

**Barking &
Dagenham**



Hackney

Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Newham London

London Borough of
Redbridge

Waltham Forest

TOWER HAMLETS

NHS
North East London

North East London Joint Sexual & Reproductive Health Strategy (2024 – 2029)

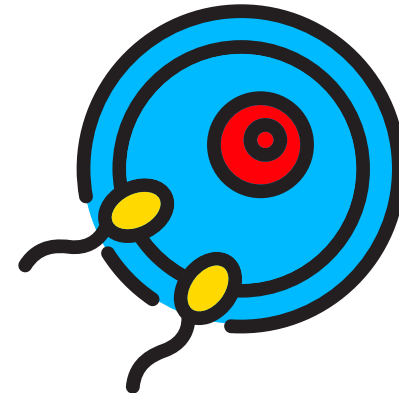
Data Summary

To inform North East London Sexual And Reproductive Health
Strategy and Commissioning Intentions



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1. Scope and Purpose

Purpose:

- i. Document North East London (NEL) residents' present and future needs in relation to sexual and reproductive health (SRH).
- ii. Inform NEL Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy and Commissioning Intentions for the period 2024 – 2029.

Scope:

NEL consists of eight Local Authorities (LAs): Barking and Dagenham (B&D), City of London (CoL), Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets (TH) and Waltham Forest (WF).

The data covers HIV testing and diagnoses, contraception, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and early termination of pregnancy (ToPS).

The data describes:

- the NEL population profile along with its anticipated future changes
- how NEL sexual health services are currently used
- the present-day population's sexual health outcomes.

Data sources:

Routinely collected data indicators:

- Office of Health Disparities and Improvements (OHID)
- Business Intelligence (BI)
- Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Dataset STI Surveillance System (GUMCAD)
- Census 2021

Specialist Reports:

- Summary Profiles of Local Authority Sexual Health (SPLASH)
- Data provided by specialist SRH providers from Pathway Analytics (PA)
- Preventx website for e-service user data
- Resident and service user engagement

2. Population of North East London

2.1 Population Profile

North East London (NEL) has nearly 2 million residents (2021 Census). Since 2022, the population has increased by 11.4%. NEL is a vibrant, diverse and distinctive area of London, with a wide range of age groups, ethnic backgrounds, faiths and socio-economic levels (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Summary of Population Profile of North East London

NEL population 2021 (including changes between 2011-2021)

Age



- Grew by 11.4%, higher than England (6.4%) and London (7.7%); TH highest (22%) followed by B&D (17.7%)
- Population breakdown - 16-64 (70%), 0-15 (19%), 65+ (11%)
- The median age is 34 (lower than England at 40)
- Working population (15-65) increased by 6%, 65+ increased by 8%
- 16-25 - 13% (decrease of 6%)

Ethnicity



- 50.2% non-white, decrease of 1%
- 27% Asian ethnic background, Redbridge highest (47.3%), TH (44.4%) and Newham (42.2%). Higher than England average (7.8%)
- 12% Black, Black Caribbean and African ethnic background, B&D highest (31.4%), Hackney (21%) and Newham (17.5%). Higher than England average (7.8%)
- 49.8% White ethnic background, 10% less than England (59.8%), highest Havering (75%), CoL (69.4%) and WF (52.8%)

Sexual Orientation



- 4% identified as LGBTQ, Hackney highest (7.8%), TH (7.2%) and WF (4.5%)
- Newham has highest transgender population in London (1.5%), B&D (1.17%) and WF (1.08%)

Religion

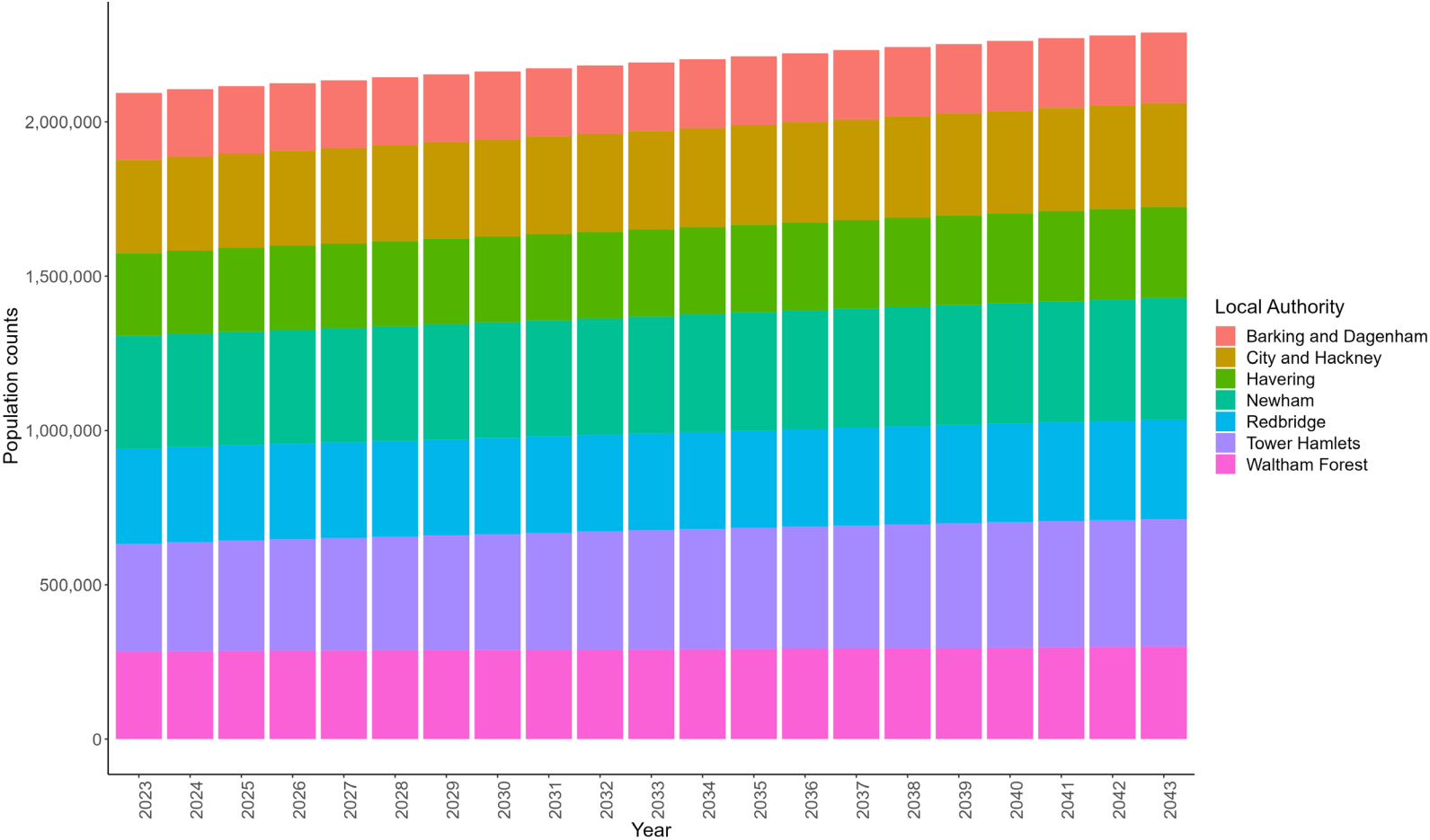


- 36% Christian, 22% Muslim, 3.3% Hindu, 1.6% Jewish and 27.8% said they had no religion

Source: How your area has changed in 10 years: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

The population of NEL is predicted to rise by nearly 19% in the next 20 years. All NEL LAs will see population growth, with Tower Hamlets seeing the greatest rise of just under 25% (Figure 2).

Figure 2: North East London Population Projection (2023-2043)



Source: ONS 2018 based projections.

2.2 Deprivation

Sexual and reproductive health outcomes are consistently worse in more deprived areas – and just over 40% of the population of NEL lives in the three most deprived deciles.¹

The level of deprivation varies across NEL; with the highest levels seen in Tower Hamlets (61% of the population live in the three most deprived deciles) and lowest in Redbridge, where around a quarter of the population live in the most deprived areas².

2.3 Disability

According to the 2021 census, the proportion of NEL residents who identified as being “disabled and limited a lot” had decreased by 2.9% overall compared to 2011 (Table 1). The highest drop was observed in Newham (4.4%) followed by Hackney and Tower Hamlets (3.6% each) and Barking and Dagenham (3.2%).

