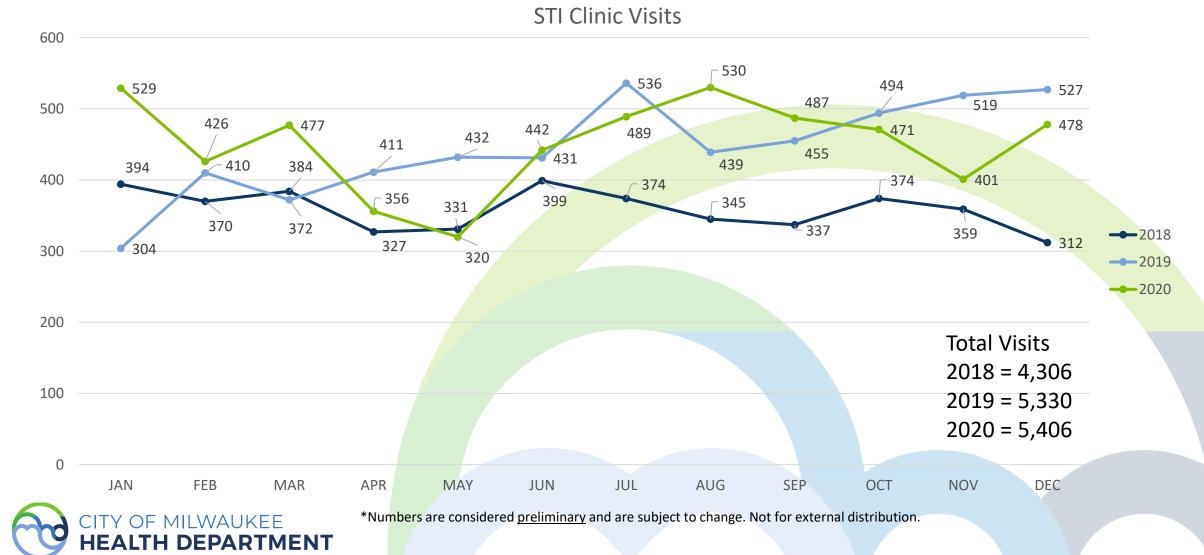
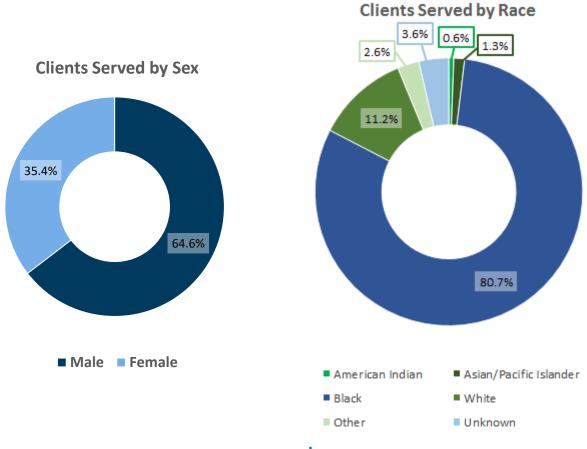
## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM SERVICES



### KEENAN HEALTH CENTER: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SPECIALTY CLINIC

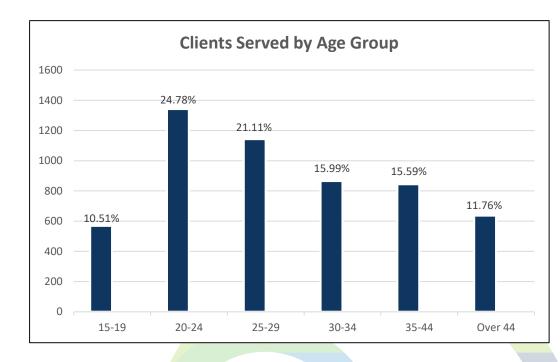


### KEENAN HEALTH CENTER: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SPECIALTY CLINIC CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS





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### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI) FOLLOW-UP

### DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST

Disease	# of cases in Milwaukee County	# of cases assigned for follow-up	Percent of assigned cases that received partner services and/or treatment
Chlamydia	10,542	441	92%
Gonorrhea (including SURRG)	5,237	347	90%
Syphilis (primary & secondary)	214	221**	93%
HIV	105	100	67%



\*Data is preliminary and subject to change

\*\*Milwaukee Health Department covers the entire southeastern region for syphilis follow up, thus the number of cases for follow-up exceeds the number of cases in Milwaukee in 2020.

