

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

## Why It Is Important:

Communicable diseases are illnesses that spread from one person to another through contact with contaminated objects or surfaces, bodily fluids and blood products, bites from insects or animals, or through the air.<sup>1</sup> Communicable diseases are a serious public health issue, and the prevention and control of these diseases is a major focus for public health departments. There are many ways to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Vaccinations have helped eliminate or greatly reduce communicable disease threats.<sup>1</sup> Proper handwashing, especially after handling food or using the toilet, making sure the food we eat and water we drink is safe, avoiding people who are sick and practicing safe sex such as using condoms are important components in disease prevention.

## What We Do At Sutter County:

The Sutter County Communicable Disease Program works to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases in our community. It works to contain these diseases by investigating who is sick and who else might get sick, providing vaccines, educating healthcare providers and the community about communicable diseases, and collecting and reporting the data essential to tracking the spread of these diseases.

## The following communicable diseases are discussed in this dashboard:

1. Chlamydia
2. Gonorrhea
3. Syphilis
4. Hepatitis C
5. Tuberculosis



## References

1. Communicable Disease. American Public Health Association. Accessed December 1, 2025. <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/communicable-disease>

# CHLAMYDIA

## Why It Is Important:

Chlamydia infections can have serious health consequences. For women, chlamydia can cause permanent damage to the reproductive system, which can make it difficult or impossible to conceive.<sup>1</sup> Chlamydia also increases the risk of premature birth and can even cause potentially fatal ectopic pregnancies.<sup>1</sup> During childbirth, a mother infected with chlamydia can pass the infection to her child, which can cause serious health problems for the newborn.<sup>1</sup> During 2022 to 2023, nationwide, the rate of chlamydia cases increased by 1.3% among men and the rate among women decreased 1.7%.<sup>2</sup>

## Where We Are Now:

Rates of chlamydia infections are much lower in Sutter County compared to California and the US (Table 1). From 2019 to 2021, Sutter County saw a declining trend in new chlamydia infections, with approximately 275 new chlamydia diagnoses per year; however, cases increased in 2022 (Figure 1). There was a slight increase from 2022 to 2023 (from 274 cases to 284) but still lower than 2019 (Figure 1). This decrease, compared to 2019, is likely attributed to changes in reporting guidelines by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). As of October 1, 2019, chlamydia infections are no longer required to be reported to local health departments.<sup>6</sup>

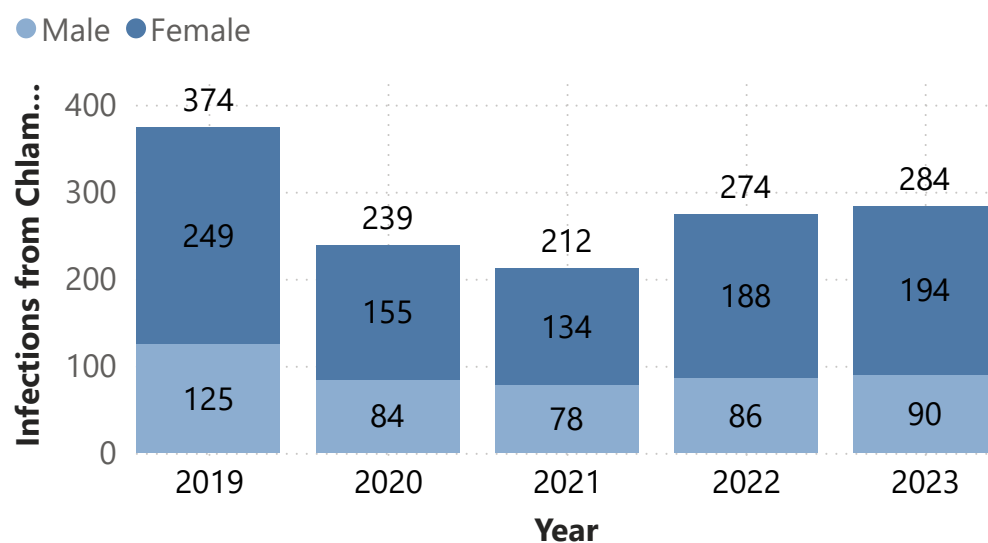
**Table 1: Chlamydia Infections per 100,000 (2021-2023)<sup>3-4</sup>**

