

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

## Chlamydia (2024 data)

### Summary points

- Chlamydia is the most common STI in Bristol and England.
- Bristol has a high crude rate of chlamydia diagnoses compared England (this however doesn't take into account the age and sex structure of our city).
- Last year chlamydia diagnosis rate fell in England but increased in Bristol and there were a total of 1804 diagnoses.
- 985 (over half) of these chlamydia diagnoses were in young people (15-24), representing a reduction in the rate for young people although number of chlamydia tests increased in this period to 12,973-the highest number of tests since the pandemic.
- A higher proportion of young women (15–24) are getting screened for chlamydia in Bristol (21.8%) compared to England (18%).
- Young women are most at risk of the complications of chlamydia and usually asymptomatic and therefore are opportunistically screened.
- The chlamydia detection rate for young women in Bristol is low compared to some other similar areas, suggesting we are not detecting chlamydia in enough young women.
- There were over 800 diagnoses of chlamydia in people over 25 in 2024.

### Chlamydia

Chlamydia is the most common Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) in England. It is usually spread through unprotected sex and is most common in young people aged 15-24. The infection has no symptoms for approximately 50% of men and 70-80% of women, and as a result, the majority of infections remain undiagnosed. Without treatment, chlamydia can spread to other parts of the body and lead to serious long-term health problems predominantly for women such as pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility. In 2023/24 there were 235 hospital admissions for pelvic inflammatory disease in Bristol. This rate of 191.0 per 100,000 women aged 15-44 is significantly lower than both the previous year (252.9) and the England rate of 247.5.

Bristol has a higher crude rate of chlamydia diagnoses across all ages (374 per 100,000) compared to England (293 per 100,000). However, these figures do not account for the city's age and sex structure, which may influence the rate, particularly given Bristol's relatively high proportion of young people. Notably, while the national chlamydia diagnosis rate declined last year, Bristol's increased, with a total of 1,804 diagnoses recorded. This accounts for half of all sexually transmitted Infections diagnosed in the city in 2024 (approximately 3,640 STIs). Of the chlamydia cases, 985 were in young people aged 15-24 and of these around two thirds of these (648) were in young women.

### National Chlamydia Screening Programme

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme was implemented in 2008 to support opportunistic screening for asymptomatic young people aged 24 and under to increase detection, to enable treatment and interrupt spread and thus reduce chlamydia prevalence.

In line with changes nationally, the Chlamydia Screening Programme in Bristol changed in April 2022 to focus on reducing the harms from untreated chlamydia infection. These harms occur

predominantly in young women and other people with a womb or ovaries - this includes transgender men, non-binary people assigned female at birth, and intersex people with a womb or ovaries. Therefore, opportunistic chlamydia screening in primary care is now focused on young women. However, all Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire residents are still able to access asymptomatic testing online through [Yuno Sexual Health](#).

In Bristol, the proportion of young women aged 15-24 screened for chlamydia increased from 14.6% in 2023 to 21.8% in 2024, higher than in England (18%).

### Chlamydia Detection in women aged 15-24

The detection rate is considered a measure of how effective chlamydia is being identified and managed, rather than how widespread the infection is. It is calculated by dividing the number of positive tests by the size of the relevant population (e.g. women aged 15-24).

Following lower detection results in 2020 and 2021 due to the disruption to Sexual Health Services during the pandemic, chlamydia detection rates increased in 2022 but have since decreased. The detection rates continue to be below pre-pandemic levels (Fig 1). Since chlamydia is most often asymptomatic, a high detection rate can reflect success at identifying infections that, if left untreated, may lead to serious reproductive health consequences.

The UK Health Security Agency set target chlamydia detection rates women aged 15-24. The target detection rate is 3,250 per 100,000 female population aged 15-24. Neither England nor Bristol has been achieving this rate. In Bristol the rate in 2024 was 1,506 per 100,000<sup>1</sup>. This is similar to the England average of 1,589 per 100,000 (see fig 1).