## MILWAUKEE SYPHILIS CASES ON THE RISE: CHANGING TRENDS

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:**

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#### CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

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### **TRENDS – COMPARISON TO OTHER STIs**

Incidence of STIs, City of Milwaukee, by Quarter and Year, 2015-2020

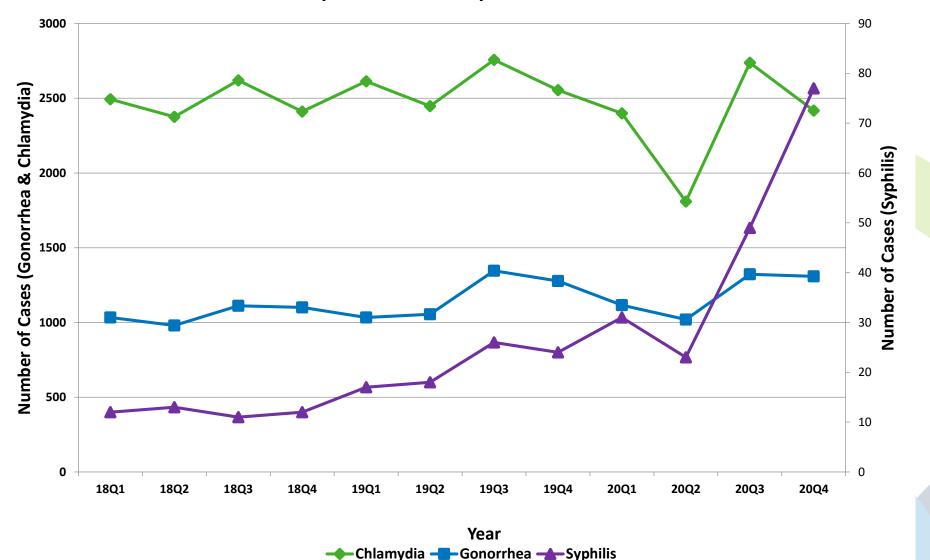


Figure 1. Incidence of Primary, Secondary, and Early Latent (Early Non-Primary Non-Secondary) Syphilis, Southeastern Wisconsin Region, by Disease Stage and Quarter, 2015-2020

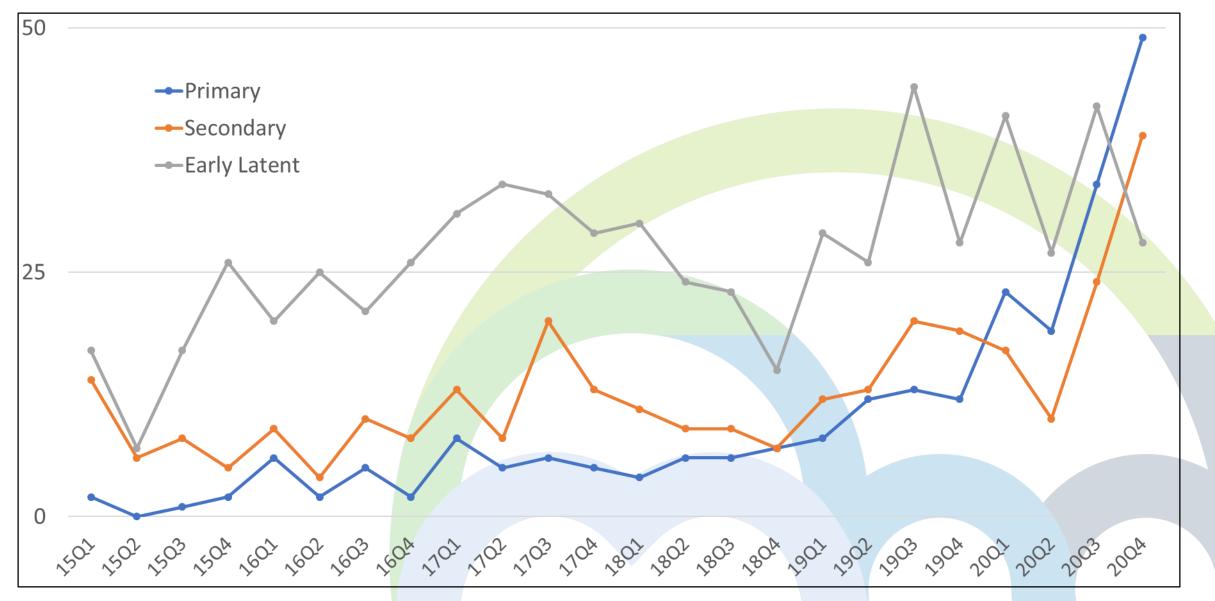
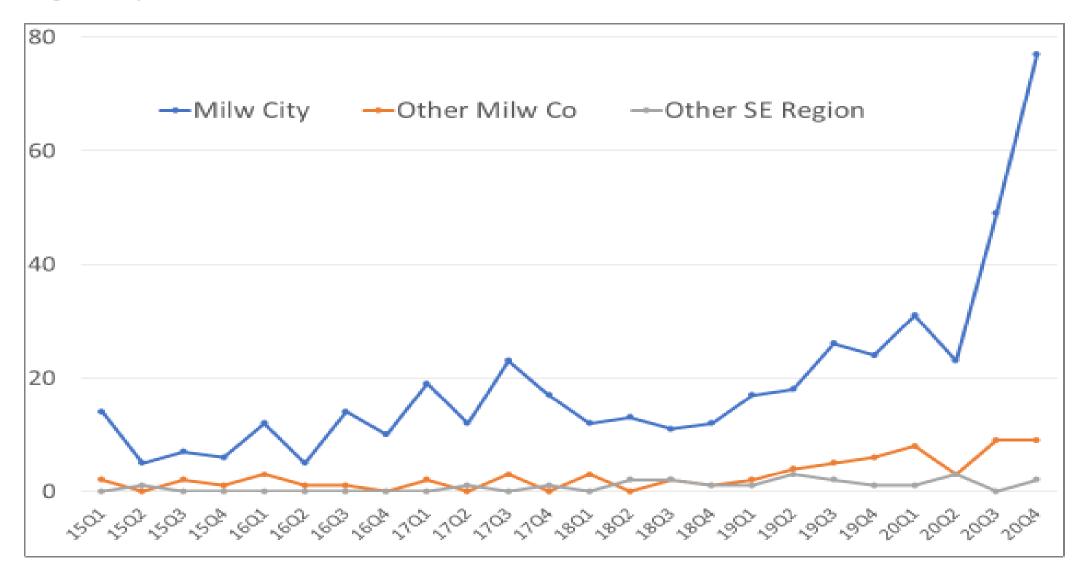


