





Infectious Syphilis Surveillance 2012-2016

Rhode Island Department of Health

Division of Preparedness, Response, Infectious
Disease and Emergency Medical Services

Center for HIV, Hepatitis, STDs, and TB Epidemiology



About Infectious Syphilis

- Infectious syphilis includes primary, secondary, and early latent stages of syphilis.
- Syphilis is a bacteria that is spread through sexual contact.
- Depending on the stage of syphilis, symptoms may include painless sores or a non-itchy body rash.
- High risk groups include gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.



Data Overview, Infectious Syphilis

- There were 147 cases of infectious syphilis in Rhode Island in 2016.
- The incidence rate in Rhode Island was 13.9 cases per 100,000 in 2016.
- Infectious syphilis cases have increased in Rhode Island over the last 5 years.
- The highest rates of infectious syphilis are seen in Providence County.

Reported Cases of Infectious Syphilis, Rhode Island, 2012-2016

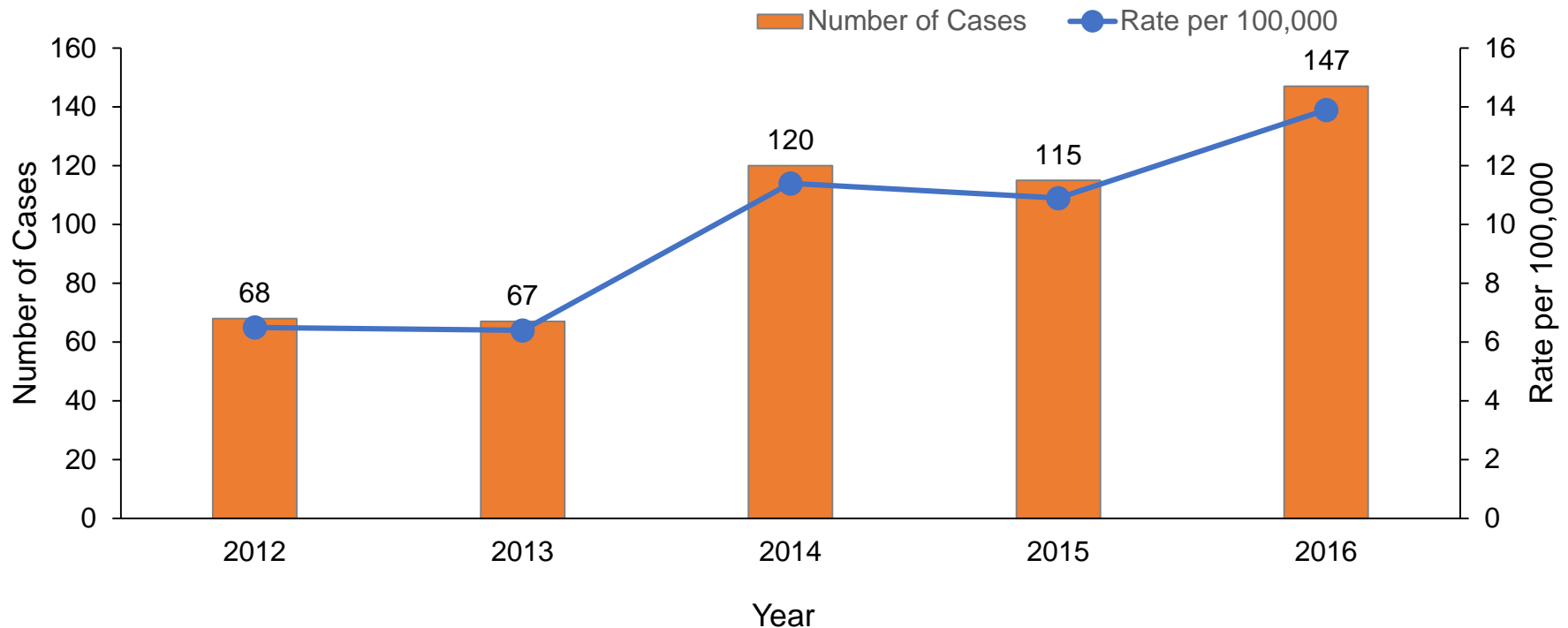


Figure 1: In 2016, there were 147 cases of infectious syphilis reported in Rhode Island, with a rate of 13.9 cases per 100,000 population. Infectious syphilis cases increased by 28% from 2015 to 2016.