Location	Rate per 100k
California	478.6
Sutter County	313.2
United States	494.0

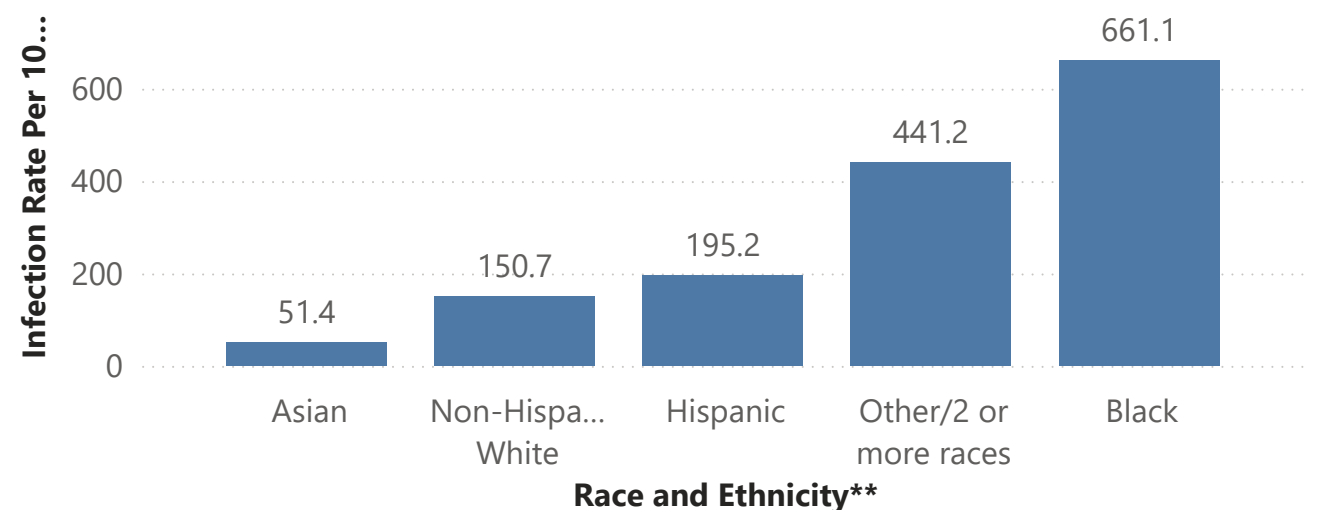
## Those Most Affected:

In Sutter County, chlamydia is diagnosed twice as often in women than men (Figure 1). While current sexually transmitted infections (STI) screening guidelines recommend annual chlamydia testing for all sexually active women younger than 25 years or who have an increased risk of contracting chlamydia (e.g., new or multiple sex partners), most men do not receive routine chlamydia testing.<sup>1</sup> In addition, 75% of all chlamydia infections are diagnosed in people younger than 30 years.<sup>5</sup> Black, multi-racial/other, Hispanic Sutter County residents are also more likely to be diagnosed with

**Figure 1: Chlamydia among Sutter County Residents, 2019-2023<sup>5</sup>**



**Figure 2: Average Yearly Rates of Chlamydia in Sutter County by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2023<sup>5</sup>**



\*\*Note: Other/2 or more races includes the following self-reported non-Hispanic race categories: "Other", "American Indian or Alaska Native", "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander", and "Multiple Races". Higher rates for this category may be influenced by limited self-reporting among patients.

## References

1. About Chlamydia. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published January 31, 2025. Accessed November 20, 2025. [https://www.cdc.gov/chlamydia/about/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/chlamydia/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm)
2. Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance 2023. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published September 16, 2025. Accessed November 20, 2025. p.156 [https://www.cdc.gov/sti-statistics/media/pdfs/2025/09/2023\\_STI\\_Surveillance\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/sti-statistics/media/pdfs/2025/09/2023_STI_Surveillance_Report_FINAL_508.pdf)
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5. CalREDIE Data Distribution Portal. California Department of Public Health. Data Accessed November 13, 2025.
6. Reportable Diseases and Conditions. California Department of Public Health. Published August 2022. Accessed December 1, 2025. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ReportableDiseases.pdf>

# GONORRHEA

## Why It Is Important:

Gonorrhea is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can have many serious health consequences if left untreated, including damage to the reproductive system, serious health problems for babies born to women with untreated gonorrhea, and even infertility.<sup>1</sup> Gonorrhea infections can also increase the risk of getting or transmitting HIV.<sup>1</sup> Gonorrhea is curable with proper treatment, but it is becoming increasingly harder to treat due to emerging drug-resistant strains of the disease.<sup>1</sup> Nationwide, the rate of reported gonorrhea among men increased 2.1% and the rate among women decreased 14.1% from 2019 to 2023.<sup>2</sup> Gonorrhea cases declined for the first time in at least a decade from 2021 to 2022.<sup>2</sup> From 2022 to 2023, rate of Gonorrhea cases further decreased by 7.7% nationally. In California, gonorrhea cases decreased 6.9% from 2019 to 2023.<sup>3</sup>

## Where We Are Now:

Rates of gonorrhea infections appear to be lower in Sutter County compared to California and the US (Table 1).<sup>3,4</sup> In Sutter County, cases of gonorrhea peaked in 2019. Since then, this rate dropped in 2020 and continued to drop through 2023 (Figure 1).<sup>5</sup> This decrease in gonorrhea infections in 2020 could be linked to a variety of factors, such as the improvements in the effectiveness of prevention strategies, and/or decreased STI screenings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, for Sutter County to continue experiencing reduced rates of infections, providing evidence-based prevention strategies and programs is essential.

