

# STI/HIV/Hepatitis B & C Update

2023



## Region 2 Factsheets



LOUISIANA  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH**

*STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program*



# HIV Annual Summary - 2023

## Region 2 - Baton Rouge

New HIV Diagnoses  
**169**

Louisiana Diagnoses: 869

HIV Diagnosis Rate  
**24.4**  
per 100,000 population  
-----  
Louisiana Rate: 18.9 per 100,000

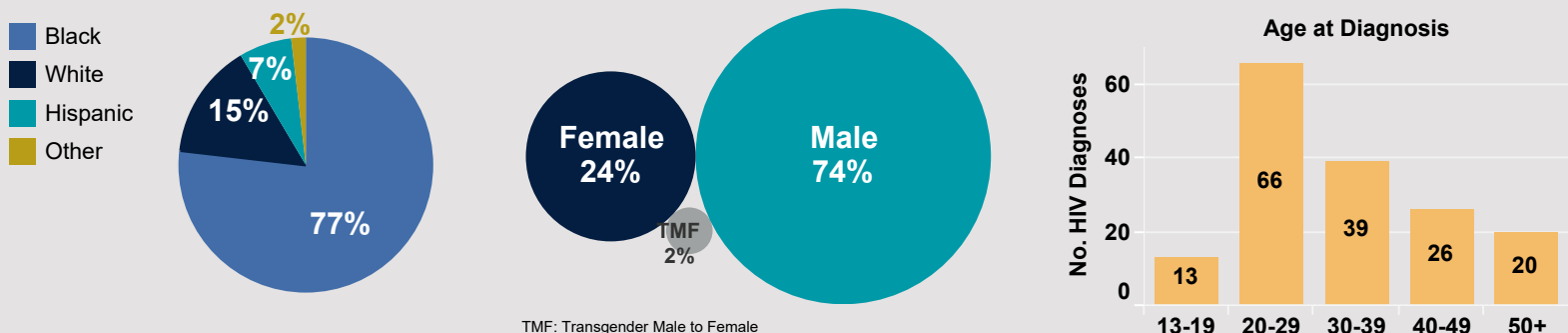
HIV Diagnosis Rate  
Regional Ranking  
**1st**  
among Louisiana's nine public  
health regions

### Of the 169 new HIV diagnoses in 2023:

The majority of diagnoses (77%) were among Black people.

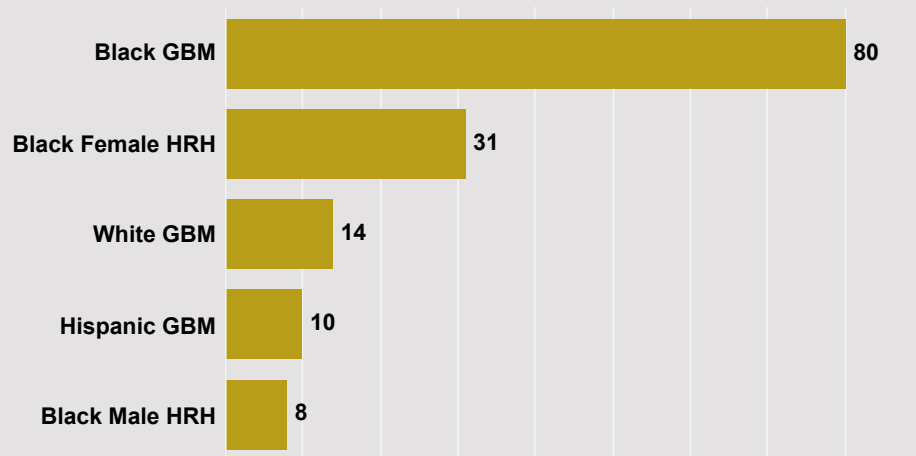
Males comprised 74% of diagnoses.

The greatest number of diagnoses was among people 20 to 29 years old (39%).



### Affected subpopulations

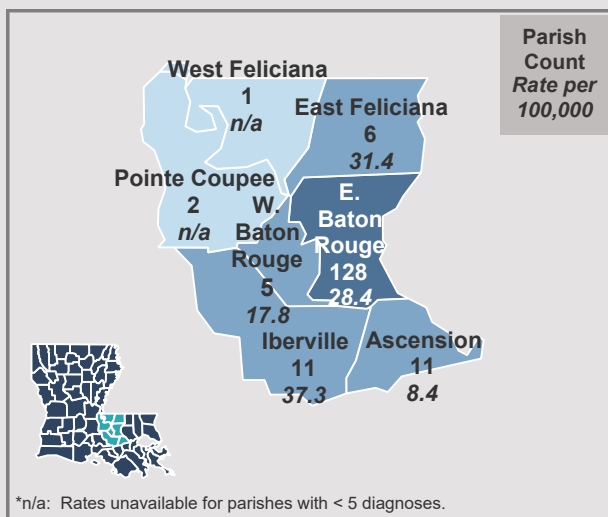
People of color and gay & bisexual men (GBM) are impacted by HIV more than other groups. In Region 2, almost half (47%) of diagnoses in 2023 were among Black GBM.



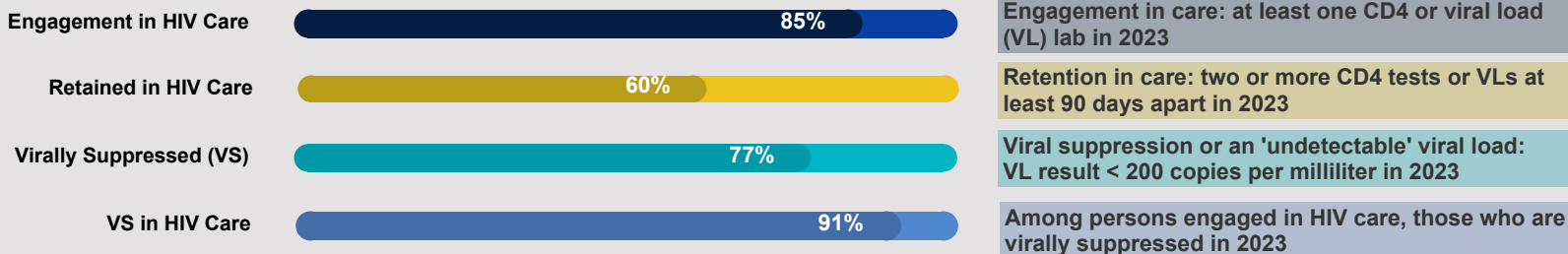
GBM = Gay & bisexual men; HRH = High risk heterosexual; PWID = People who inject drugs

### Geographic distribution

In 2023, the majority of new HIV diagnoses (76%) in Region 2 were from East Baton Rouge Parish.