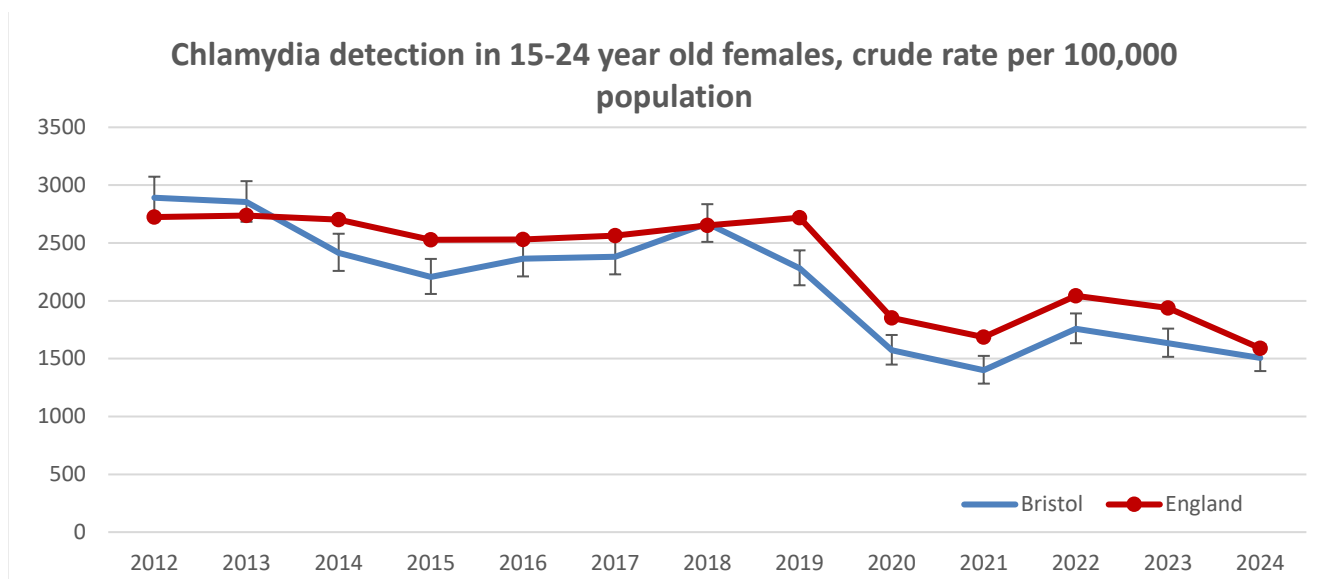


Fig 1: Chlamydia detection rate (crude) in females, Bristol v England, via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, accessed June 2025

Bristol has the seventh lowest detection rate (1,506 per 100,000 aged 15-24) of its nearest statistical neighbours (fig 2), where Manchester has a detection rate of 2,574 per 100,000 aged

<sup>1</sup> As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020 the Government implemented national and regional lockdowns and social and physical distancing measures. These measures affected sexual behaviour and health service provision, which is reflected in sexual and reproductive health indicator data. Interpreting data from 2020 should consider these factors, especially when comparing with data from pre-pandemic years.

15-24 and Hillingdon has a detection rate of 941 per 100,000 aged 15-24. The national rate is 1,589 per 100,000.