Figure 2. Incidence of Primary & Secondary Syphilis, Southeastern Wisconsin Region, by Jurisdiction and Quarter, 2015-2020



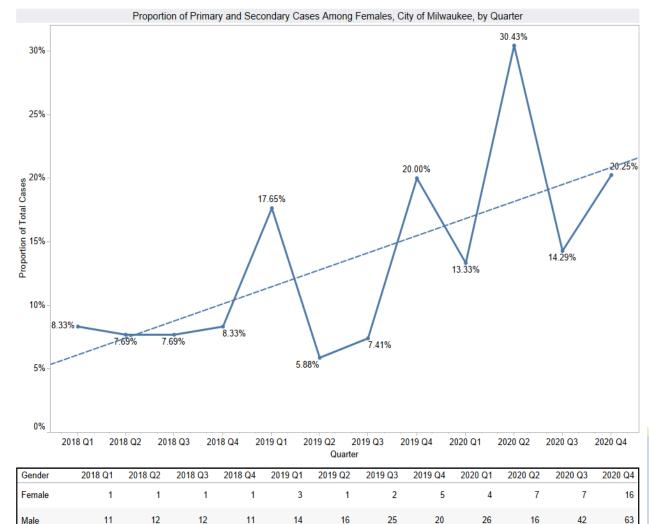
## **TRENDS – RACE/ETHNICITY** RACIAL INEQUITY

- Racial inequities have consistently been observed in STI rates
  - This recent spike in Syphilis follows these trends
  - In the city of Milwaukee, non-Hispanic Black population experiences the largest burden of syphilis infections
    - 65.9% of Primary and Secondary (P&S) Syphilis cases from 2018-2020 were among Blacks
    - 14.5% of P&S Syphilis cases from 2018-2020 were among Whites
    - 14.5% of P&S Syphilis cases from 2018-2020 were among Hispanics