### HIV Care among People Living with HIV in Region 2 in 2023:



Interpreting the Data: Please note that 2023 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Primary and Secondary (P&S) Syphilis

## Annual Summary - 2023

### Region 2 - Baton Rouge

New P&S Syphilis  
Diagnoses  
**244**

Louisiana Diagnoses: 1,196

P&S Syphilis Diagnosis Rate  
**35.2**  
per 100,000 population

Louisiana Rate: 26.1 per 100,000

P&S Syphilis Diagnosis Rate  
Regional Ranking

**3rd**

among Louisiana's nine public  
health regions

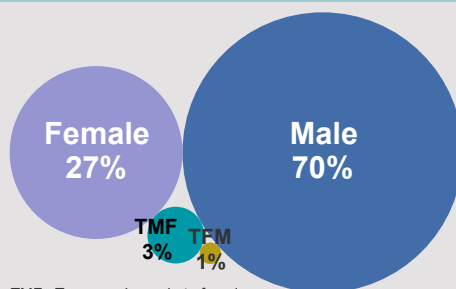
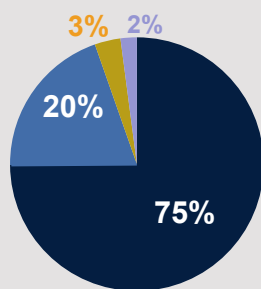
## Of the 244 P&S syphilis diagnoses in 2023:

The majority (75%) of diagnoses were  
among Black people.

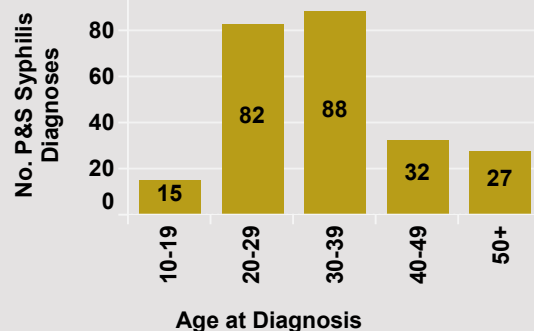
Males comprised 70% of diagnoses.

Over one-third of diagnoses (36%) were  
among people 30 to 39 years old.

Black  
White  
Hispanic  
Other

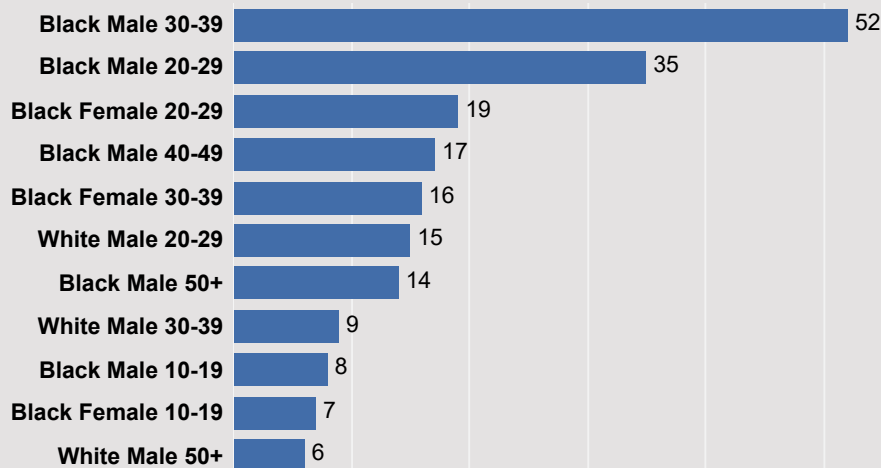


TMF: Transgender male to female  
TFM: Transgender female to male



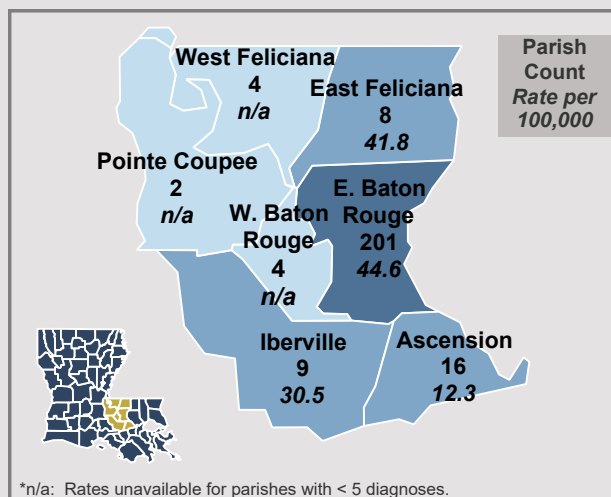
## Affected subpopulations

People of color and males are impacted by P&S syphilis more than other groups. In Region 2, over half (52%) of P&S syphilis diagnoses were among Black males.