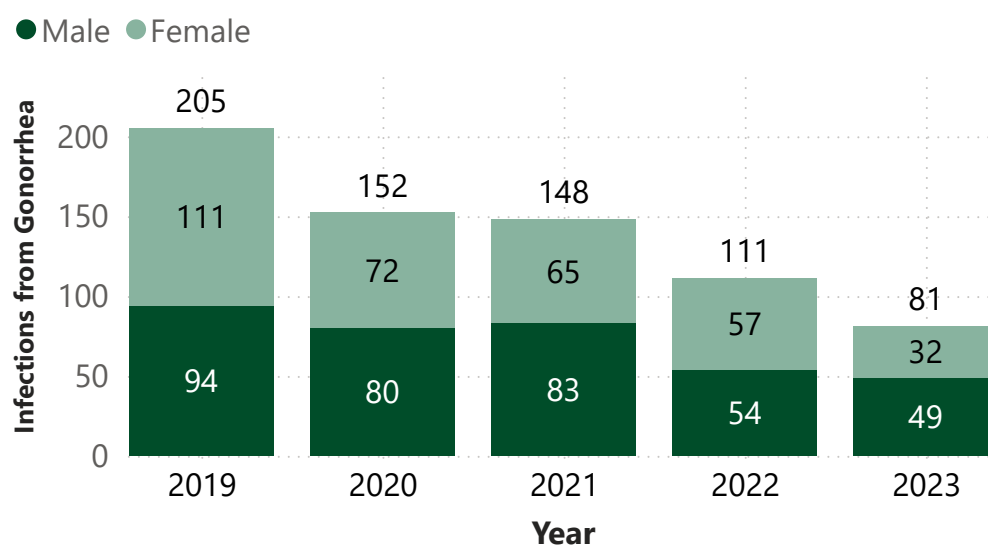
**Table 1: Gonorrhea Infections per 100,000 (2021-2023)<sup>3-4</sup>**

Location	Cases per 100,000
California	208.7
Sutter County	116.9
United States	196.0

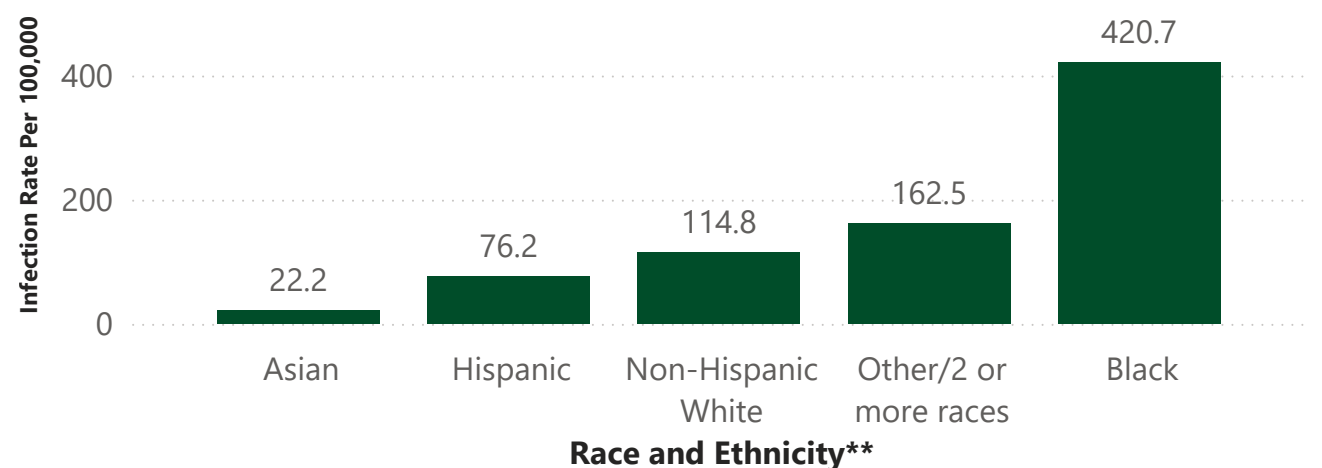
## Those Most Affected:

