# Westminster identified as STI hotspot amidst rising rates across the UK



Recent data released by the NHS has identified Westminster, a central London borough known for its iconic landmarks and political significance, as an area with alarmingly high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). This finding has sparked a flurry of online commentary, with many users making light-hearted connections between the area’s political heritage and its health statistics.

The data highlights that Westminster has the highest rates of syphilis, gonorrhoea, and genital warts across England, with recorded rates of 125 cases of syphilis, 749 cases of gonorrhoea, and 135 cases of genital warts per 100,000 people. Despite its association with government institutions and cultural landmarks, Westminster’s public health situation has led to a series of humorous observations on social media. One commenter jested, “Dearie me is that the area of Westminster home to the UK government getting found out for being a den of iniquity? Never have guessed!”

While Westminster faces its own challenges, the broader data indicates that Islington is the UK's overall STI capital. This borough has a risk score of 94, driven primarily by a notably high rate of genital herpes, which stands at 131 cases per 100,000 people. As for Liverpool, it has emerged as the chlamydia capital, with an astonishing 2,719 diagnoses per 100,000 residents, equating to approximately one in every 36 individuals—a figure that is 73% higher than the national average of 1,564 cases per 100,000.

The report by Condoms UK suggests that various factors contribute to the rising rates of STIs, including reduced funding for sexual health services, widespread misconceptions about transmission, and what has been termed “condom fatigue.” A representative from Condoms UK stated, “This is where individuals in casual or long-term non-exclusive relationships gradually reduce condom use. In fact, a survey by the UK’s National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSAL) revealed that one in three people aged 18-35 admitted to not using condoms with new partners, despite knowing the risks.”

As the discussion around sexual health dynamics continues, the data illuminates key hotspots for STIs, with Islington, Archway, Blackpool, Westminster, and Manchester rounding out the top five areas experiencing high rates of infections. In contrast, the regions identified as having the lowest STI rates include Dudley, Northampton, Bradford, and Swindon, among others.

The complete STI statistics shed light on a pressing public health issue, underscoring the need for comprehensive awareness and education surrounding sexual health, as well as accessible health services for all communities across the UK.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/sexualhealth-reports/2024%20update/E09000033.html?area-> - This URL corroborates the high rates of STIs in Westminster, highlighting its position with significant chlamydia and gonorrhoea rates compared to other areas in England. It provides detailed data on STI prevalence and testing rates in Westminster.
* <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/sexualhealth-reports/2023%20update/E09000033.html?area-name=Westminster> - This report supports the data on high rates of STIs in Westminster for the year 2022, including rates of chlamydia and gonorrhoea. It emphasizes the high STI testing rates and positivity in the area.
* <https://archive.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/health-and-adult-services/public-health/sexual-health-0/london-sexual-health> - This link highlights London’s status as the area with the highest STI rates in England. It explains the challenges faced by London boroughs, including Westminster, in managing sexual health services and the impact on public health.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-and-reproductive-health-profiles> - While not directly listed, similar profiles from the UK government provide detailed sexual health data across different regions, supporting claims about STI prevalence. These profiles offer insights into the various factors contributing to high STI rates in specific areas like Westminster.
* <https://www.bashh.org.uk/sexual-health-topics/sti-data/> - This URL from the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) provides access to national STI data from Public Health England. It corroborates the trend of rising STIs in areas like Westminster and offers resources on sexual health management.