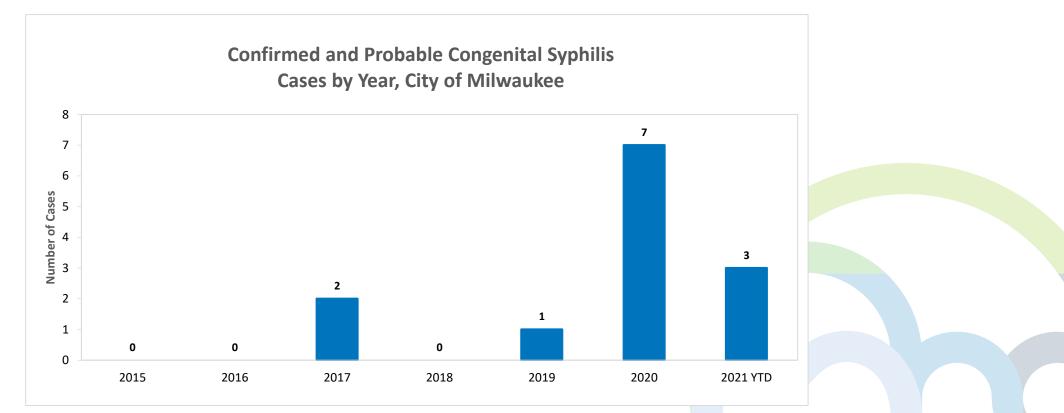
# TRENDS – RISE IN FEMALE CASES

- Statistically significant increase in the proportion of primary and secondary cases among females
- The proportion of women aged >29 increased from 12.5% in the baseline period to 51.2% in the recent period
  - Baseline time period Jan 2018
    - Jun 2019
      - Median age: 21
  - Recent time period Jul 2019 Dec 2020
    - Median age: 30

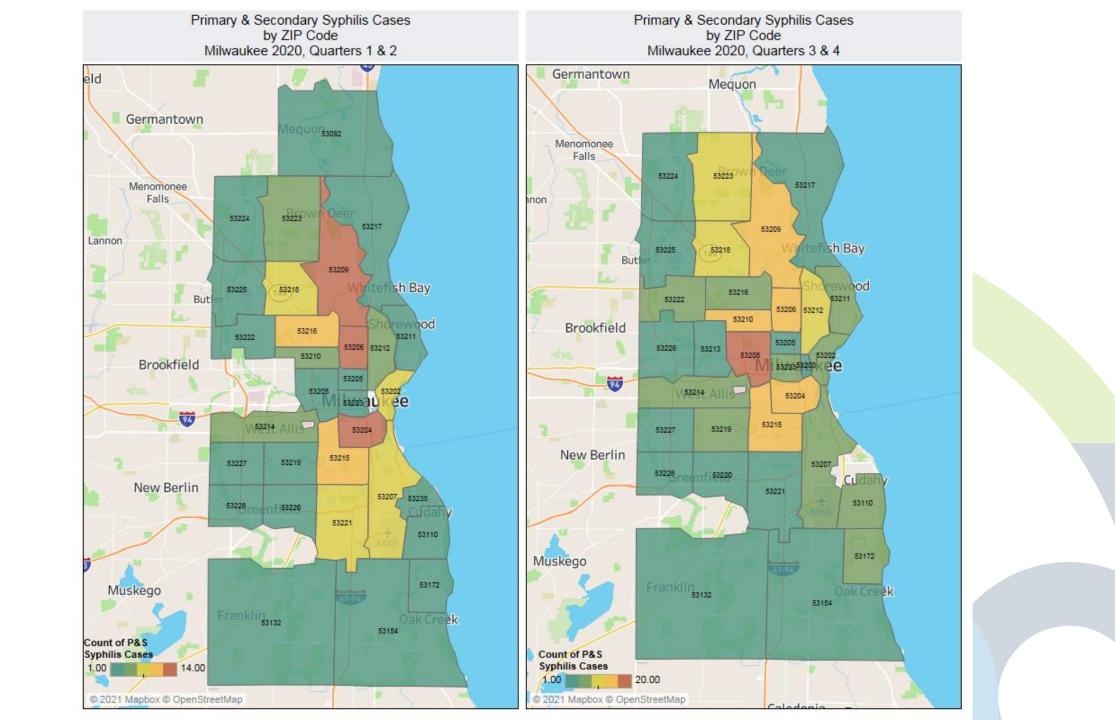


# TRENDS – CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

 While sample size is too small to determine significance, it is alarming to see a spike in congenital syphilis cases



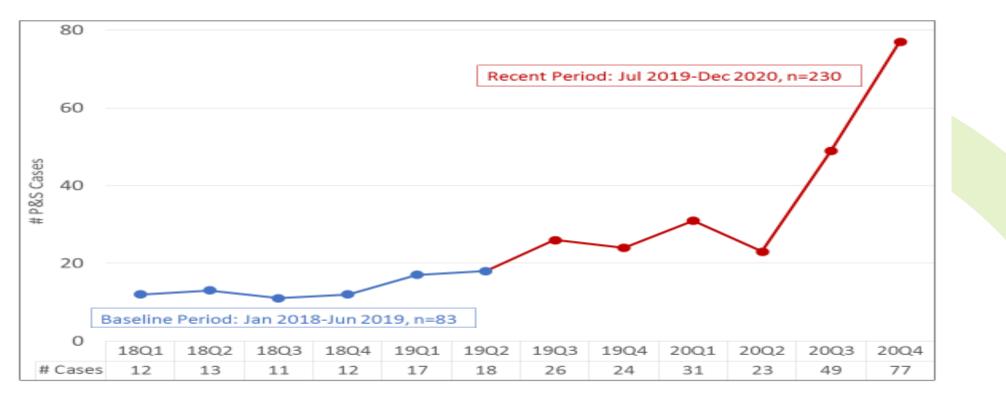
# **DRIVING FACTORS**



#### **Reminder:**

#### Methodology Compares Baseline Period to Recent Period

Figure 3. Incidence of Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases, City of Milwaukee, by Quarter and Study Period, 2018-2020