From 2019-2022, gonorrhea was diagnosed almost equally among men and women in Sutter County (Figure 1).<sup>5</sup> However, in 2023, there were significantly less cases among females compared to males (Figure 1).<sup>5</sup> Unlike chlamydia, men with gonorrhea are more likely to have symptoms and thus get tested and diagnosed. Gonorrhea is also very common in younger people. In Sutter County from 2019-2023, 25% of all gonorrhea infections diagnosed were among people younger than 23 years, and 75% of all gonorrhea infections diagnosed were among people younger than 35 years.<sup>5</sup> Black, other/multi-racial, and non-Hispanic White Sutter County residents are also more likely to be diagnosed with gonorrhea.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 1: Gonorrhea among Sutter County Residents, 2019-2023<sup>5</sup>**



**Figure 2: Average Yearly Rates of Gonorrhea in Sutter County by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2023<sup>5</sup>**



\*\*Note: Other/2 or more races includes the following self-reported non-Hispanic race categories: "Other", "American Indian or Alaska Native", "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander", and "Multiple Races". Higher rates for this category may be influenced by limited self-reporting among patients.

## References

1. About Gonorrhea. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published February 15, 2024. Accessed December 1, 2025. [https://www.cdc.gov/gonorrhea/about/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stdfact-gonorrhea.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/gonorrhea/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stdfact-gonorrhea.htm)
2. Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance 2023. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published September 16, 2025. Accessed November 20, 2025. p.124 [https://www.cdc.gov/sti-statistics/media/pdfs/2025/09/2023\\_STI\\_Surveillance\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/sti-statistics/media/pdfs/2025/09/2023_STI_Surveillance_Report_FINAL_508.pdf)
3. California Department of Public Health. Table GC-1. Gonorrhea—Reported Cases and Rates by Age and Sex, California, 2023. In: STD Data Tables – All STDs, 2023. California Department of Public Health. Published December 12, 2024. Accessed November 21, 2025. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/STD-Data.aspx>
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# SYPHILIS

## Why It Is Important:

Syphilis is a major public health issue in California and nationwide. Syphilis can affect the heart, brain, and other organs of the body.<sup>1</sup> There are multiple stages of syphilis, including primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary.<sup>1</sup> Syphilis can also be transmitted from mother to child, leading to congenital syphilis.<sup>1</sup> Babies born with syphilis can have serious health problems, including premature birth, low birth weight, birth defects, blindness, hearing loss, stillbirth, and death.<sup>1</sup> Nationally, syphilis cases (all stages) increased 18.0% from 2021 to 2023.<sup>2</sup> Syphilis cases (all stages) increased by 4% in California and declined by 44% in Sutter from 2021 to 2023.<sup>3</sup>

## Where We Are Now:

Syphilis has increased at an alarming rate in Sutter County (Figure 1) until 2021.<sup>4</sup> Syphilis diagnoses were 1.3 times higher in 2021, compared to 2019 (Figure 1).<sup>4</sup> Since 2021, syphilis cases decreased drastically, falling below 2019 total cases.<sup>4</sup> Sutter County had 10.1 cases of primary and secondary syphilis per 100,000 residents in 2023, which is less than both the U.S. (15.8 cases per 100,000 residents) and California (16.3 cases per 100,000 residents).<sup>2,3</sup> Syphilis case rates (all stages) in Sutter County were also lower than both California and United States (Table 1).<sup>2-3,5</sup> In 2023, Congenital Syphilis rates in Sutter County (327.6 per 100,000 live births) were higher than both California (128.9 per 100,000 live births) and the United States (107.8 per 100,000 live births).<sup>2,3</sup>

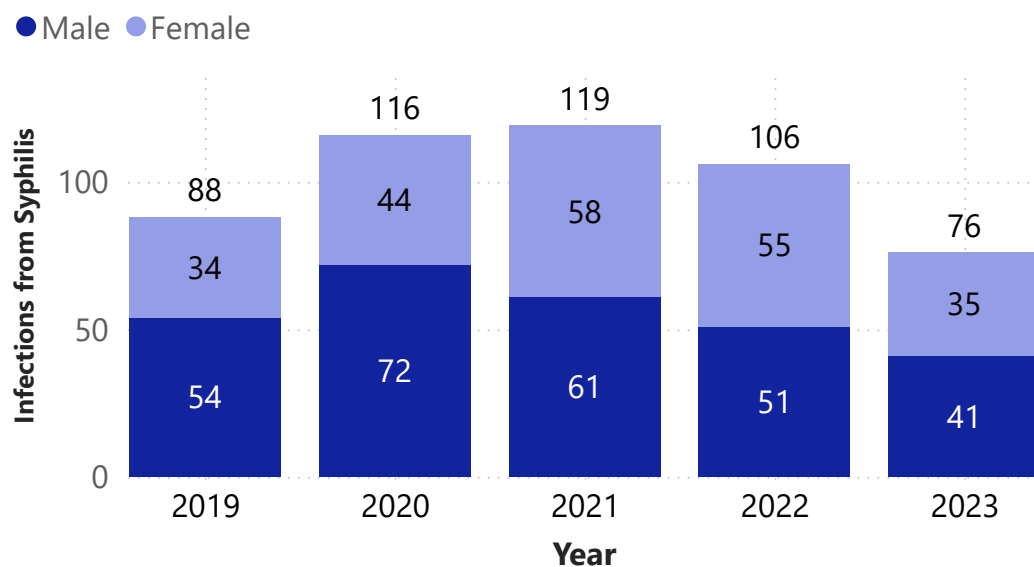
**Table 1: Syphilis (All Stages) Infections per 100,000 (2023)<sup>2-3,5</sup>**