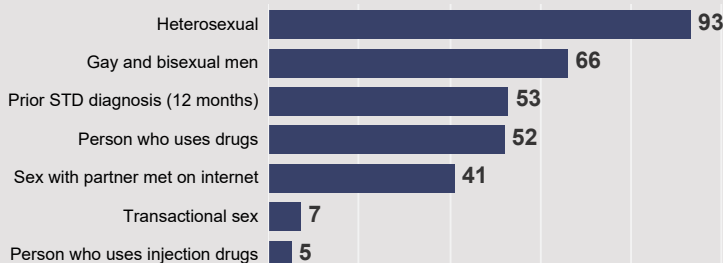


## Geographic distribution

In 2023, the majority of new P&S diagnoses (82%) in Region 2 were from East Baton Rouge Parish.



## 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 2023 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.





# Early Non-P&S Syphilis

## Annual Summary - 2023

### Region 2 - Baton Rouge

New Early Non-P&S  
Syphilis Diagnoses

**194**

Louisiana Diagnoses: 897

Early Non-P&S Syphilis Diagnosis  
Rate

**27.9**

per 100,000 population

Louisiana Rate: 19.5 per 100,000

Early non-P&S Syphilis Diagnosis  
Rate Regional Ranking

**2nd**

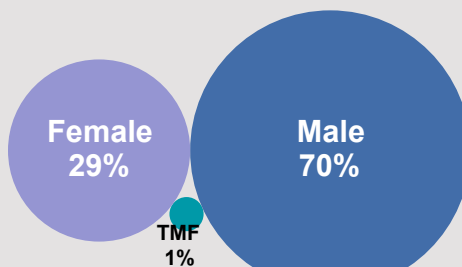
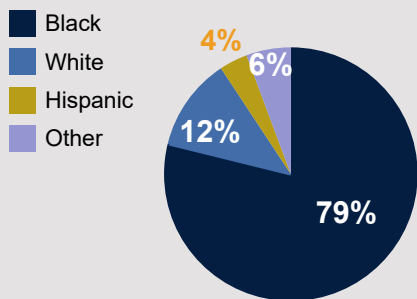
among Louisiana's nine public  
health regions

## Of the 194 early non-P&S syphilis diagnoses in 2023:

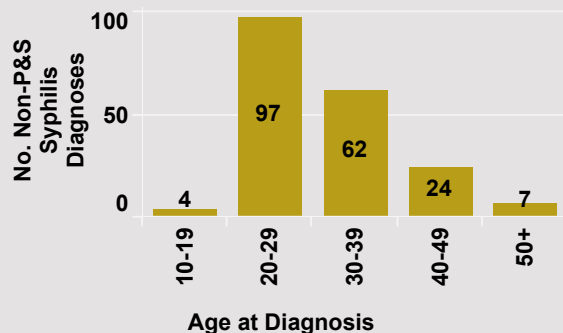
The majority (79%) of diagnoses were  
among Black people.

Males comprised 70% of diagnoses.

Half of diagnoses (50%) were among  
people 20 to 29 years old.

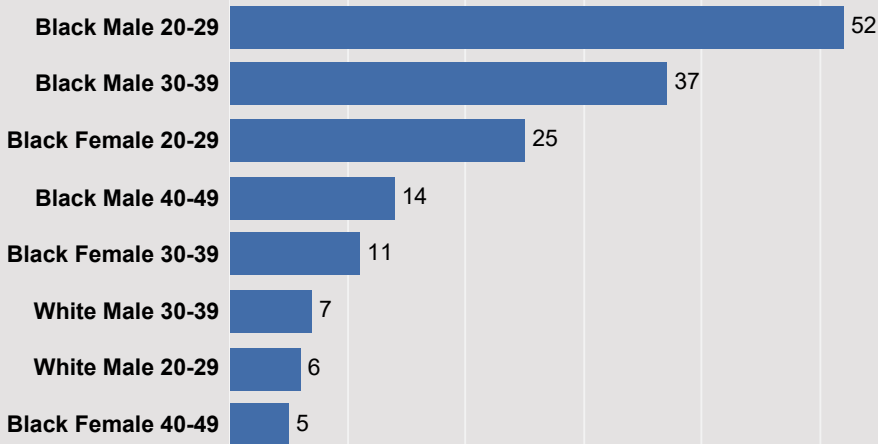


TMF: Transgender male to female



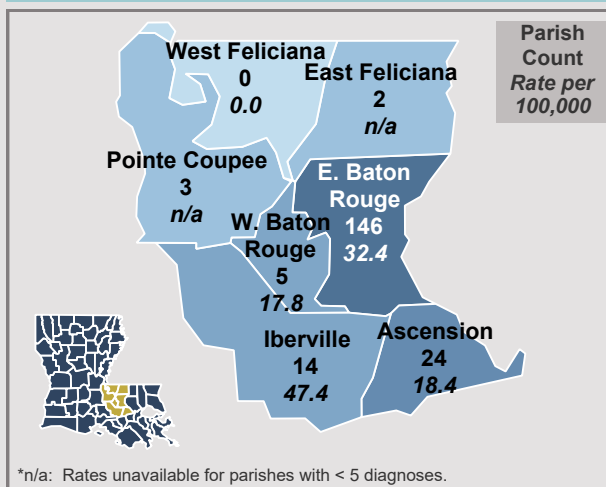
## Affected subpopulations

People of color and males are more impacted by early non-P&S syphilis than other groups. In Region 2, over half (53%) of early non-P&S syphilis diagnoses were among Black males 20-49 years-old.

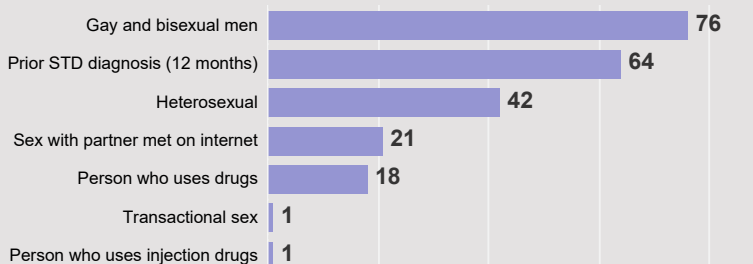


## Geographic distribution

In 2023, the majority of new early non-P&S syphilis diagnoses (75%) in Region 2 were in East Baton Rouge Parish.



