

## **Sexual and Reproductive Health**

Sexual and Reproductive Health needs throughout the life course vary and differences in age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and place of residence pose different risks and barriers to accessing contraception and sexual healthcare. Norfolk County Council (NCC) is responsible for commissioning sexual health interventions and services as part of their wider public health responsibilities.

### **Who's most at risk of STIs?**

- Vulnerable groups
- Young people
- Ethnic minorities
- Areas of deprivation
- Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM)

### **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)**

- 4,191 new STIs were diagnosed in Norfolk in 2022 compared to 3,734 in 2021.
- In 2022, the STI testing rate (excluding chlamydia in under 25-year-olds) is 2,434 per 100,000 in people aged 15 to 64.
- STI reinfection is higher in young men than women.
- The syphilis diagnostic rate was 8.1 per 100,000 Norfolk population in 2022.
- 48% of new STI diagnoses made in specialist and non-specialist Sexual Health Services in Norfolk residents were in young people aged 15 to 24 years.
- Chlamydia is the most prevalent STI in young people aged 15 to 24 years.
- Young people aged 15 to 24 years accounted for 45% of all gonorrhoea diagnoses in Norfolk.
- In 2022, 20% of females aged 15 to 24-year-olds in Norfolk were tested for chlamydia.

### **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)**

- Norfolk has a HIV diagnosed prevalence of 1.28 per 1,000 population aged 15 to 59 in 2022.
- New HIV diagnoses among persons first diagnosed in the UK is 2.5 per 100,000.
- Overall, the recent trend of new HIV diagnoses in Norfolk shows no significant change.
- In 2022, the proportion of GBMSM in Norfolk tested for HIV was 68%.
- People from the Black African ethnic group are disproportionately affected by HIV with a prevalence rate of 23 per 1,000.
- In 2020–22 period, 46% of persons aged 15 years or over newly diagnosed with HIV in the UK for Norfolk received a late HIV diagnosis; amongst GBMSM this was 50%.
- In 2022, 9.1% of HIV-negative people in Norfolk accessing local specialist sexual health services were defined as having pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) need. Among these, 66% initiated or continued PrEP.

## **Reproductive health**

- A total of 2,373 women had an abortion in 2021, with a total abortion rate of 16 per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 44 years, with trends showing this is rising.
- The under 18s conception rate is 13 per 1,000 in females aged 15-17.
- Teenage pregnancies are decreasing and 51% end in an abortion.
- In 2022, the total rate of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) (excluding injections) prescribed in primary care, specialist and non-specialist sexual health services was 54 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years.
- 55% of women aged 25 and over in contact with Sexual and Reproductive Health Services chose LARC (excluding injections) as their main contraception method compared to 42% of women aged under 25 in 2022.
- The rates of attendance at specialist contraception services for people aged 15 to 24 years in Norfolk was 62.2 per 1,000 for females and 0.2 per 1,000 for males in 2022.

## **Access to services**

- Between October 2021 and September 2023, about 58,000 persons residing in Norfolk accessed GUM and non-GUM services across England. Around 97% accessed services in Norfolk and 3% accessed services outside Norfolk.
- A survey conducted to collect feedback on residents' experiences of local sexual health and contraceptive services found that 61% of respondents reported their experience was 'good' or 'excellent'.