. Washington, DC** [[The White House: Washington](#)]
3. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).** [National Overview of STDs, 2022.](#)
4. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).** [STD Health Equity.](#)
5. **Texas Department of State Health Services.** [Texas Health Data, Sexually Transmitted Disease](#)