Rate of Infectious Syphilis, Age Group, Rhode Island, 2016

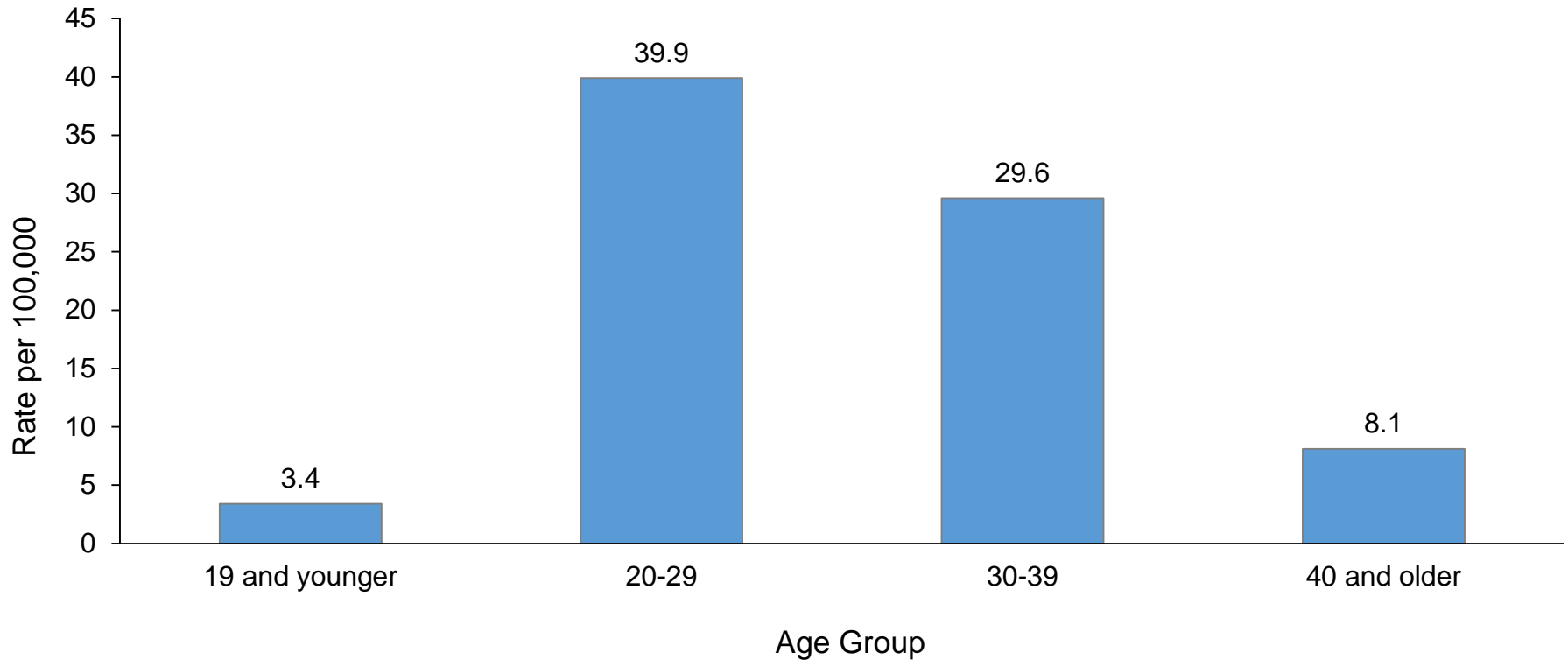


Figure 2: In 2016, infectious syphilis rates were highest in the 20-29 year old age group, followed by the 30-39 year old age group. Nationally, rates were also highest in the 20-29 year old age group.