Location	Cases Per 100k
California	81.6
Sutter County	60.6
United States	61.8

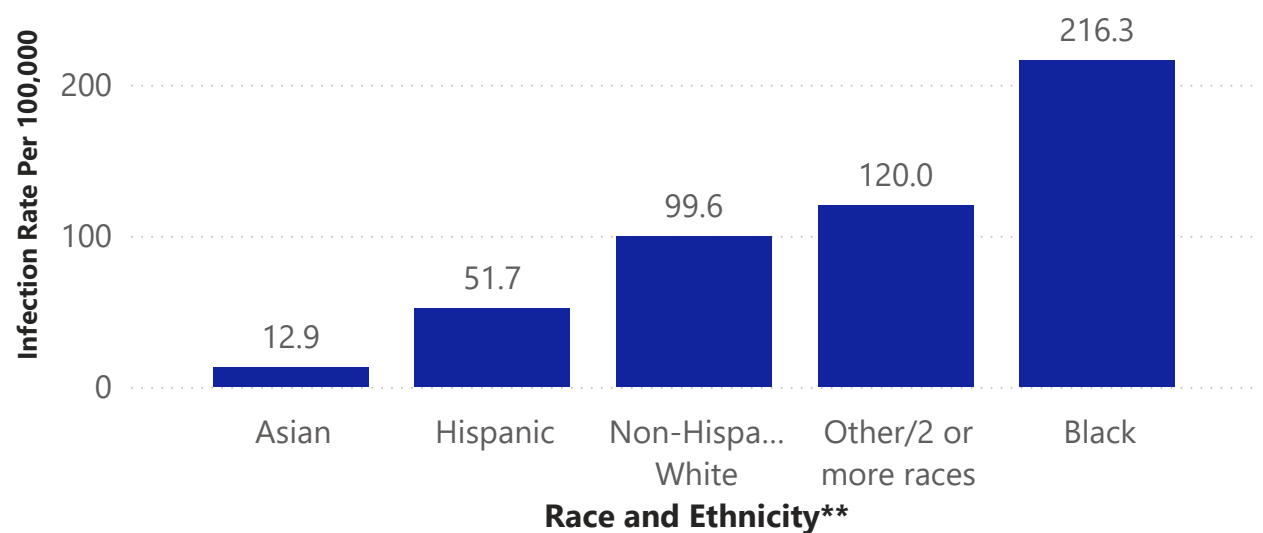
## Those Most Affected:

In Sutter County, there were less cases of syphilis among women (35 new cases) compared to men (41 new cases) in 2023.<sup>4</sup> Prior to 2022, syphilis was mostly diagnosed in men.<sup>4</sup> From 2019-2023, roughly 3.6% of women diagnosed with syphilis were pregnant.<sup>4</sup> From 2019 to 2023, Black, multi-racial/other, and non-Hispanic White residents were more likely to be diagnosed with syphilis, and about 60% of all syphilis diagnoses were among people aged 26-43.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 1: Syphilis among Sutter County Residents, 2019-2023<sup>4\*</sup>**



**Figure 2: Average Yearly Rates of Syphilis in Sutter County by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2023<sup>4\*</sup>**



\*Note: Syphilis incidence includes cases classified in CalRedie as: Syphilis (Early non-primary non-secondary), Syphilis (Primary), Syphilis (Secondary), Syphilis (Unknown Duration or Late), and Syphilis Stage Unknown/Reactor.

\*\*Note: Other/2 or more races includes the following self-reported non-Hispanic race categories: "Other", "American Indian or Alaska Native", "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander", and "Multiple Races". Higher rates for this category may be influenced by limited self-reporting among patients.