## 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 2023 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Congenital Syphilis (CS)

## Annual Summary - 2023

### Region 2 - Baton Rouge

Pregnant Mothers  
Diagnosed with Syphilis  
**57**

#### Congenital Syphilis Cases

**21**

Case count reflects the total number of individual infants

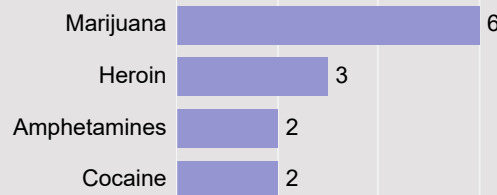
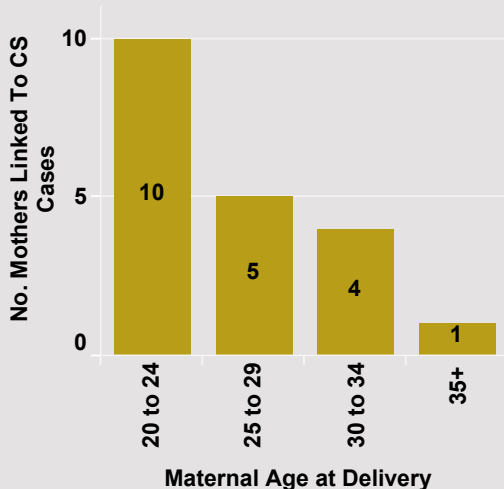
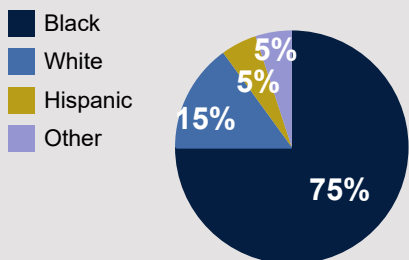
Infant Deaths Linked to  
Congenital Syphilis  
**3**

## Of the 20 pregnant mothers linked to a 2023 CS case:

The majority (75%) of mothers were Black women.

Half (50%) of mothers were between 20 to 24 years of age at delivery.

Half (50%) had a positive toxicology screen during pregnancy.



**1 in 392**  
live births were born with  
CS in 2023

2023 Regional Ranking  
**2nd**  
Highest case count among  
Louisiana's nine public health  
regions

## Among pregnant mothers linked to a 2023 CS case:

Timely PNC **70%**

Timely PNC with  
Timely Initial Test **86%**

Timely PNC with  
Recommended Testing **58%**

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).

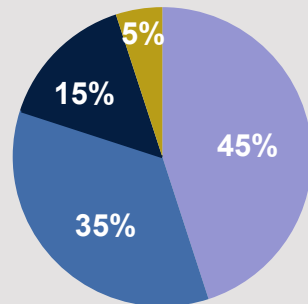
## Maternal Stage of Syphilis

Almost half (45%) of mothers, linked to a CS case, were diagnosed with late or late latent syphilis.

### Surveillance stage

- Late or late latent
- Early non-primary non-secondary
- Secondary
- Other

This reflects the latest stage of syphilis identified during the pregnancy linked to the report 2023 congenital syphilis case.





# Gonorrhea Annual Summary - 2023

## Region 2 - Baton Rouge

New Gonorrhea Diagnoses  
**2,266**

Louisiana Diagnoses: 13,192

Gonorrhea Diagnosis Rate  
**326.9**  
per 100,000 population

Louisiana Rate: 287.4 per 100,000

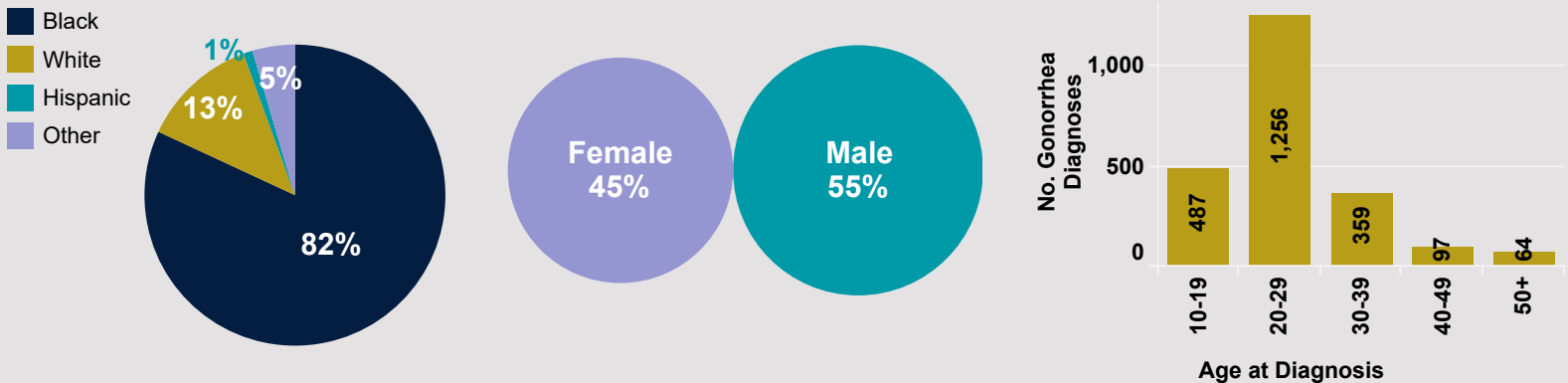
Gonorrhea Diagnosis Rate  
Regional Ranking  
**3rd**  
among Louisiana's nine public  
health regions

### Of the 2,266 gonorrhea diagnoses in 2023:

The majority (82%) of diagnoses were among Black people.