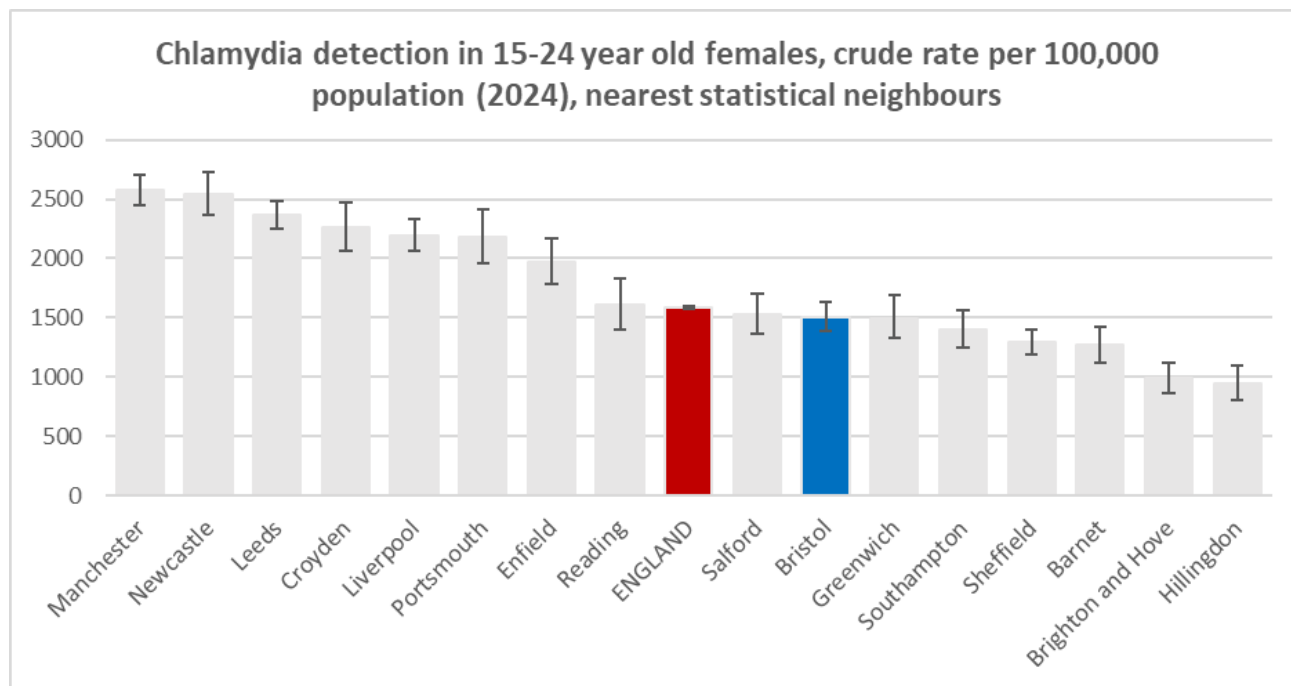


Fig 2: Chlamydia detection rate (crude) in females aged 15-24, Bristol v England, via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, accessed September 2025

### Chlamydia testing in 15 – 24 year olds

Although the National Chlamydia Screening Programme now focuses on young women, data on chlamydia testing for the whole Bristol population aged 15-24 is available. In 2024, 15.28% of 15–24-year-olds were tested for chlamydia; this was higher than the 12.74% recorded nationally <sup>2</sup>. The number of tests conducted in Bristol were the highest seen since before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. However, the proportion of tests that were positive has declined (Table 1).

Age 15-24		
Year	Number of tests carried out	Proportion of tests that were positive
2017	18,676	6.96%
2018	20,413	7.40%
2019	16,217	8.32%
2020	12,370	7.14%
2021	7,632	10.61%
2022	9,261	12.64%
2023	8,048	13.18%
2024	12,973	7.59%

Table 1: Number of chlamydia tests and positivity rate by year in 15-24 year olds in Bristol via Chlamydia Testing Activity Dataset (CTAD), accessed June 2025

<sup>2</sup> Data sourced from UKHSA chlamydia testing treatment activity dataset (CTAD).

### Chlamydia in 25+ year olds

Chlamydia is much less common in people over 25 and therefore they are not included in the National Chlamydia Screening Programme. The chlamydia diagnostic rate for people aged 25+ had been increasing since 2014 in Bristol and was consistently above the national rate. The rate fell in 2019, despite very high testing rates and continued to fall in 2020 and 2021, probably as a consequence of the pandemic. In 2024, the rate of 254 per 100,000 was higher than the previous year (223 per 100,000) and significantly higher than the national average (201 per 100,000) (fig 3) but this is a crude rate and doesn't take account of age or sex structure of the population. Over 800 people aged over 25 were diagnosed with chlamydia in Bristol in 2024.

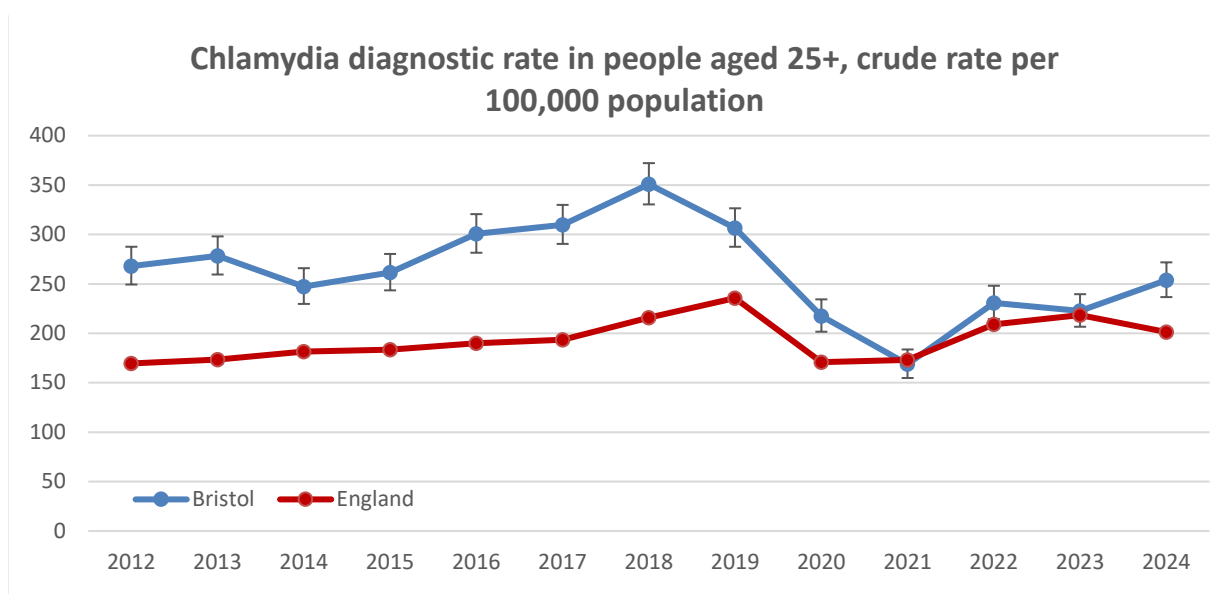


Fig 3: Chlamydia diagnostic rate (crude) in people aged 25+, Bristol v England, via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, accessed June 2025