Table 1: Changes in proportion of NEL residents who were identified as being disabled and limited a lot per local authority (2011-2021)

| Local Authority | 2021 | 2011 | Difference |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| B&D | 9.0% | 12.2% | -3.2% |
| City of London | 3.9% | 5.6% | -1.7% |
| Hackney | 9.6% | 13.2% | -3.6% |
| Havering | 6.6% | 8.5% | -1.9% |
| Newham | 9.1% | 13.5% | -4.4% |
| Redbridge | 7.9% | 10.1% | -2.2% |
| Tower Hamlets | 10.4% | 14.0% | -3.6% |
| Waltham Forest | 7.7% | 10.3% | -2.6% |
| Average | 8.03% | 10.9% | -2.9% |

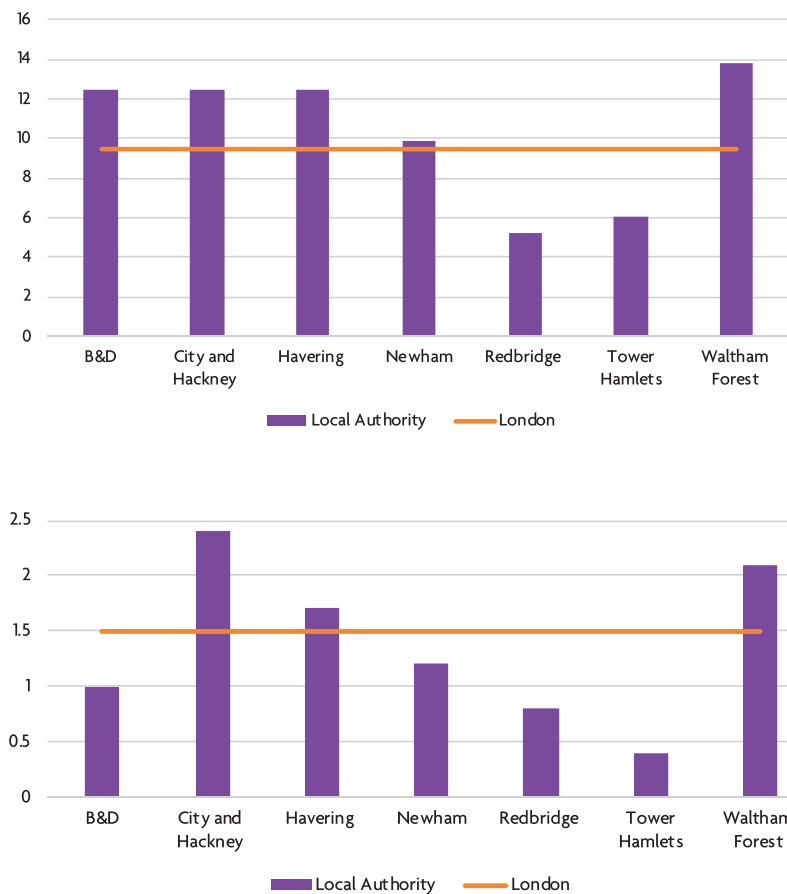
Source: How your area has changed in 10 years: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

3. Reproductive Health

3.1 Teenage Conceptions and Abortions

Teenage pregnancy is a complex issue. Access to sexual education, contraception, and behavioural advice are some of the contributory factors. Deprivation also plays a key role, with higher rates observed in more deprived areas and fewer conceptions leading to termination³. Babies of adolescent mothers are at increased risk of low birth weight, preterm birth, and severe neonatal illness. Teenagers are also more likely to present late for antenatal care and for abortion services⁴. Figure 3 (top graph) shows that in 2021 under-18s conception rates are above the London average for all NEL LAs aside from Tower Hamlets and Redbridge, while Figure 3 (bottom graph) shows that in 2021 under-16s conception rates are above the London average for all NEL LAs aside from Tower Hamlets and Redbridge and Newham¹.

Figure 3: Under 18s (a) and Under 16s (b) conception rate per 1,000 (NEL, 2021)



Source: ONS 2018 based projections.

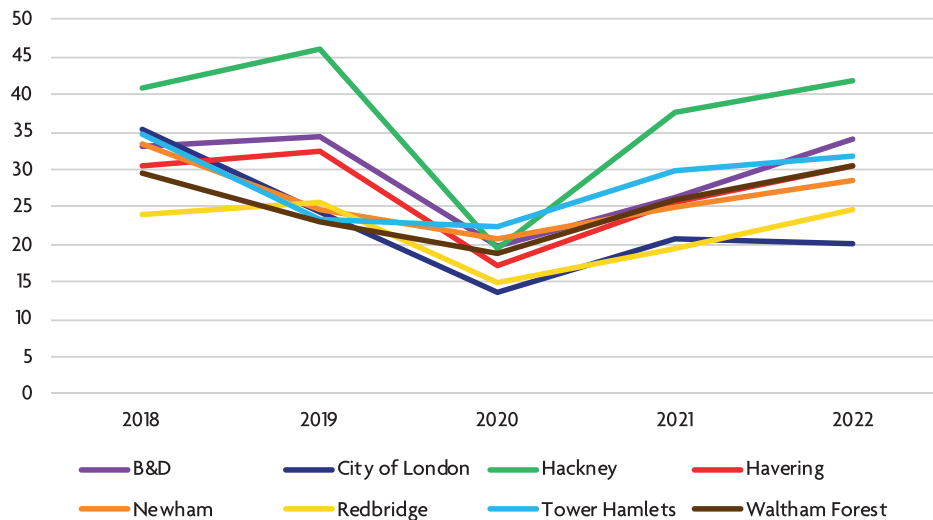
¹ Note: At the time of writing (Feb 2024) LA-level data for under-18s conception rates is only available on Fingertips for the year 2021.

In 2023, the areas in NEL with the highest proportion of under-18 conceptions leading to abortions were Hackney (where 74.5% of teenage pregnancies ended in abortion), Havering (73.7%) and Barking and Dagenham (68.3%), while the lowest rates were observed in Redbridge (50%) and Waltham Forest (53.4%).

3.2 Contraception

The proportion of women choosing LARC as their main method of contraception recovered after a significant drop in 2020, due to pandemic, and in 2022 has reached and in some LA's exceeded pre-pandemic levels (Figure 4)².

Figure 4: Total Prescribed LARC (excluding injections) per 1000 (2016-2022)

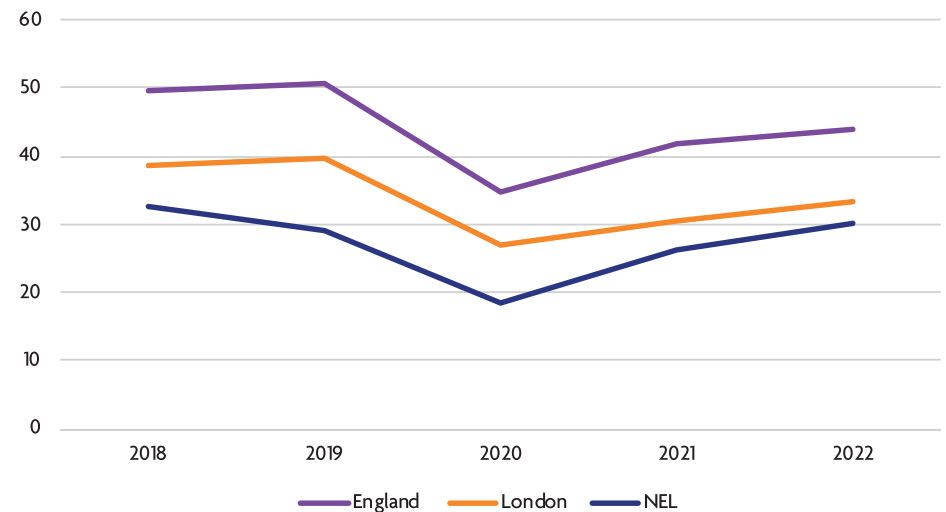


Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

² The dip in LARC in 2020 was seen across London and reflects the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with fewer face-to-face appointments happening in clinics.

Between 2016 and 2020, LARC uptake in NEL was significantly below the London average. However, in years 2021-22 NEL's rate of prescribed LARC (per 1,000 women) increased and is similar to the London average (Figure 5). This suggests that providers of specialist SRH services in NEL recovered more quickly, on average, than other providers following the pandemic.