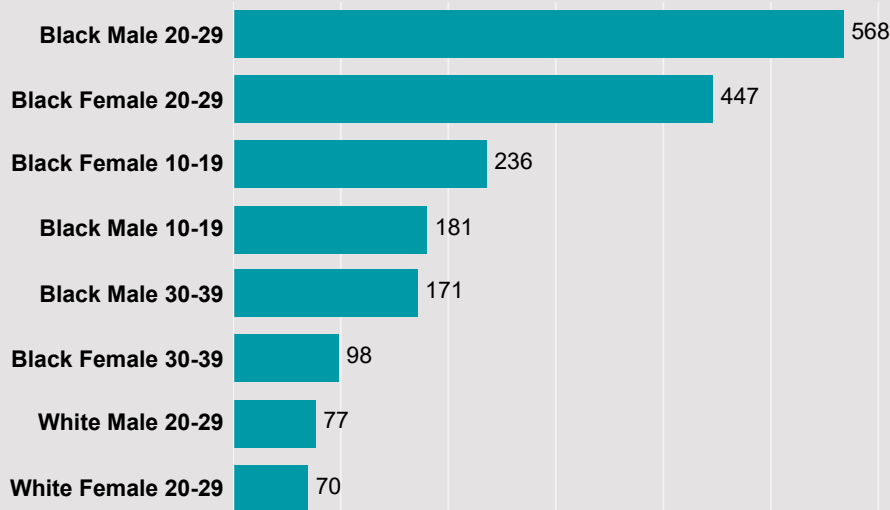
By sex at birth, males comprised 55% of diagnoses.

Over half of diagnoses (55%) were among people 20 to 29 years old.



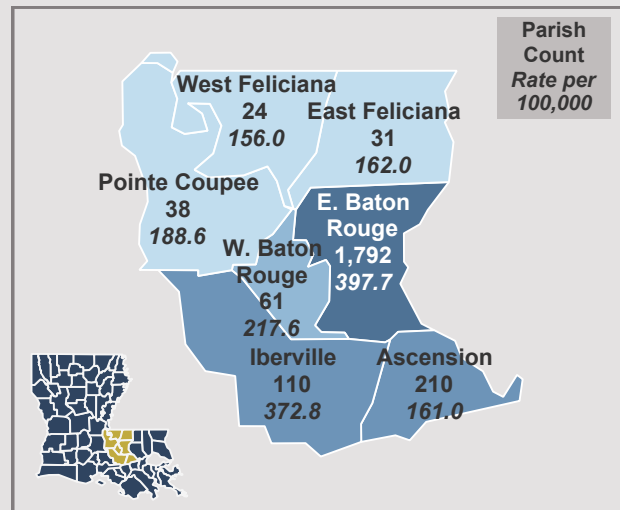
### Affected subpopulations

Young people of color are impacted by gonorrhea more than other groups. In Region 2, 63% of gonorrhea diagnoses in 2023 were among young Black people 10 to 29 years old.



### Geographic distribution

In 2023, the majority of new gonorrhea diagnoses (79%) in Region 2 were from East Baton Rouge Parish.



### 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 - 2023

## Region 2 - Baton Rouge

### New Chlamydia Diagnoses

**6,387**

Louisiana Diagnoses: 36,242

### Chlamydia Diagnosis Rate

**921.4**

per 100,000 population

Louisiana Rate: 789.5 per 100,000

### Chlamydia Diagnosis Rate Regional Ranking

**2nd**

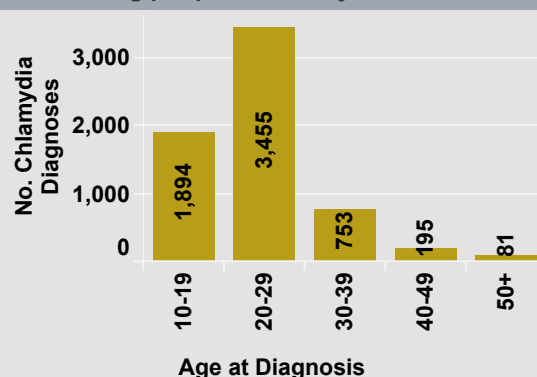
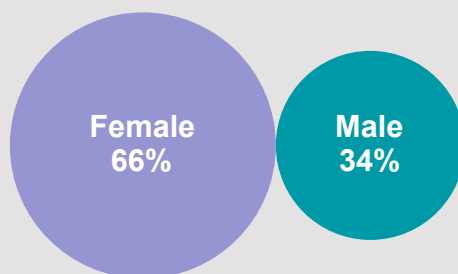
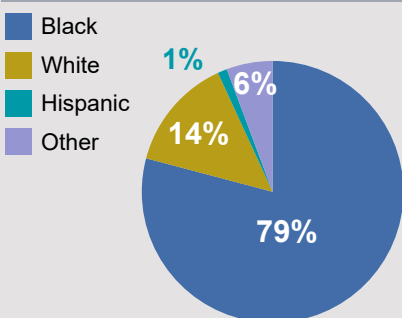
among Louisiana's nine public health regions

## Of the 6,387 chlamydia diagnoses in 2023:

The majority (79%) of diagnoses were among Black people.

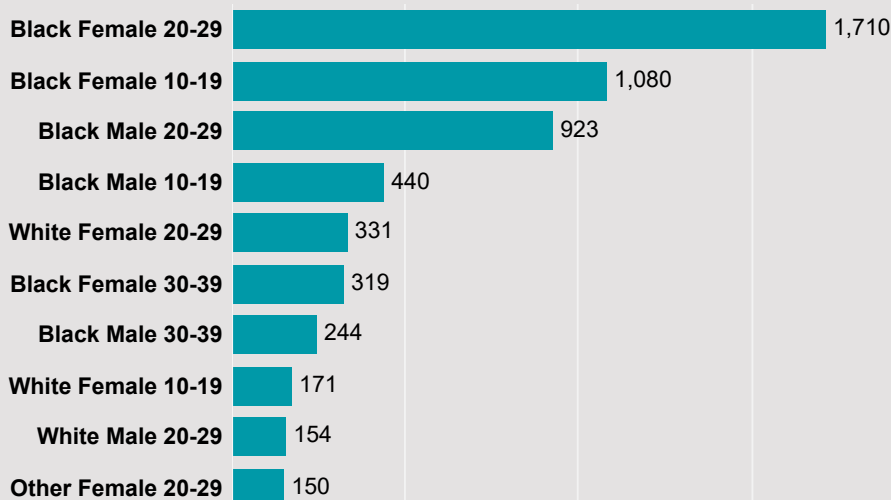
By sex at birth, females comprised 66% of diagnoses.