## References

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3. California Department of Public Health, Sexually Transmitted Diseases Control Branch. Tables TES-1, PS-1, UDLS-1 and CS-1. In: STD Data Tables – All STDs, 2023. Accessed November 21, 2025. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/STD-Data.aspx>
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# CHRONIC HEPATITIS C

## Why It Is Important:

Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus and is spread through contact with blood from an infected person.<sup>1</sup> Today, most people become infected by sharing needles or other equipment used to prepare or inject drugs.<sup>1</sup> Advanced screenings for hepatitis C in blood banks has made the risk of transmission through blood products and transfusions rare, however, people who have had blood transfusions, received blood products, or organ transplants before June 1992, when hepatitis C screenings became available, are at an increased risk for this virus.<sup>2</sup> Hepatitis C infection can range from mild illness lasting a few weeks to lifelong illnesses that can result in serious health problems such as liver cancer, cirrhosis and even death.<sup>2</sup> Getting tested for hepatitis C is important, as timely treatment can cure most people with hepatitis C in 8 to 12 weeks.<sup>3</sup> More than half of hepatitis C infections will become chronic.<sup>2</sup> While there is no vaccine for hepatitis C, it can be prevented by avoiding sharing needles or syringes, using personal items that may come into contact with an infected person's blood like razors, nail clippers or toothbrushes and avoiding getting tattoos or body piercings from an unlicensed facility or in an informal setting.<sup>2</sup>

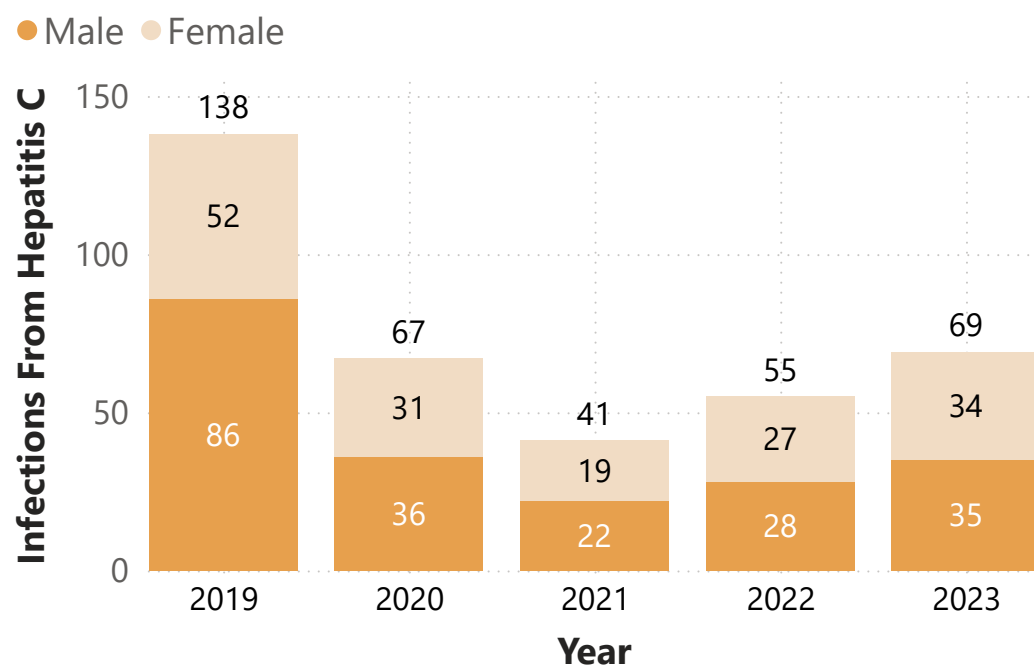
## Where We Are Now:

In 2023, nationally, there were a total of 101,525 new chronic hepatitis C cases (a case rate of 36.2 cases per 100,000) and 9,547 cases in California (24.5 cases per 100,000).<sup>4</sup> In the same year, Sutter County had a chronic hepatitis C case rate of 69.1 per 100,000, which is higher than the national and California rates.<sup>5,6</sup>