Rate of Infectious Syphilis, Sex and Year, Rhode Island, 2012-2016

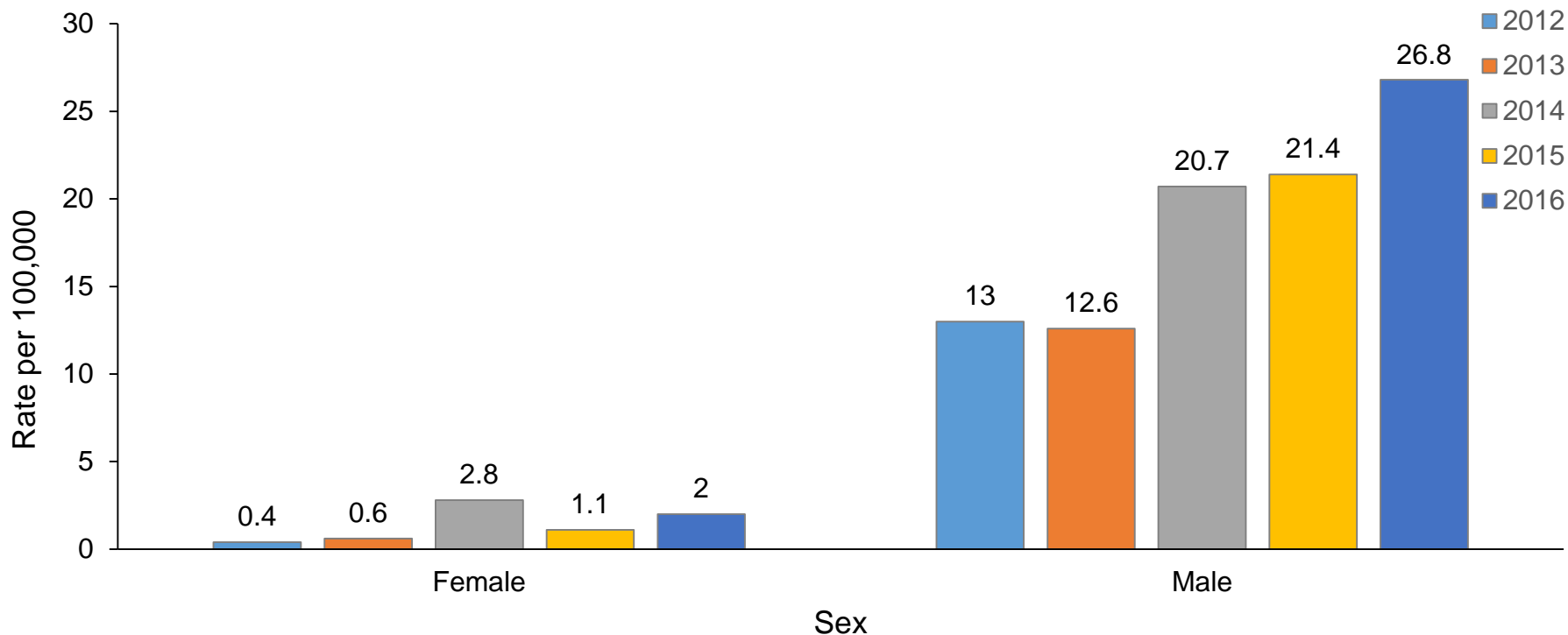


Figure 3: Infectious syphilis rates have been higher in males than in females over the last five years. In 2016, there were 11 cases in females and 136 cases in males. As seen in the rest of the country, gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men account for the majority of syphilis cases reported.