Over half of diagnoses (53%) were among people 20 to 29 years old.



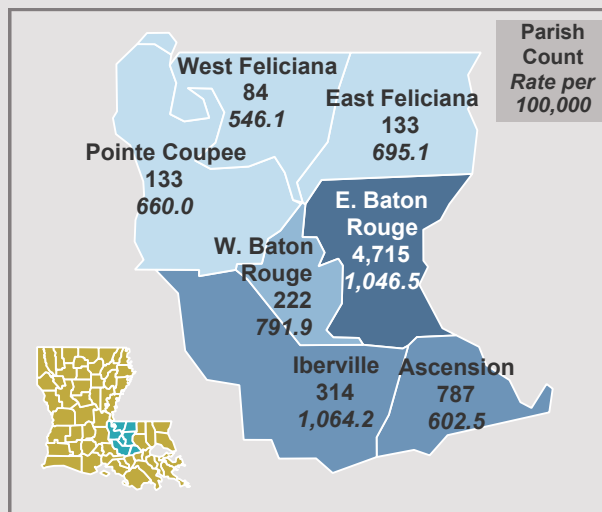
## Affected subpopulations

People of color and young females are impacted by chlamydia more than other groups. In Region 2, 43% of chlamydia diagnoses in 2023 were among Black females 10 to 29 years old.



## Geographic distribution

In 2023, the majority of new chlamydia diagnoses (72%) in Region 2 were from East Baton Rouge Parish.



## 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:

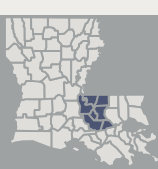
Recommended: Doxycycline 100 mg orally 2x/day for 7 days

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 - 2023

## Region 2 - Baton Rouge

### Acute HBV Diagnoses

1

-----  
Louisiana Diagnoses: 18

### Acute HBV Diagnosis Rate

\* n/a

per 100,000 population

-----  
Louisiana Rate: 0.4 per 100,000

A safe and effective vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis B.

*Due to low counts, regional profiles of acute hepatitis B do not contain demographic and geographic breakdowns.*

*\*n/a: Rates are unavailable for regions with <5 diagnoses.*

## What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a vaccine-preventable liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). New infections cause a short term illness, referred to as an acute infection. Some people are able to clear HBV on their own and will no longer have HBV in their body, while others will progress to a long-term chronic illness.

## How is hepatitis B spread and prevented?

HBV is most commonly spread through injection drug use and sexual contact. HBV can also be spread during childbirth if appropriate prophylaxis isn't administered. A safe and effective vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis B. Anyone at risk should get vaccinated.

## Who is at risk for hepatitis B?

People at greater risk include infants born to mothers with hepatitis B, people who inject drugs or share needles, syringes, and other types of drug equipment, sex partners of people with hepatitis B, gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, people who live with someone who has hepatitis B, healthcare and public safety workers exposed to blood on the job, and people on dialysis.

## How common is hepatitis B?

CDC estimates that around 12,600 people acquire acute HBV each year in the United States. People with acute hepatitis B may not experience symptoms or may experience very mild symptoms. Consequently, not everyone with acute hepatitis B may seek medical care. Research estimates only 1 out of 7 people with acute hepatitis B are identified and reported to public health. It is likely that the burden of disease from acute hepatitis B is much greater than reported, and the number of cases that are reported to and confirmed by public health are only a small proportion of the true burden of disease.

Visit [louisianahealthhub.org](https://louisianahealthhub.org) for more information.





# Chronic Hepatitis B Annual Summary - 2023

## Region 2 - Baton Rouge

### Chronic HBV Diagnoses

**90**

Louisiana Diagnoses: 733

### Chronic HBV Diagnosis Rate

**13.0**

per 100,000 population

Louisiana Rate: 15.9 per 100,000

ranked **3rd** in number of diagnoses and **8th** in diagnoses per 100,000 population among Louisiana's nine public health regions

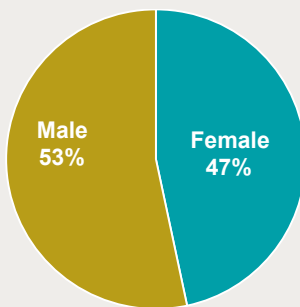
## Of the 90 new chronic HBV diagnoses in 2023:

63% of diagnoses were male.

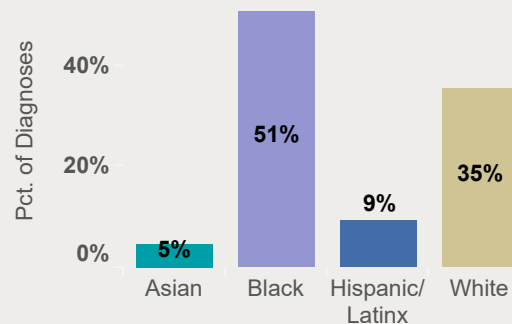
54% of diagnoses were among Black people and 28% of diagnoses were among White people.

The group with the greatest proportion of new diagnoses was 40-49 year olds.