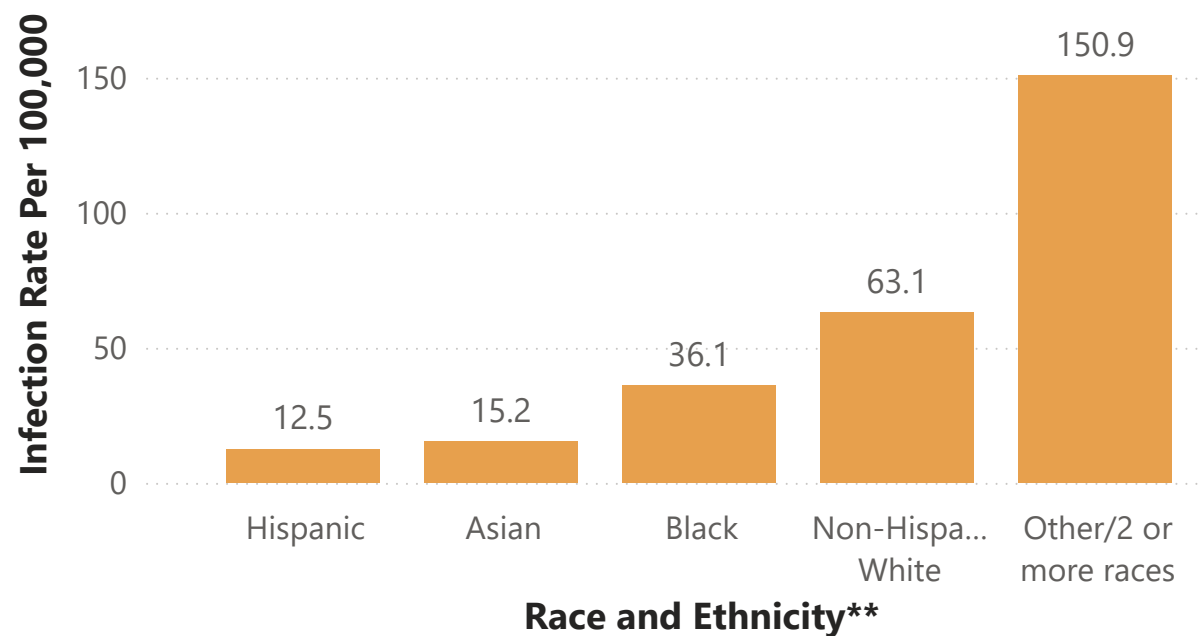
## Those Most Affected:

In Sutter County, men are more likely to be diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C, compared to women (Figure 1).<sup>5</sup> From 2019-2021, Sutter County saw a decrease in chronic hepatitis C, followed by an increase in cases in 2022 and 2023. In addition, Sutter County, multi-racial/other and non-Hispanic White residents have the highest rate of hepatitis C (Figure 2).<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 1: Chronic Hepatitis C among Sutter County Residents, 2019-2023<sup>5</sup>**



**Figure 2: Average Yearly Rates of Chronic Hepatitis C in Sutter County by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2023<sup>5</sup>**



\*\*Note: Other/2 or more races includes the following self-reported non-Hispanic race categories: "Other", "American Indian or Alaska Native", "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander", and "Multiple Races". Higher rates for this category may be influenced by limited self-reporting among patients.

## References

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5. *CalREDIE Data Distribution Portal*. California Department of Public Health. Data Accessed November 13, 2025.
6. California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. Report P-2D: Total Population by Race and Ethnicity, California Counties, 2020-2070 (Baseline 2024 Population Projections; Vintage 2025 Release). Sacramento: California. September 2025.

# TUBERCULOSIS

## Why It Is Important:

Tuberculosis (TB) is a lung infection caused by the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacterium.<sup>1</sup> TB is either *latent* or *active*. People with *latent* TB are infected, but the bacterium does not cause symptoms and is not contagious. Someone with *active* TB has symptoms and can spread the disease.<sup>1</sup> TB is very debilitating and may be fatal. Treatment is difficult, taking up to 4 drugs per day, for up to 9 months.<sup>2</sup> TB requires considerable work by a health department with each case requiring daily case management including directly-observed therapy to ensure patients with TB are managed properly, rendered non-infectious, and cured of their disease. Improperly treated TB can become drug resistant, making treatment more difficult and may lead to poor outcomes and increased mortality rates.

## Where We Are Now:

From 2021 to 2023, Sutter County had a lower active TB case rate (2.3 infections per 100,000) than California (3.6 infections per 100,000).<sup>3</sup> Sutter County's case rate was also lower than the U.S. average case rate from 2021-2023 (2.6 infections per 100,000).<sup>4</sup> From 2019 to 2021, active tuberculosis infections in Sutter County steadily decreased.<sup>5</sup> From 2022 to 2023, active TB cases increased from 2 cases to 4 cases (Figure 1).<sup>5</sup>