Time Period	Number of Primary Cases			Percentage of Total P&S Cases
Jan 2018-Jun 2019	35	42.2%	48	57.8%
Jul 2019-Dec 2020	126	54.7%	104	45.2%
Jul 2019-Dec 2020	126	54.7%	104	45.2%

# **RISK FACTORS**

### Exchange of Money/Drugs for Sex

• The proportion of cases reporting this risk factor was significantly higher among recent cases, 23 of 146 (15.8%) than among baseline cases, 2 of 74 (2.7%)

### Injection Drug Use

 1 (1.3%) of 75 baseline case patients reported this risk factor, compared with 7 of 135 (5.2%%) recent cases

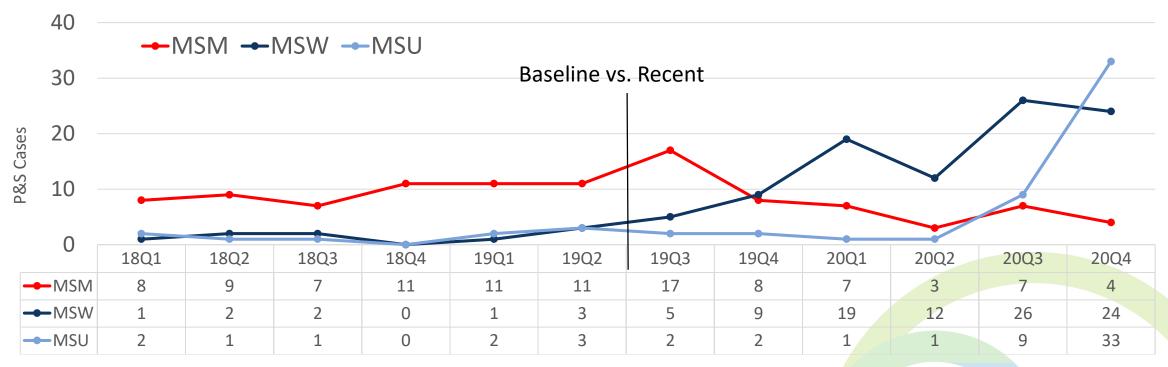
### Partners Met via the Internet

 Baseline case patients were significantly more likely to report this risk factor, 43 of 73 (58.9%) than were recent cases, 34 of 134 (25.4%)



# **GENDER OF SEX PARTNERS**

INCIDENCE OF PRIMARY & SECONDARY SYPHILIS, CITY OF MILWAUKEE MALES, BY GENDER OF SEX PARTNERS AND QUARTER, 2018-2020



Definitions: Men who have sex with men (MSM) Men who have sex with woman (MSW) Men whose sex partners genders are unknown (MSU)



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# SUMMARY

### WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US

- We are seeing a significant increase in primary and secondary syphilis in particular
  - Significant increase in proportion of cases among females
    - Statistically significant increase in the number of pregnant cases, but not the proportion of pregnant cases.
    - Increase in number of congenital syphilis cases
      - Number of cases is too small to accurately determine significance
    - Overall, more cases among women of reproductive age increases risk for congenital syphilis



# SUMMARY

### WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US

- Potential driving risk factors/behaviors:
  - Significant increase in exchanging sex for money or drugs
  - Increase in injection drug use
  - Environmental factors, social determinants of health, and complexities due to COVID-19 are likely also influencing the sharp increase of cases
    - Environmental Factors: access to resources, infrastructure
    - Social Determinates of Health: economic status, education access/quality, racism/discrimination



# SUMMARY

### WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US

- We continue to see racial disparities in STI cases
  - In the city of Milwaukee, the non-Hispanic Black population experiences the heaviest burden of infection demonstrating a significant racial inequity in sexual and reproductive health outcomes



# CALL TO ACTION

### WHAT DO WE NEED

- 1. Investment in staffing
- 2. Outreach and partnership building with the community
- 3. Support for strategic planning
- 4. Technological support