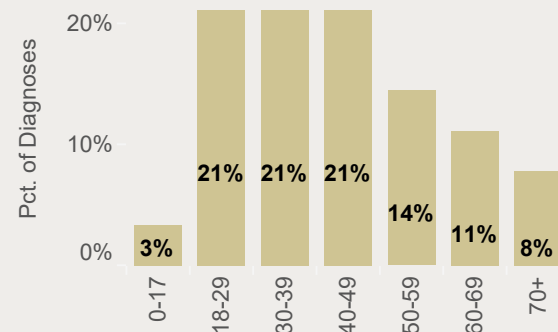
### Birth Sex



### Race/Ethnicity

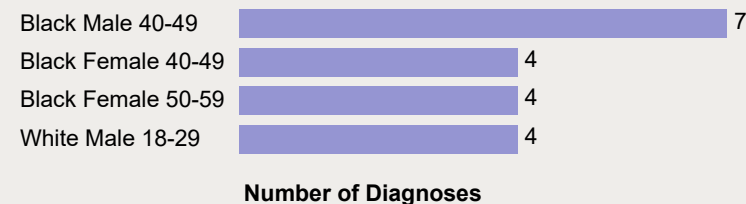


### Age at Diagnosis



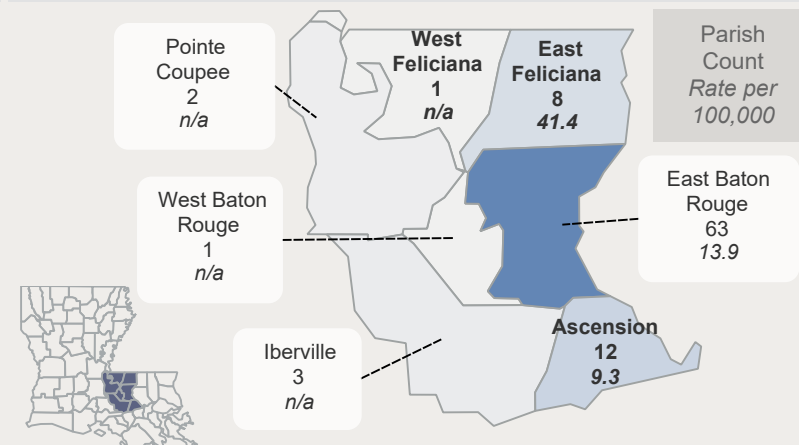
## Affected Subpopulations

Black males 40-49 years old, Black males 30-39, and Black males 60-69 had the highest number of chronic HBV diagnoses.



## Geographic Distribution

East Baton Rouge Parish had the highest number of HBV diagnoses, while East Feliciana Parish had the highest rate per 100,000 population.



\*n/a: Rates unavailable for parishes with <5 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 2023 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Acute Hepatitis C Annual Summary - 2023

Region 2 - Baton Rouge

Acute HCV Diagnoses

17

-----  
Louisiana Diagnoses: 106

Acute HCV Diagnosis Rate

2.4

per 100,000 population

-----  
Louisiana Rate: 2.3 per 100,000

Ranked **3rd** in number of diagnoses  
and **3rd** in diagnoses per 100,000  
people among Louisiana's nine public  
health regions

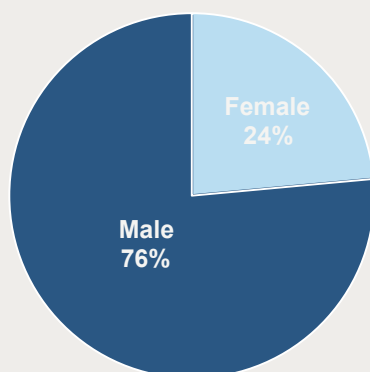
## Of the 17 acute HCV diagnoses in 2023:

76% of diagnoses were male.

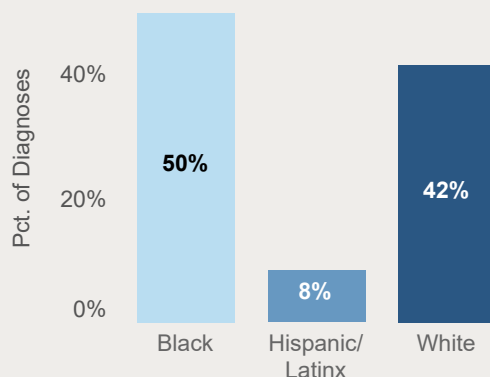
50% of new diagnoses were among Black  
people.

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

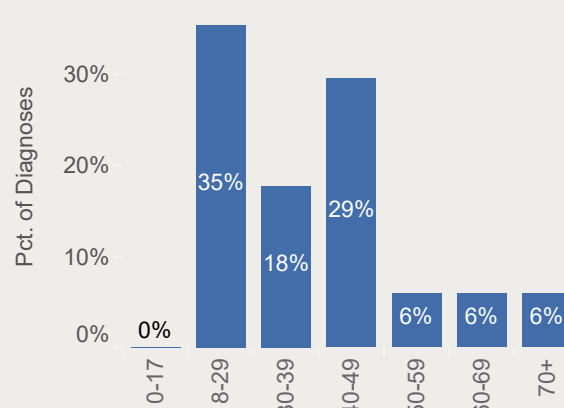
Birth Sex



Race/Ethnicity

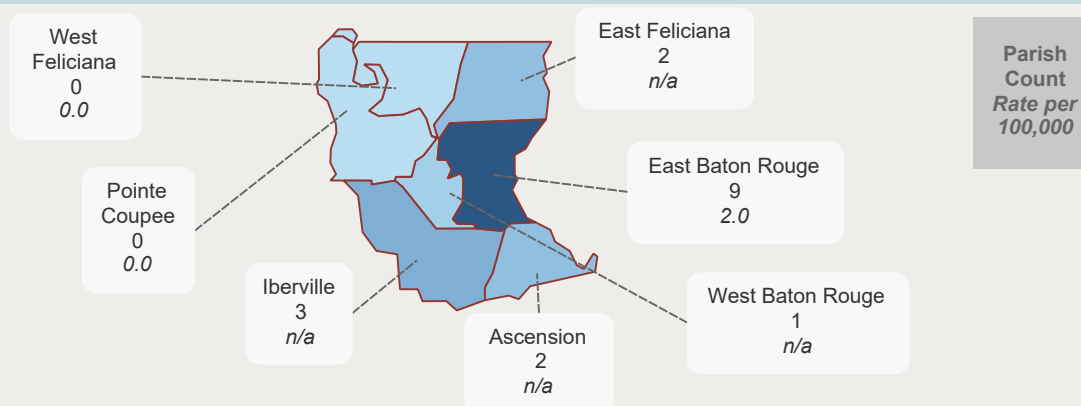


Age at Diagnosis



## Geographic Distribution

East Baton Rouge Parish had the majority of new diagnoses.