Rate of Infectious Syphilis, County and Year, Rhode Island, 2012-2016

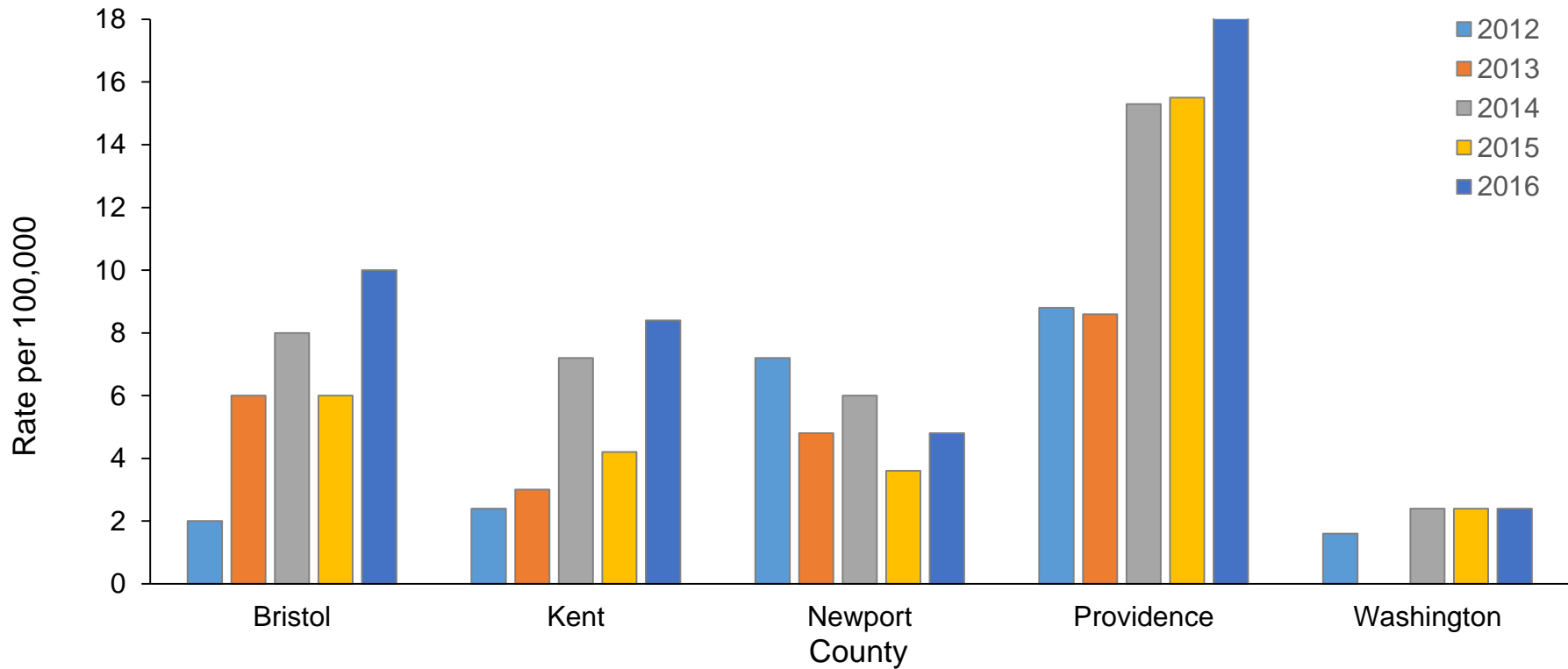


Figure 4: Between 2012 and 2016, rates of infectious syphilis were consistently higher in Providence County.

Infectious Syphilis Frequency and Rates by Year, Rhode Island, 2012-2016



Table 1. Frequency by Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of Cases	68	67	120	115	147

Table 2. Rate by Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Rate per 100,000	6.5	6.4	11.4	10.9	13.9

Infectious Syphilis Frequency, Age Group and Year, Rhode Island, 2012-2016



Table 3. Frequency by Age Group and Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
0-19	4	2	3	7	6
20-29	22	19	48	44	59
30-39	17	15	33	24	37
40 and older	25	31	36	40	42
Total	68	67	120	115	147

Infectious Syphilis Rates, Age Group and Year, Rhode Island, 2012-2016



Table 4. Rate by Age Group and Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
0-19	1.5	0.8	1.1	2.7	3.4
20-29	14.9	12.8	32.4	29.7	39.9
30-39	13.6	12	26.4	19.2	29.6
40 and older	4.8	6	7	7.7	8.1

Infectious Syphilis Frequency and Rates, Sex and Year, Rhode Island, 2012-2016



Table 5. Frequency by Sex and Year

	20112	2013	2014	2015	2016
Female	2	3	15	6	11
Male	66	64	105	109	136
Total	68	67	120	115	147

Table 6. Rate by Sex and Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Female	0.4	0.6	2.8	1.1	2.0
Male	13.0	12.6	20.7	21.4	26.8

Infectious Syphilis Frequency, County and Year, Rhode Island, 2013-2016



Table 7. Frequency by County and Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Bristol	1	3	4	3	5
Kent	4	5	12	7	14
Newport	6	4	5	3	4
Providence	55	54	96	97	121
Washington	2	0	3	3	3
Unknown	0	1	0	2	0
All	68	67	120	115	147

Infectious Syphilis Rates by County and Year, Rhode Island, 2012-2016



Table 8. Rate by County and Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Bristol	2.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	10.0
Kent	2.4	3.0	7.2	4.2	8.4
Newport	7.2	4.8	6.0	3.6	4.8
Providence	8.8	8.6	15.3	15.5	19.3
Washington	1.6	0.0	2.4	2.4	2.4



Notes on Data

- Case counts include patients classified as confirmed cases.
- Rate is calculated per 100,000 population. The population denominator is based on 2010 US Census Population.



References

- <http://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/stdfact-syphilis.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats16/syphilis.htm>