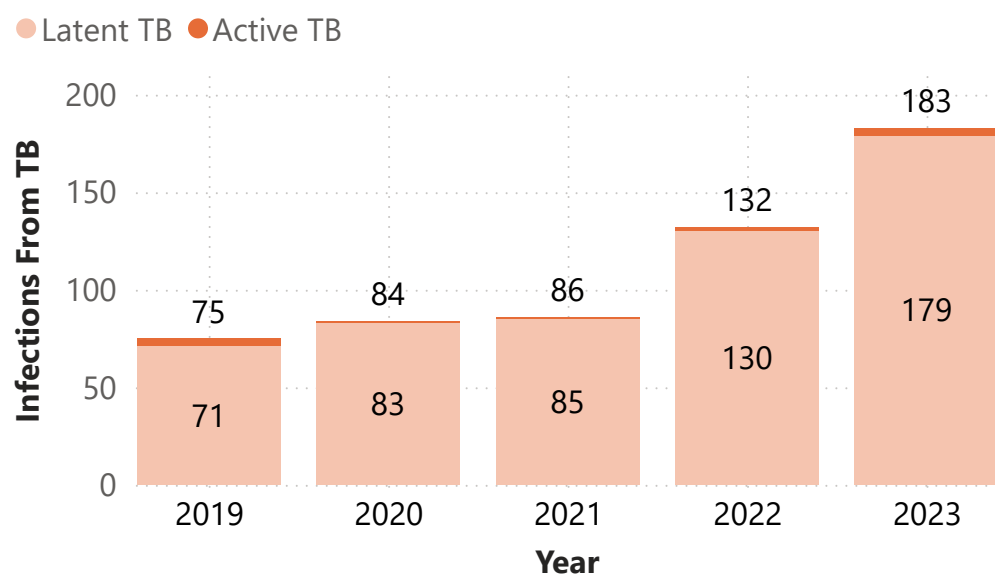
**Table 1: Tuberculosis Infections per 100,000 (2021-2023)<sup>3-4</sup>**

Location	Cases per 100,000
California	3.60
Sutter County	2.30
United States	2.60

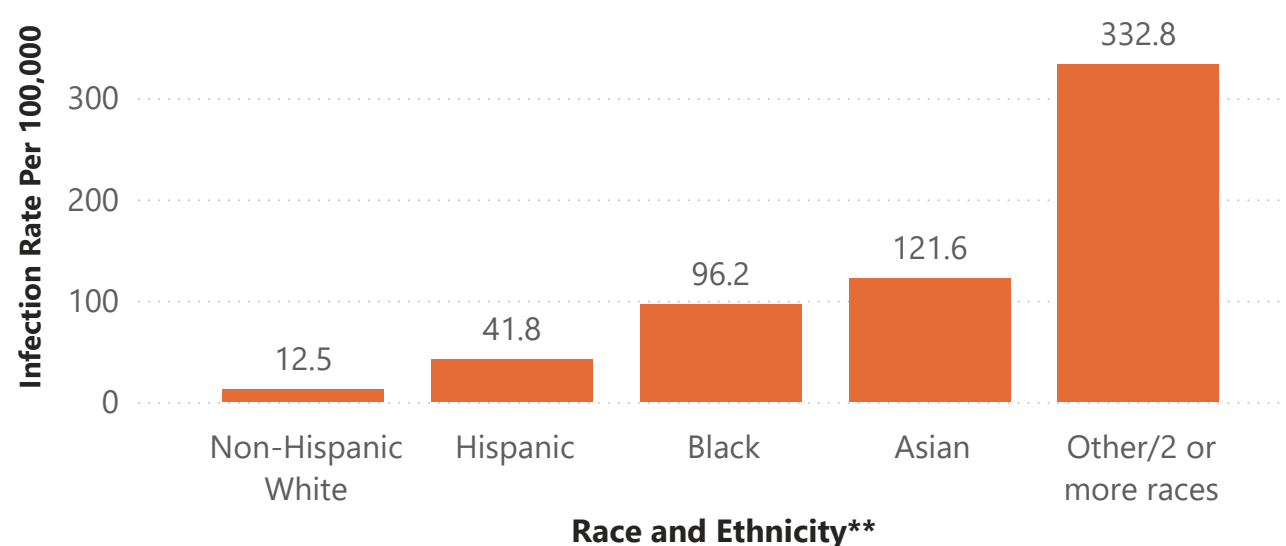
## Those Most Affected:

In Sutter County, TB is diagnosed more frequently in women than men; from 2019 to 2023, roughly 57% of all TB cases (both active and latent) were among women.<sup>5,6</sup> Active TB is usually reactivated from latent TB patients. In addition, 18.9% of all TB diagnoses were among Asian residents, which is highlighted in Figure 2.<sup>5,6</sup> There are higher rates of TB among those born outside the United States.<sup>5,6</sup> From 2019-2023, multi-race/others were most affected by tuberculosis (latent and active), followed by Asian, Black, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic White residents.<sup>6</sup>

**Figure 1: Active\* vs. Latent TB among Sutter County Residents, 2019-2023<sup>5</sup>**



**Figure 2: Average Yearly Rates of Tuberculosis (Active and Latent) in Sutter County by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2023<sup>6</sup>**



\*Note: Active TB case counts reflect numbers shared publicly by California Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control Branch.

\*\*Note: Other/2 or more races includes the following self-reported non-Hispanic race categories: "Other", "American Indian or Alaska Native", "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander", and "Multiple Races". Higher rates for this category may be influenced by limited self-reporting among patients.

## References

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