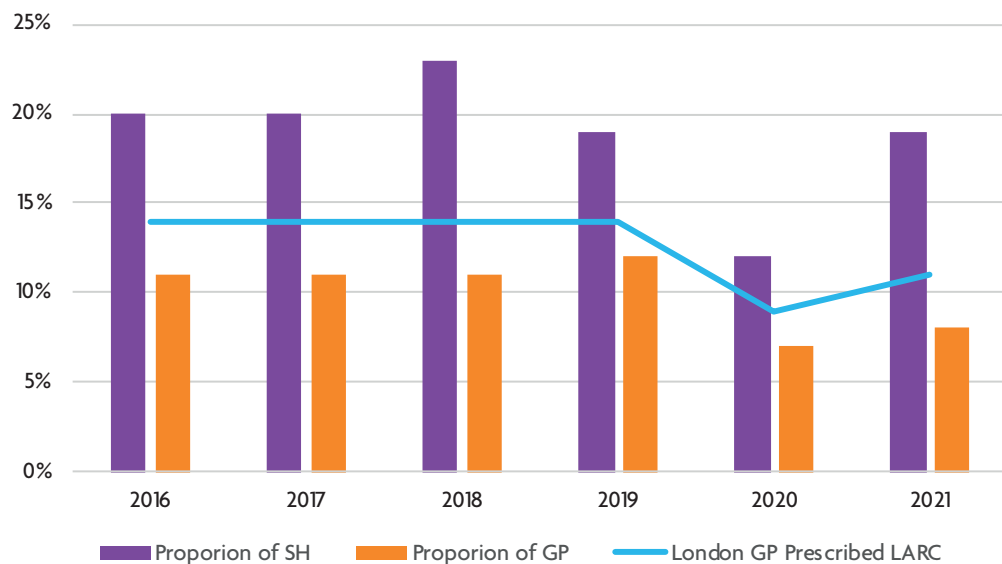
Figure 5: Total Prescribed LARC (excluding injections) per 1000 for NEL, London and England (2016-2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

LARC provision is likely to reflect local geography and service models. For example, there may be more provision through primary care in areas that are further from sexual health clinics. In 2022, 65% of LARC across NEL is prescribed by specialist sexual health services and remaining 34% of LARC is prescribed by primary care settings (i.e. GPs). The GP LARC uptake in NEL is higher than London (10.7% per 1000 population) (Figure 6).

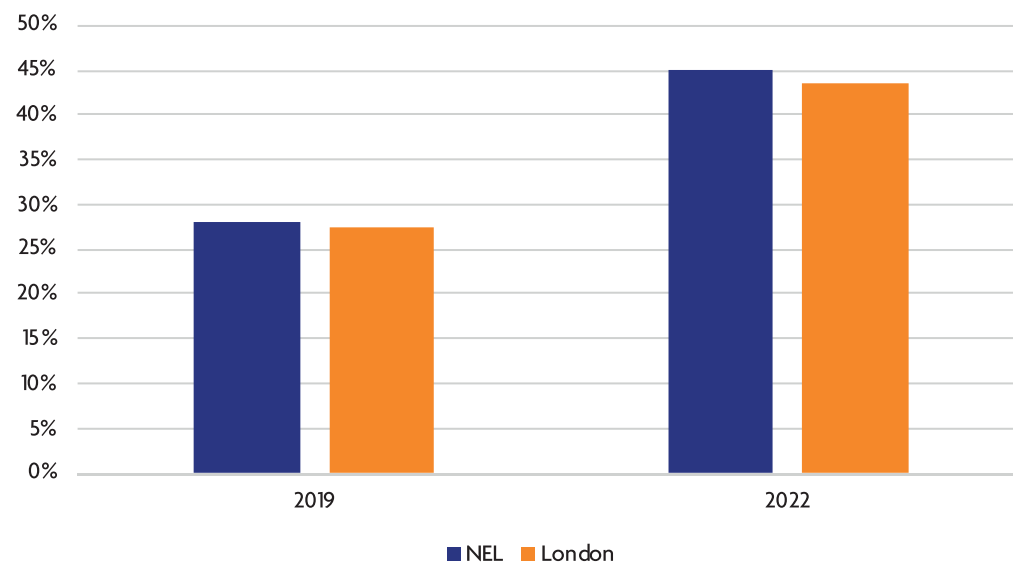
Figure 6: Proportion of prescribed LARC (excluding injections) in Primary Care and Specialist Sexual Health Clinics per 1000 (NEL 2016- 2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

The proportion of younger women in NEL choosing LARC as their preferred method of contraception is similar to the London average (Figure 7). The London-wide trend towards more young women choosing LARC in 2021 compared to 2019 was equally noticeable in NEL as in London, further suggesting a relatively good recovery from COVID-19 for the region's specialist SRH clinics.

Figure 7: Proportion of unnder 25s choosing LARC (excluding injections) at Specialist Sexual Health Clinics for NEL and London (2019 and 2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

3.3 Abortions

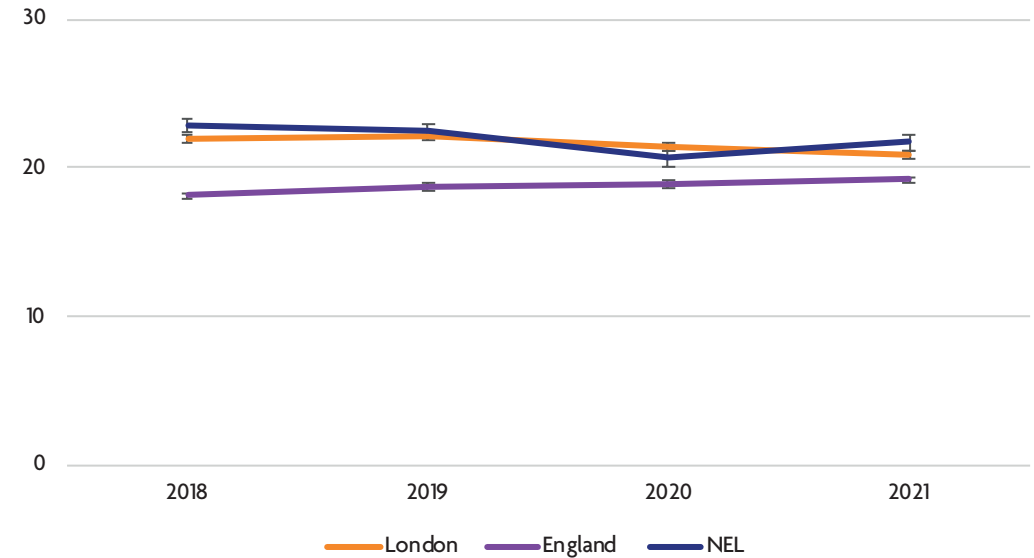
Between 2018 and 2021 the average total abortion rate among NEL females aged 15 to 44 reduced from 23 per 1,000 females to 21.6 per 1,000 females (Figure 8).

Overall, the NEL female population's total abortion rate is higher than the England average but comparable to the London average. However there are significant variation in total abortion rates per 1000 women among NEL LA's (Table 2).

Table 2: Total Abortion Rate per 1000 women (NEL, London 2018-2021)

| Local Authority | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|
| B&D | 28.9 | 30.8 | 31.0 | 29.4 |
| City of London | 21.5 | 12.9 | 9.5 | 14.0 |
| Hackney | 21.5 | 22.7 | 22.0 | 19.5 |
| Havering | 21.7 | 23.4 | 24.7 | 23.6 |
| Newham | 25.3 | 26.7 | 25.9 | 25.3 |
| Redbridge | 23.3 | 23.9 | 23.7 | 22.6 |
| Tower Hamlets | 16.6 | 15.9 | 15.3 | 16.6 |
| Waltham Forest | 24.1 | 23.5 | 23.0 | 22.5 |
| London | 21.9 | 22.1 | 21.5 | 20.9 |

Figure 8: Changes in total abortion rates between 2018-2021 (NEL, London and England)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Reducing repeat abortions is an important aim for stakeholders across NEL over the next five years. On average, 33% of women in NEL choosing an abortion in 2021 through Termination of Pregnancy Services (ToPS) had used this service at least once previously (Table 3 and Table 4). Most NEL LAs saw a relatively small increase in the proportion of repeat abortions between 2019 and 2021, though this pattern is not uniform.

Table 3: Proportion of Repeated Abortions out of total number of abortions – All Ages (NEL, 2019-2021)

| Local Authority | 2019 | Total number of abortions (2019) | 2020 | Total number of abortions (2020) | 2021 | Total number of abortions (2021) |
|------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| B&D | 45.5% | 1423 | 49.9% | 1423 | 47.4% | 1349 |
| City and Hackney | 38.4% | 1723 | 44.6% | 1638 | 43.5% | 1472 |
| Havering | 50.5% | 1187 | 45.8% | 1265 | 47.0% | 1208 |
| Newham | 38.3% | 2166 | 44.2% | 2075 | 39.4% | 2025 |
| Redbridge | 42.2% | 1510 | 42.6% | 1471 | 41.8% | 1404 |
| Tower Hamlets | 35.5% | 1423 | 34.0% | 1362 | 38.2% | 1480 |
| Waltham Forest | 46.4% | 1440 | 44.6% | 1389 | 47.7% | 1360 |

Table 4: Proportion of Repeated Abortions out of total number of abortions – under 25's (NEL, 2019-2021)

| Local Authority | 2019 | Total number of abortions (2019) | 2020 | Total number of abortions (2020) | 2021 | Total number of abortions (2021) |
|------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| B&D | 35.9% | 1423 | 38.6% | 1423 | 33.3% | 1349 |
| City and Hackney | 27.9% | 1723 | 33.0% | 1638 | 34.1% | 1472 |
| Havering | 38.5% | 1187 | 30.8% | 1265 | 33.7% | 1208 |
| Newham | 28.7% | 2166 | 34.7% | 2075 | 29.6% | 2025 |
| Redbridge | 31.9% | 1510 | 32.3% | 1471 | 30.0% | 1404 |
| Tower Hamlets | 26.6% | 1423 | 23.0% | 1362 | 31.8% | 1480 |
| Waltham Forest | 37.4% | 1440 | 34.0% | 1389 | 35.9% | 1360 |