### Equalities data (data sourced from CTAD)

In Bristol the total number of chlamydia tests for all ages in 2024 was 43,544, with 1,804 (4.14%) positive diagnoses recorded. The highest positivity rate was among 15-24 year olds (7.6%). Within this age range, the 16-19 age group had the highest positivity (9.8%). Across all age categories, more females tested for chlamydia (66.3%) than males (30.1%) in 2024 (3% had an unknown gender).

In relation to ethnicity, in 2024 53% of all age tests were taken by people identifying as White British, while 24.7% were taken by people whose ethnicity was either unknown or not stated. The lack of ethnicity data makes it impossible to draw any conclusions around chlamydia in relation to ethnicity.

There were 985 diagnoses of chlamydia among 15-24 year olds in Bristol in 2024. Of these, gender was known for 949 diagnoses (97%) with 30.6% of positives in males, and 65.8% in females. The chlamydia detection rate in females aged 15-24 year olds was 1,506 per 100,000 compared to 719 per 100,000 for males aged 15-24 (fig 4). This is likely to reflect different levels of engagement with health services and the change in focus of the chlamydia screening

programme to young females only. There are more long-term health implications for females than males if chlamydia is left untreated.

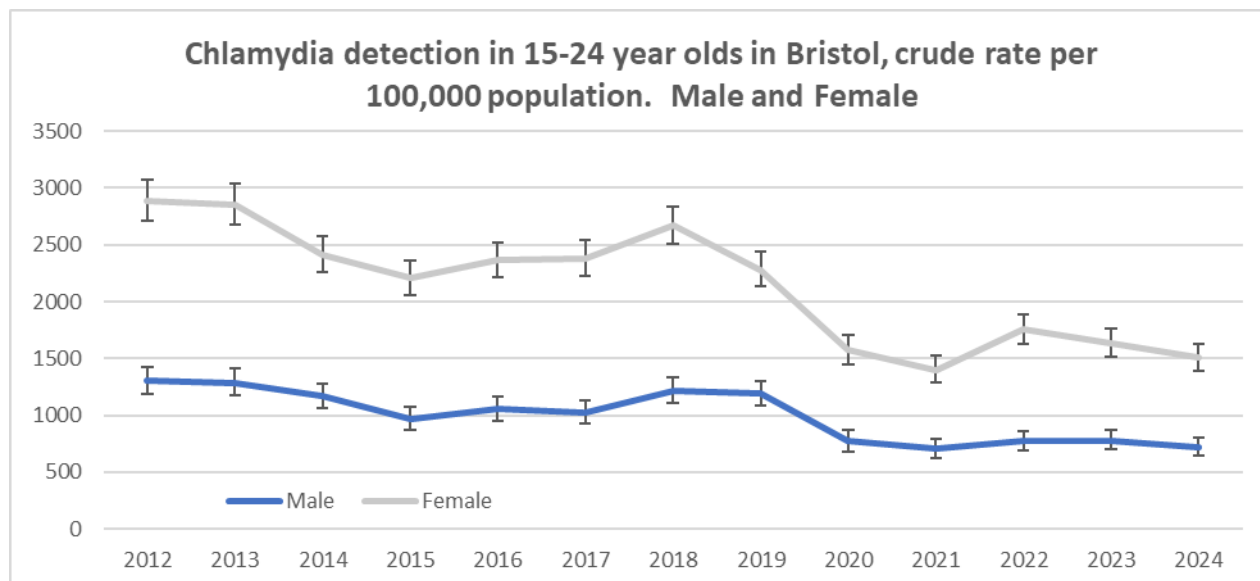


Fig 4: Chlamydia detection rate (crude) in people aged 15-24, Bristol, via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, accessed June 2025

#### Further data / links:

- Public Health England Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/sexualhealth>
- Chlamydia: surveillance, data, screening and management <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/chlamydia-surveillance-data-screening-and-management>
- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs): annual data tables <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sexually-transmitted-infections-stis-annual-data-tables>

**Date updated:** September 2025

**Date of next update:** June 2026