\*n/a: Rates unavailable for parishes with < 5 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](https://louisianahealthhub.org) to find out where to get tested & treated.



# Chronic Hepatitis C Annual Summary - 2023

Region 2 - Baton Rouge

Chronic HCV Diagnoses

**567**

-----  
Louisiana Diagnoses: 3,589

Chronic HCV Diagnosis Rate

**81.6**

per 100,000 population

-----  
Louisiana Rate: 77.6 per 100,000

Ranked **2nd** in number of diagnoses  
and **3rd** in diagnoses per 100,000  
population among Louisiana's nine  
public health regions

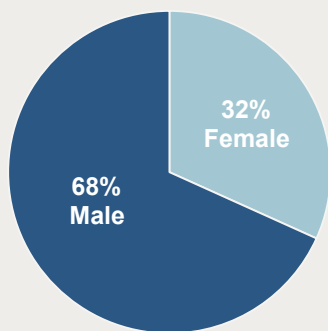
## Of the 567 new chronic HCV diagnoses in 2023:

Males comprised 68% of diagnoses.

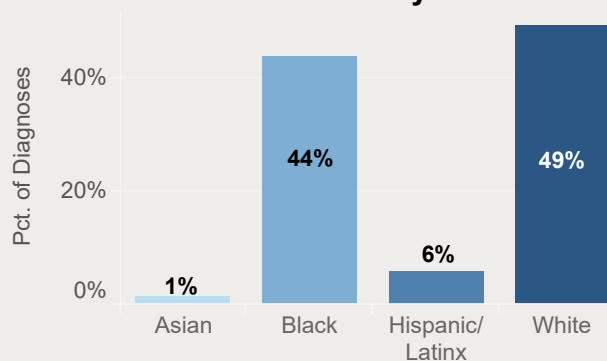
49% of diagnoses were among White people and  
44% of diagnoses were among Black people.

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

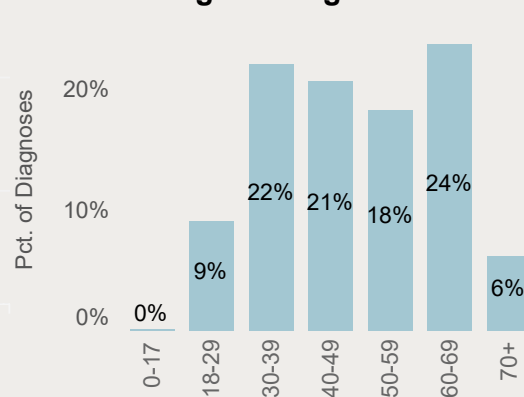
Birth Sex



Race/Ethnicity

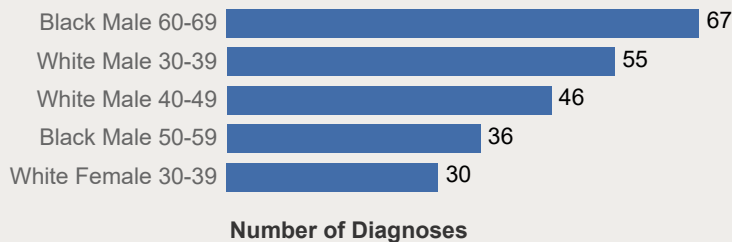


Age at Diagnosis



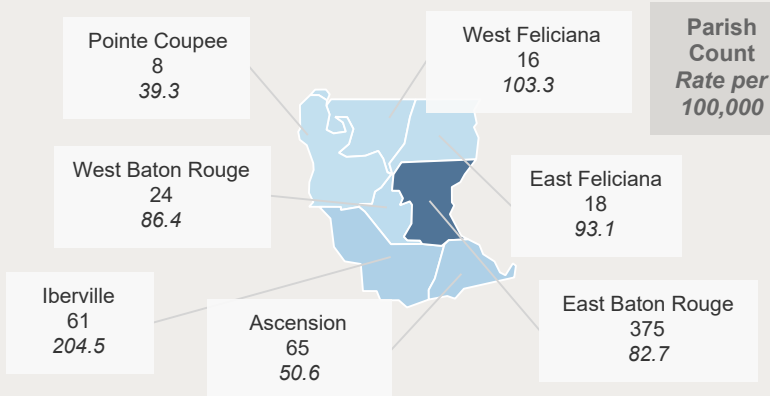
## Affected Subpopulations

Black males 60 to 69 years old had the highest number of new diagnoses.



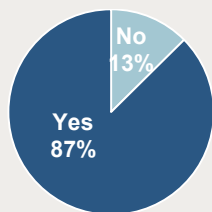
## Geographic Distribution

East Baton Rouge Parish had the highest number of diagnoses, while  
Iberville Parish had the highest rate per 100,000 population.

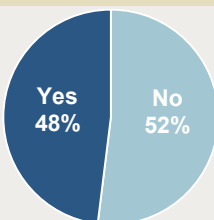


## Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment

In 2023, 87% of individuals with positive  
diagnostic tests also had confirmatory  
testing done.



As of December 2023, 48% 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](https://louisianahealthhub.org) to  
find out more.

**Interpreting the Data:** Please note that 2023 data may still be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic.