

Spotlight Public Health

Evidence and policy briefings

Sexual and Reproductive Health

May 2025

Purpose

Spotlight briefings summarise the key information that decision makers need to keep up to speed on important health issues. Each briefing puts the science, national policy and guidance into a local context to support local decisions.

Briefings are shared with a wide range of partners including South Gloucestershire Health & Wellbeing Board, Elected Members, Council staff, and members of the Locality Partnership. Please share with others who would find it helpful.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for these briefings please email:
publichealthsouthgloucestershire@southglos.gov.uk

Spotlight: Sexual Health

- Good sexual and reproductive health matters to individuals and communities, whose needs will vary according to a range of physical, emotional, social, cultural and economic factors.
- It is influenced by a range of factors which can in turn result in inequalities in sexual and reproductive health outcomes between different populations.
- Groups that are disproportionately affected include young people under 25, gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and some ethnic groups, including Black African and Caribbean people and Gypsy, Roma and Travellers; and targeted interventions are often required.
- There are certain core needs common to all, including the availability of high-quality information and education to make informed decisions, freedom from stigma and discrimination, and access to high quality prevention, testing, diagnostic and treatment services and interventions.
- Responsibilities for commissioning sexual health services are spread out across the health and social care system. Local Authority Public health teams are mandated to commission elements of this.

Sexual Health in South Gloucestershire

Sexual health outcomes in South Gloucestershire are generally good when benchmarked against England.

- New STI diagnoses are lower than England average
- Diagnostic rates for syphilis and gonorrhoea are lower than England averages
- The proportion of females aged 15 to 24 years screened for chlamydia increased in 2024 to above England average having been below for a number of years.
- The chlamydia detection rate also increased although remains below the national benchmarking goal
- Diagnosed HIV prevalence rate is low, however HIV testing rate is significantly lower than England average
- Under 18s conception rate is lower than England average

[BNSSG sexual health needs assessment](#) provides further information about local sexual health

Sexual & Reproductive Health Profile South Gloucestershire

Indicator	Period	S Gloucs			England			
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Worst/ Lowest	Range	Best/ Highest
Syphilis diagnostic rate per 100,000 New data	2024	→	8	2.7	16.5	137.8		2.4
Gonorrhoea diagnostic rate per 100,000 New data	2024	↑	191	64	124	1,114		18
Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 aged 15 to 24 years (Female) New data	2024	→	266	1,588	1,589	606		
<2,400 2,400 to 3,250 ≥3,250								
Chlamydia proportion of females aged 15 to 24 years screened New data	2024	—	3,202	19.1%	18.0%	10.0%		
New STI diagnoses (excluding chlamydia aged 24 and under) per 100,000 New data	2024	↑	814	272	482	2,903		180
HIV testing rate per 100,000 population	2023	↓	1,409	478.0*	2,770.7	360.9		
HIV late diagnosis in people first diagnosed with HIV in the UK	2021 - 23	—	4	40.0%	43.5%	100%		
<25% 25% to 50% ≥50%								
New HIV diagnosis rate per 100,000	2023	→	25	8.3	10.4	45.9		1.4
HIV diagnosed prevalence rate per 1,000 aged 15 to 59	2023	→	226	1.29	2.40	12.45		0.63
<2 2 to 5 ≥5								
Population vaccination coverage: HPV vaccination coverage for one dose (12 to 13 year old)	2023/24	→	1,257	73.5%	72.9%	32.9%		9.2%
<80% 80% to 90% ≥90%								
Under 25s repeat abortions (%)	2021	→	81	27.6%	29.7%	39.8%		
Abortions under 10 weeks (%)	2021	→	699	84.8%	88.6%	79.9%		2.2%
Total prescribed LARC excluding injections rate / 1,000	2023	→	2,810	48.0	43.5	10.3		
Under 18s conception rate / 1,000	2021	→	44	9.6	13.1	31.5		
Under 18s conceptions leading to abortion (%)	2021	→	23	52.3%	53.4%	26.0%		
Violent crime - sexual offences per 1,000 population	2022/23	↑	583	2.0	3.0	1.3		

Local authority responsibilities

- Local Authorities are mandated to commission comprehensive open access sexual health and reproductive health services, including:
 - free testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STI)
 - notification of sexual partners of infected persons,
 - advice on, and reasonable access to, a broad range of contraception, and advice on preventing unplanned pregnancy.
- Integrated Care Boards (ICB) are responsible for commissioning abortion services.

Sexual Health Services in South Gloucestershire

- Integrated sexual health services have been co-commissioned across the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) area for over a decade. In 2015 the then CCG, now Integrated Care Board (ICB), collaborated with local authorities to include abortion services in the clinical contract, and Bath and North East Somerset collaborated to co-commission the Chlamydia Screening Programme within the main clinical contract.
- From 1st April 2025 we have a new Integrated Sexual Health Service which continues to be commissioned across BNSSG (and includes BANES for the Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea Screening Programme). The abortion services are now commissioned separately by the ICB.

BNSSG Integrated Sexual Health Service

- The new BNSSG Integrated Sexual Health service, named [Yuno](#) comprises of three elements:
 - Digital 'front door': Delivered by SH:24
 - Health Promotion: Delivered by Brook
 - Clinical provision: Delivered by UHBW
- The service offers free and confidential access to a wide range of services. It's managed by a team of experienced sexual health clinicians and other healthcare professionals and ensures service users receive trusted, high-quality and timely care
- The service has a clinically supported website, which acts as a digital 'front door', providing convenient and confidential ways to get expert advice, contraception and testing and treatment for STIs.
- By expanding digital support alongside in-person care, the new service aims to make it easier for people to access sexual and reproductive health services, helping improve health outcomes.

Introducing **yuno**

**The new sexual health service in
Bristol, North Somerset and South
Gloucestershire**

When it comes to sexual health, Yuno delivers the care and support you need. Whether it's condoms and contraception, STI testing and treatment, or general information, advice and guidance, Yuno has it covered. We offer a range of services both in-person and through our clinically supported website, making it easier than ever to manage your sexual health.

**Scan the code for
more information
about our services
or visit:**

yunosexualhealth.co.uk



South Gloucestershire clinical provision

- Yuno clinics are currently running at Yate West Gate Centre, Cossham and Concord Medical Centre.
- Residents are also able to access the specialist clinics running in Bristol and North Somerset if these are more convenient days or times.
- As the new service develops there will be some changes to South Gloucestershire clinic days and times as we seek to broaden availability across the week (the majority of clinics to date have all fallen on a Thursday).
- Once the new clinic times are confirmed the Yuno website (<https://yunosexualhealth.co.uk>) will be updated to provide information about all of specialist clinics within South Gloucestershire, which have been identified in line with population need
- As part of the future service developments there will be a mobile clinic offer which will support outreach and engagement with priority areas which may not have a suitable fixed clinical site.

Primary care commissioned services

All GP practices are required to provide a minimum level of sexual health services as part of their contract with the ICB.

In addition to the Yuno service, we also commission GPs and Pharmacies to deliver some sexual health provision in South Gloucestershire.

GPs are able to opt in to deliver:

- Long Acting Reversible Contraception (implants and coils)
- Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea screening

Pharmacies are able to opt in to deliver:

- Emergency Hormonal Contraception and Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea screening

Next steps

- Continue to work with UHBW to develop the South Gloucestershire specialist clinic timetable. It is anticipated that new clinic days and times will be implemented by July 2025 with the additional pop-up outreach provision available towards the end of the year
- Ongoing promotion of the YUNO service, both on our social media and webpages, but also working with local organisations to ensure that everyone is aware of the changes to the service and how to access it.
- Monitoring service utilisation and national sexual health and reproductive health indicators:
 - Chlamydia detection rate
 - New STI diagnoses
 - HIV late diagnosis
 - Prescribed LARC
 - Under 18s conception rates

How to support

Improving outcomes in sexual health and promoting healthy relationships is key to the achievement of the priorities in the South Gloucestershire Council Plan. Poor outcomes directly correlate with inequalities experienced by people in areas of economic deprivation and by under-served populations.

Please do familiarise yourself with and promote our local services www.yunosexualhealth.co.uk; and engage with local communities to obtain feedback on the provision so we can continue to develop this in line with local needs.



Confidential and non-judgemental in-person sexual health support for all ages

Yunosexualhealth.co.uk

Further information

- <https://yunosexualhealth.co.uk/>
- [A Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England](#)
- [Sexual and reproductive health and HIV: applying All Our Health - GOV.UK](#)
- [Breaking point: Securing the future of sexual health services | Local Government Association](#)

Evidence and guidance

STI Prioritisation Framework

- In October 2024, UKHSA released a new STI Prioritisation Framework. This framework provides an evidence-based approach to guide local organisations in planning and delivering sexual health services. It focuses on reducing adverse health outcomes and addressing health inequalities through principals centred on the situation, target groups, and interventions.

Women's Health Strategy Priorities for 2024

The government outlines key priorities to enhance women's health service including:

- Expanding women's health hubs
- Improving care for menstrual and gynaecological conditions
- Addressing disparities and enhancing support to vulnerable women
- [Nice Guidance: Sexual health](#)

Thank you

For any feedback or spotlight topic requests please contact:
publichealthsouthgloucestershire@southglos.gov.uk