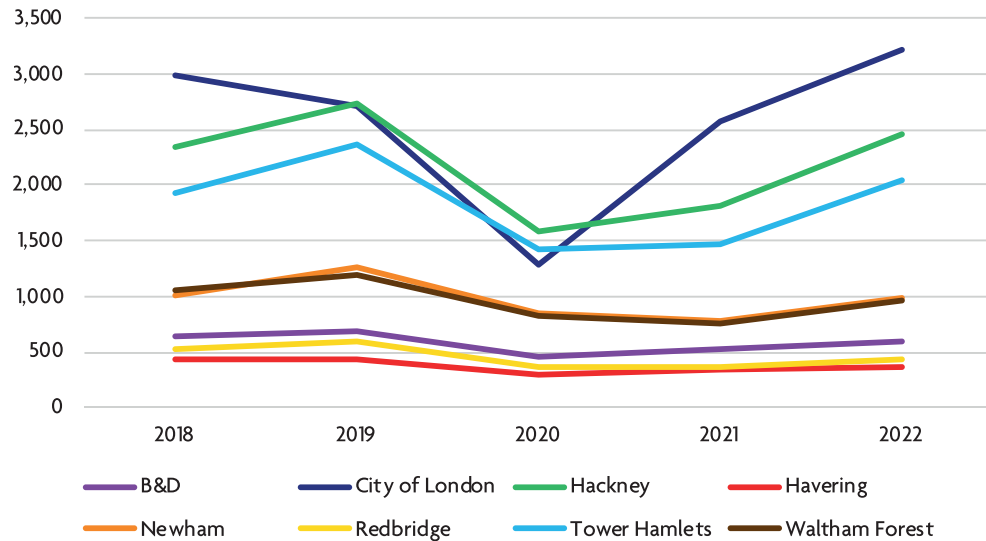
Source: Abortion Statistics Data Tables (2019-2021)

4. Sexually Transmitted Infections

4.1 STI Diagnosis Rates

STI diagnostic rates have increased significantly after a decline in 2020 (Figure 9), suggesting increased testing both in clinic and online.

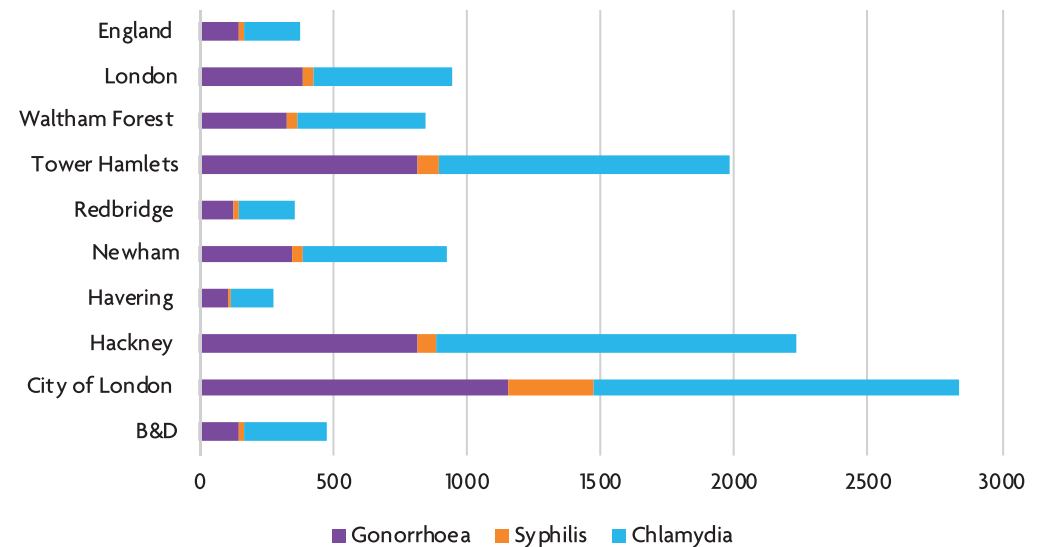
Figure 9: New STI Diagnosis (excluding Chlamydia under 25) per 100,000 people in NEL (All STIs) 2018-2022



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Figure 10 shows chlamydia and gonorrhoea remain the most commonly diagnosed STIs across NEL, with infection rates especially high in Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

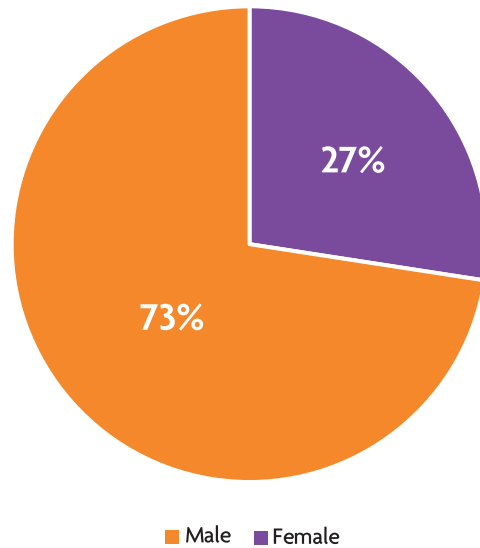
Figure 10: New NEL STI Infections rates per 100,000 residents per infection type (2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Of all new STIs diagnosed across NEL in 2022, 73% were among male and 27% among female (Figure 11)

Figure 11: Proportion of new STI Infections per gender (NEL, 2022)



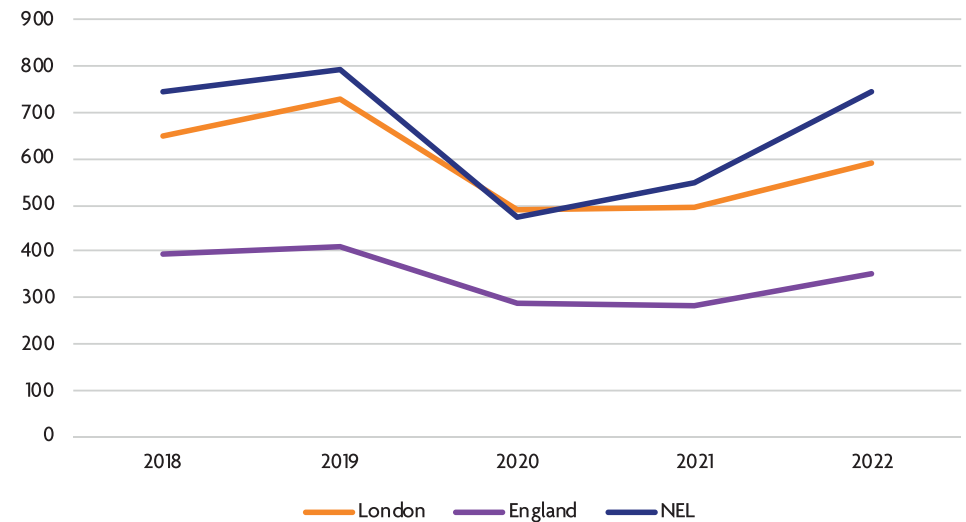
Source: Perceptions of Factors Leading to Teenage Pregnancy in Lindi Region, Tanzania: A Grounded Theory Study - PMC (nih.gov)

The LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) population makes up about 4% of the NEL population. The largest LGBTQ+ communities are found in City and Hackney (8%), TH (7.2%), and WF (4.5%). Of all London Local Authorities, Newham has the largest Trans population.

4.1.1 Chlamydia

Compared to the rest of London, NEL has one of the highest rates of chlamydia diagnoses per 100,000 people. There has been a discernible increase in new Chlamydia diagnoses in 2022 in NEL, which is comparable with national trends (Figure 12).

Figure 12: NEL Chlamydia diagnostic rate per 100,000 population compared to London and England (2018 - 2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Strong evidence suggests that chlamydia affects young people disproportionately⁵. Across the majority of the NEL Local Authorities, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) is accessible in community settings such as general practices and community pharmacies³.

Chlamydia screening among young people in most of NEL Local Authorities (with the exception of Hackney, City of London and Tower Hamlets) was significantly worse than London average for the last five years (Table 5)

Table 5: Chlamydia proportion in females aged 14-25 screened in NEL (2021-2022)

| Local Authority | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| B&D | 16.7% | 17.6% |
| City of London | 30.2% | 38.3% |
| Hackney | 39.3% | 43.1% |
| Havering | 17.6% | 16.6% |
| Newham | 21.3% | 20.3% |
| Redbridge | 12.4% | 12.0% |
| Tower Hamlets | 25.9% | 28.4% |
| Waltham Forest | 24.4% | 24.4% |
| London | 26.8% | 26.6% |

Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

There is a correlation between the proportion of Chlamydia screening taking place among young people and detection rates (Table 6), especially in Hackney where high rates of testing are seen alongside a high detection rate. Waltham Forest appears to screen slightly less young people for chlamydia compared to the London average (Table 5) but the screening is well targeted, with consistently high detection rates seen between 2018 and 2022 (Table 6).

Table 6: Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 aged 14-25 (persons) in NEL (2018-2022)

| Local Authority | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| B&D | 1671 | 1908 | 1617 | 1290 | 1583 |
| City of London | 3075 | 2023 | 989 | 1006 | 3185 |
| Hackney | 5665 | 5499 | 3090 | 2683 | 3521 |
| Havering | 1177 | 1517 | 1098 | 1021 | 1262 |
| Newham | 2396 | 2933 | 1895 | 1520 | 1522 |
| Redbridge | 1306 | 1372 | 844 | 809 | 893 |
| Tower Hamlets | 2103 | 2490 | 1564 | 1368 | 1804 |
| Waltham Forest | 2944 | 2890 | 2068 | 1640 | 2061 |
| London | 2612 | 2831 | 1832 | 1607 | 1835 |

Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

³ In June 2021, NCSP changed focus and this opportunistic screening is now being offered mainly to women. Given the change in programme aim, the Public Health Outcome Framework (PHOF) Detection Rate Indicator (DRI) benchmarking thresholds have been revised and will be measured against females only. A new female-only PHOF benchmark DRI will be included in the PHOF from January 2022

Chlamydia detection rates have fallen significantly across London since 2020 (Figure 13) and this pattern is seen among the NEL LAs (except for Hackney and Waltham Forest). Furthermore, only Hackney met the national target of the Chlamydia detection rate, which in 2021 was set at 1,762 per 100,000⁶.

Figure 13: NEL Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 aged 15 to 24 compared to London (2018 - 2022)

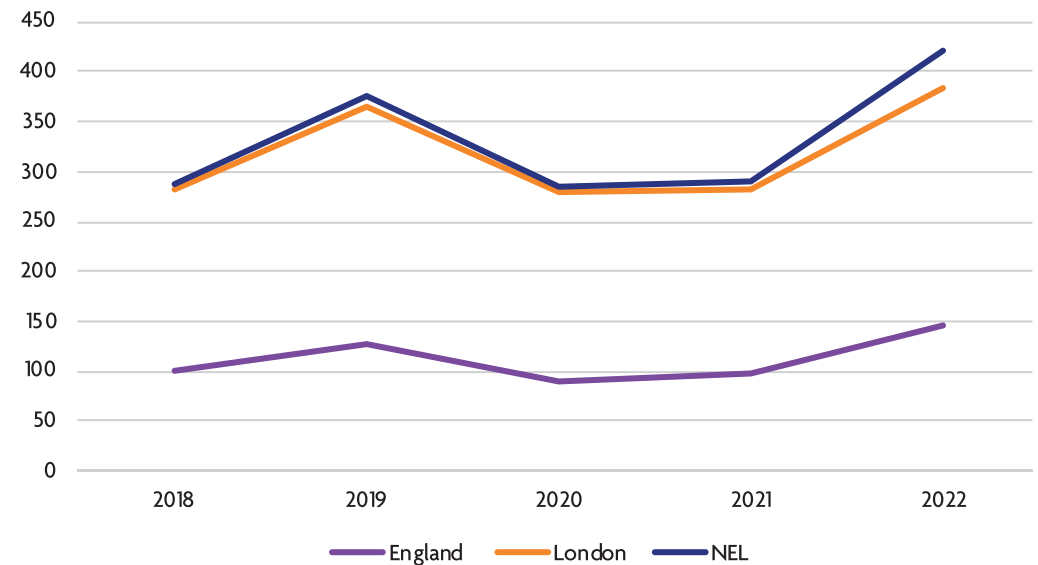


Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

4.1.2 Gonorrhoea

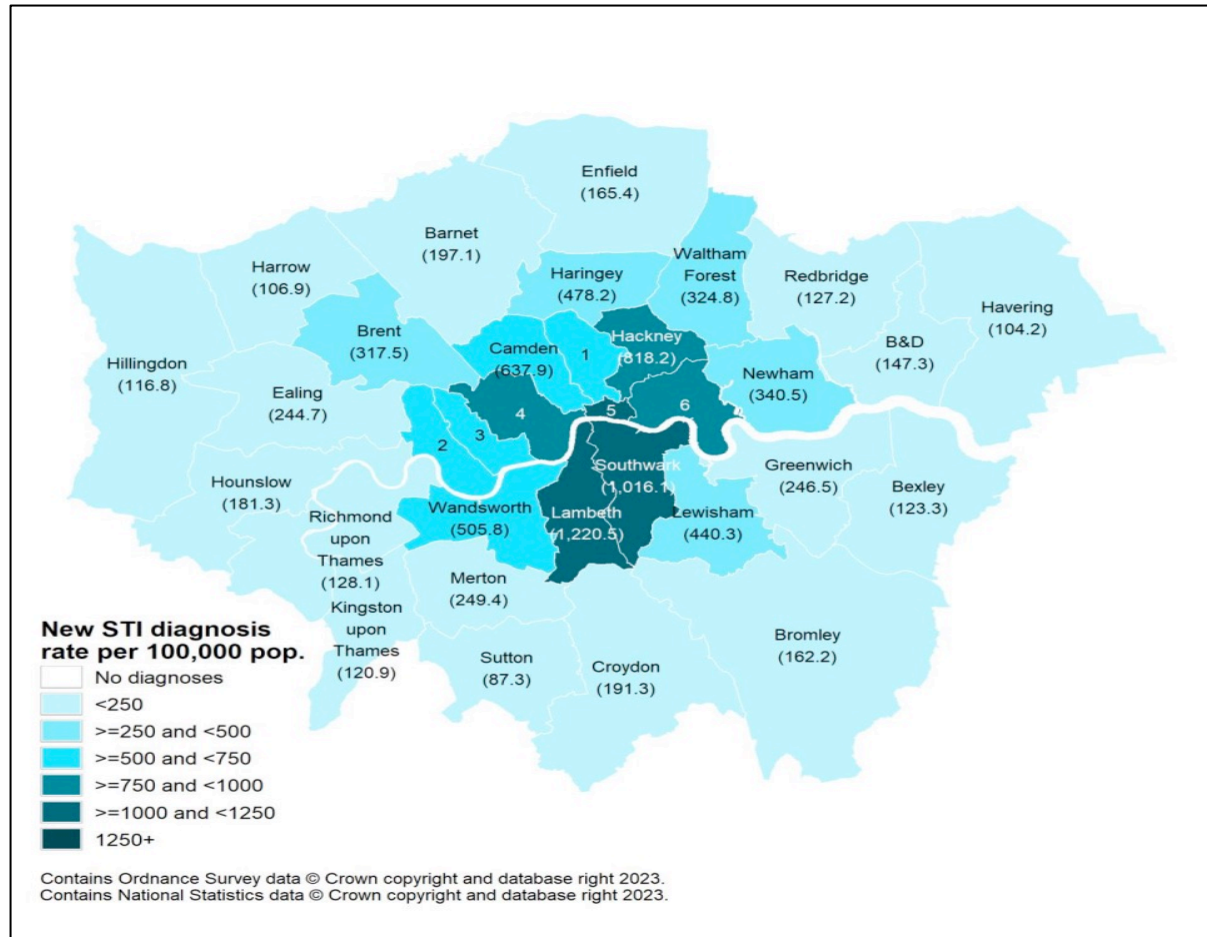
Gonorrhoea diagnoses were rising before the pandemic (Figure 14) and rates have continued to rise: the latest (2022) NEL diagnostic rate for gonorrhoea is 10.5% higher than it was in 2019.

Figure 14: NEL Gonorrhoea diagnostic rate per 100,000 compared to London and England (2018 - 2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

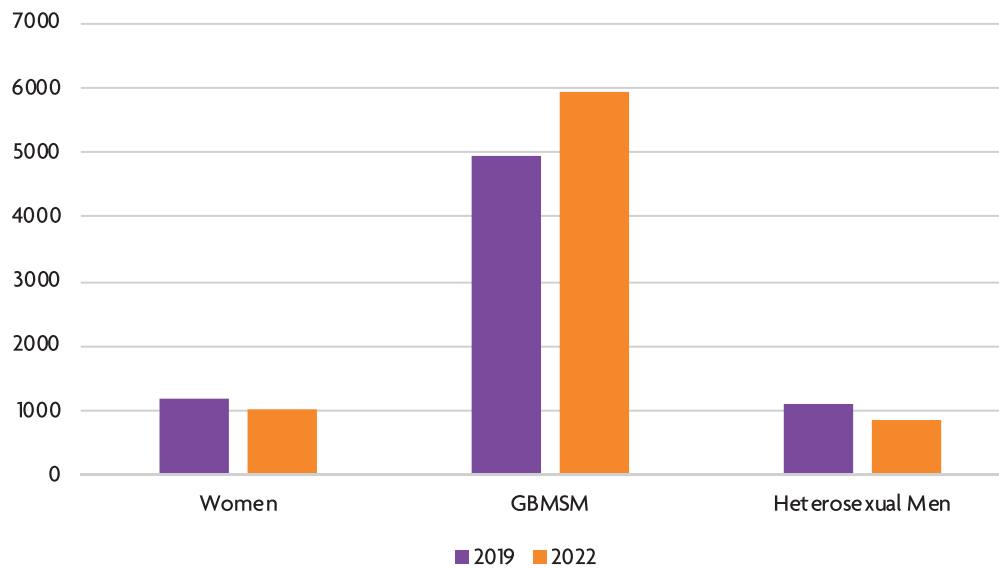
The map below shows gonorrhoea diagnosis rates (per 100,000 population) by LA for London residents in 2022. Rates are highest in inner London Local Authorities with more diverse populations including larger GBMSM populations: City of London has the highest rates in NEL followed by Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest and Newham.



Source: GUMCAD

The greatest burden of new gonorrhoea cases is seen among GBMSM, and this pattern grew between 2019 and 2022 (Figure 15). Where gender and, for males, sexual orientation are known, even in outer NEL Local Authorities such as Barking & Dagenham and Havering, GBMSM account for nearly half of diagnoses. In the inner NEL Local Authorities, GBMSM accounts for more than 8 in 10 of those diagnosed (Figure 15).

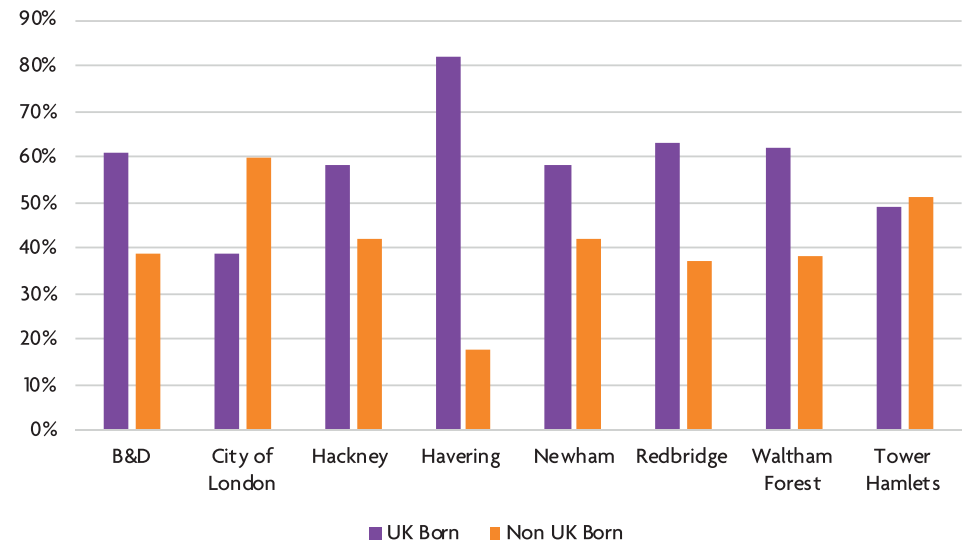
Figure 15: NEL Gonorrhoea Diagnosis (n) by gender and sexual orientation pre and post pandemic (2019 and 2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

In 2022, approximately 60% of all gonorrhoea diagnoses were among UK-born residents. (Figure 16).

Figure 16: NEL Gonorrhoea Diagnosis by percentage born the UK and outside of UK (2022)

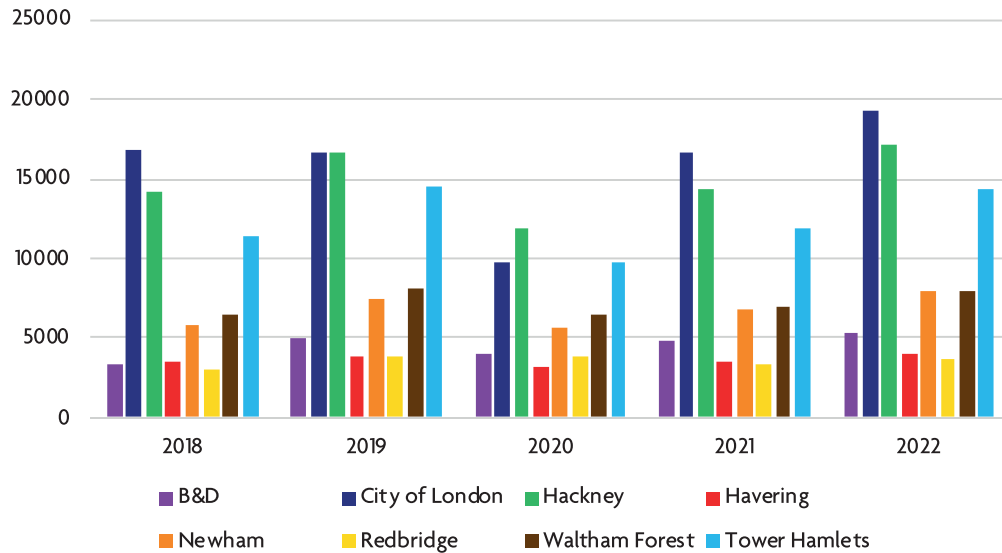


Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

4.2 STI Testing Rates

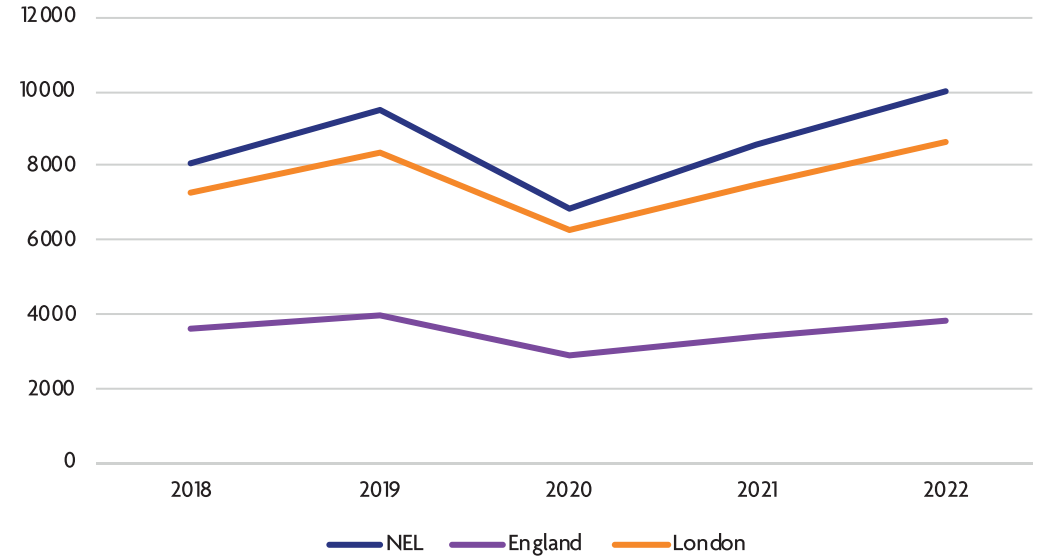
Testing rates (excluding chlamydia for young people) have increased for all LAs following the pandemic in 2020 (Figure 17) and testing rates for NEL have been consistently above the London average between 2018 and 2022 (Figure 18).

Figure 17: NEL STI Testing Rate (exclude Chlamydia aged under 25) per 100,000 population (2018-2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Figure 18: NEL, London and England STI Testing Rates comparison (exclude Chlamydia aged under 25) per 100,000 population (2018-2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

4.3 STI Positivity Rates

Positivity rates remained relatively stable between 2018 and 2020, suggesting that – even though less testing took place in clinics during the pandemic – the ‘right’ residents were still accessing screening (Table 6). Nonetheless, it is still worth noting that 2022 recorded the highest testing and positivity rates for the past five years.

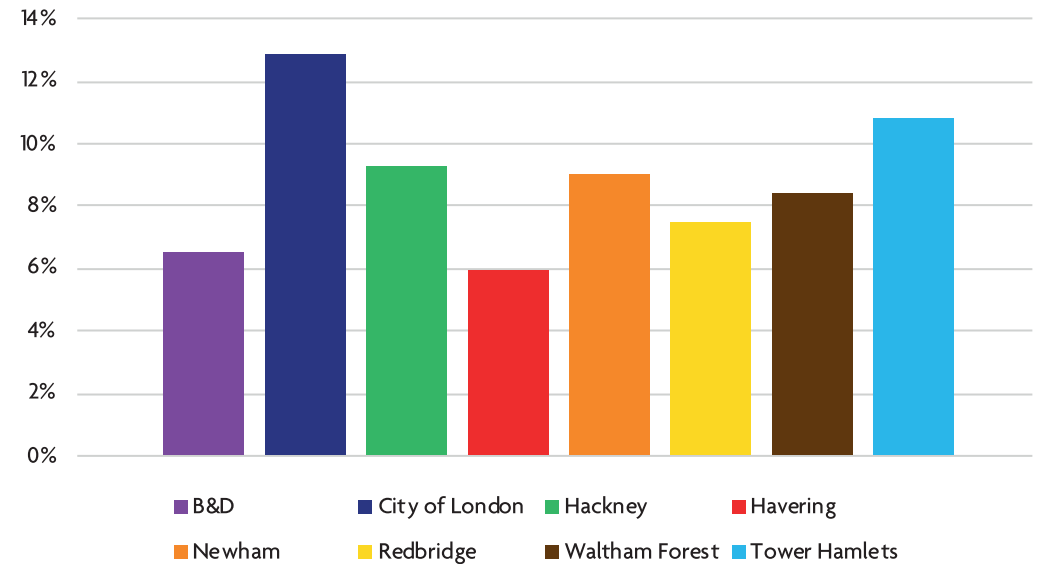
Table 7: STI tests, diagnoses and test positivity in NEL (2018-2022)

| Indicator | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| NEL Average Testing Rate (exclude Chlamydia aged under 25) per 100,000 population | 8098 | 9525 | 6836 | 8558 | 10007 |
| NEL Total Number of Diagnoses (excluding Chlamydia aged under 25) per 100,000 population | 10,916 | 11,972 | 7,070 | 8,609 | 11,082 |
| NEL Test Positivity(excluding Chlamydia under 25) | 8.40% | 8.60% | 8.30% | 7.80% | 8.80% |

Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Table 7 shows that STI positivity rates differ between outer NEL Local Authorities (Barking and Dagenham, Havering, and Redbridge) and inner NEL Local Authorities (City of London, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets, and Waltham Forest).

Figure 19: NEL proportion of STI positivity rates per Local Authority (2022)

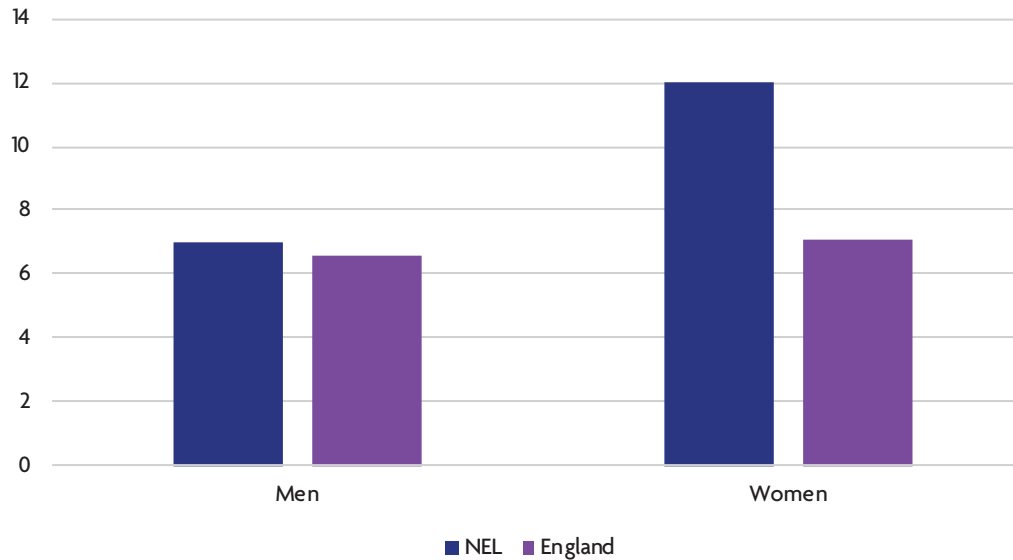


Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health

4.4 STI Reinfection Rates

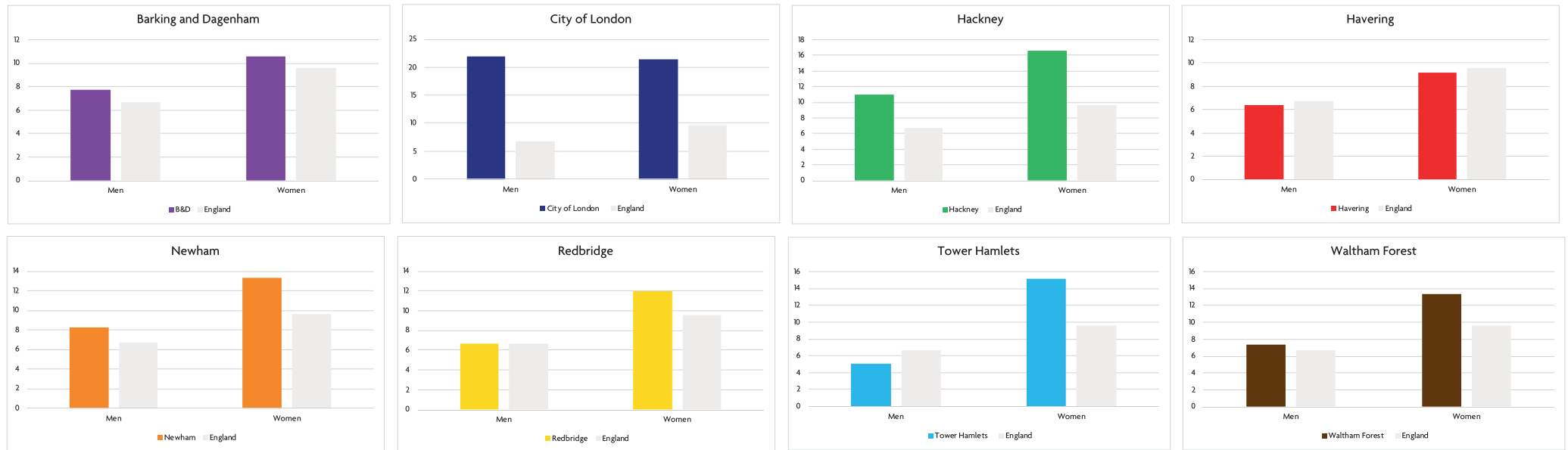
Between 2016 and 2020, NEL has recorded higher rates of reinfection than the national average, especially among women (Figure 20). Overall reinfection rates are above the national average for each LA (apart from Havering), though the extent of the pattern varies (Figure 21). It is notable, however, that reinfection rates for men in Tower Hamlets are lower than the England average. This effect is worthy of further exploration.

Figure 20: Proportion of reinfection rates in NEL and England per gender (%) (2016-2020)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health – SPLASH supplementary

Figure 21: Proportion of reinfection rates in NEL and England per gender for each NEL LA (%) (2016-2020)

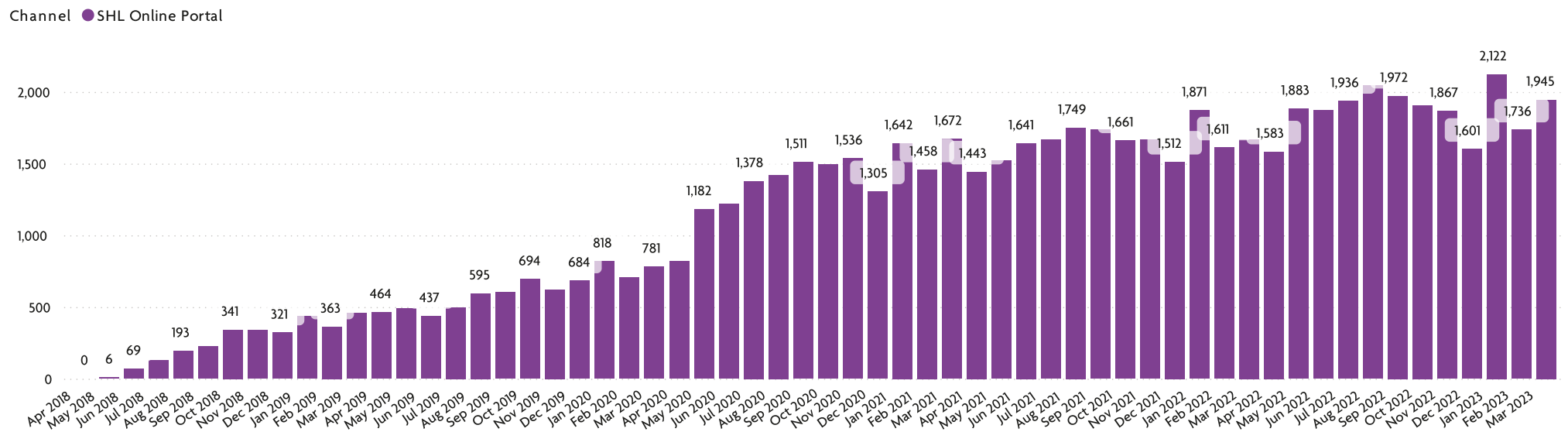


Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health – SPLASH supplementary

4.5 E-service⁴

The 'SHL' e-service has been a popular channel for STI screening since it was first introduced in 2018 and it became more popular following the pandemic (Figure 22). SHL remains the preferred STI screening pathway for most asymptomatic residents⁵.

Figure 22: E- service Kits Issued, NEL (except City and Hackney) (April 2018- March 2023)



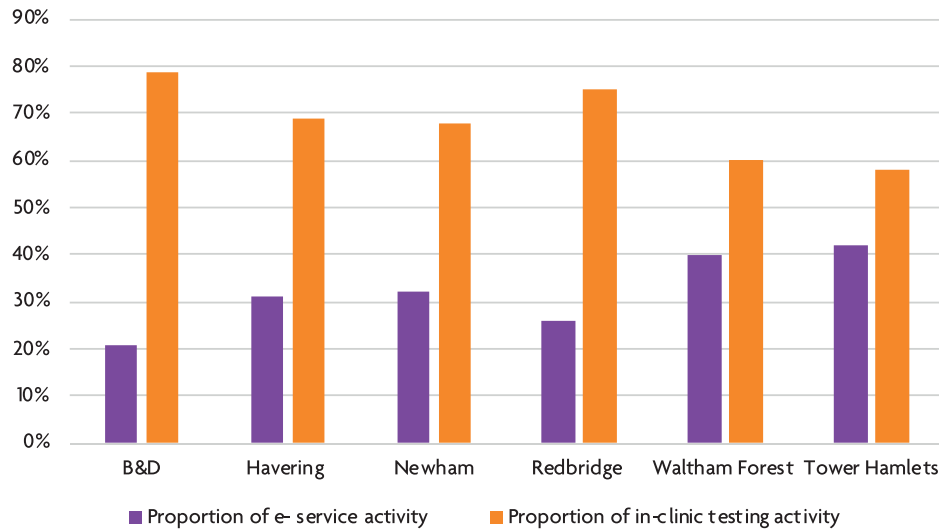
Source: Preventx

⁴ Note: All e-service data excludes Hackney and City of London

⁵ Apart from some higher risk cohorts where in-clinic screening is always preferred (e.g. young people)

Overall, about one-third of all STI screening undertaken across NEL in 2022-23 happened online (Figure 23). The proportion of online testing versus in-clinic testing varied for individual Local Authorities, with more online screening seen in Inner NEL (INEL) compared to Outer NEL (ONEL).

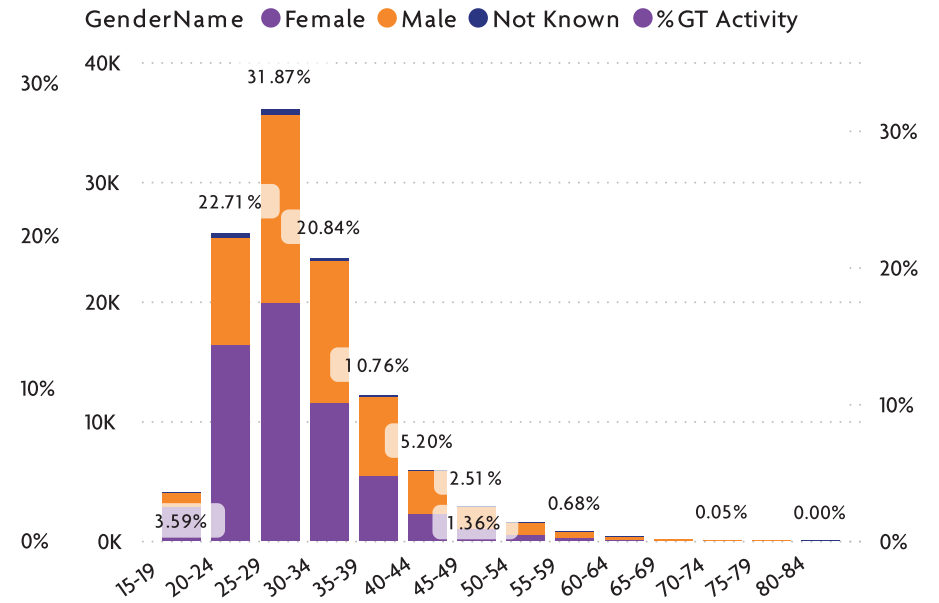
Figure 23: Proportion of e-service testing vs in-clinic testing for NEL (except City and Hackney) (April 22-March 23)



Source: Preventx

In 2022, the percentage of men and women using e-services was 36% and 64%, respectively. This is not the same as the pattern of attendance at specialist sexual health clinics, where men are more likely to attend. SHL is more popular among younger residents (Figure 24).

Figure 24: E- service users per age and gender NEL (except City and Hackney) (2022)



Source: Preventx

The majority of e-service users are of White British ethnicity, with Black African and Black Caribbean residents the next most frequent users (Figure 25). Although the ethnicity trends did not change significantly between 2020 and 2022, there was a slight increase in online screening seen among Asian and Black residents in most LAs (Table 8).

Figure 25: E-service users per ethnic background NEL (except City and Hackney) (2022)

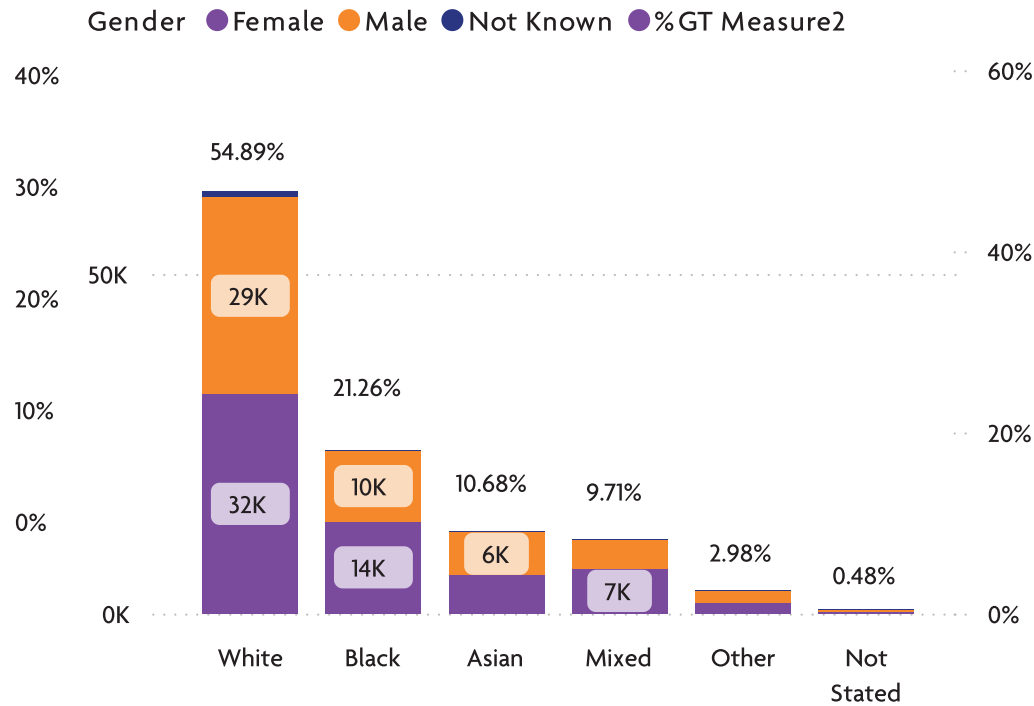


Table 8: Pre and Post Covid e -service activity per ethnicity (NEL 2020 and 2022)

| Local Authority | Ethnicity | 2020 | 2022 | Difference |
|------------------|-----------|------|------|------------|
| B&D | Asian | 5% | 6% | 1% |
| | Black | 39% | 42% | 3% |
| | Mixed | 10% | 11% | 1% |
| | Other | 4% | 1% | -3% |
| | White | 42% | 40% | -2% |
| Havering | Asian | 3% | 5% | 2% |
| | Black | 17% | 21% | 4% |
| | Mixed | 7% | 8% | 1% |
| | Other | 3% | 2% | -1% |
| | White | 70% | 64% | -6% |
| Redbridge | Asian | 15% | 16% | 1% |
| | Black | 22% | 26% | 4% |
| | Mixed | 12% | 13% | 1% |
| | Other | 28% | 4% | -24% |
| | White | 23% | 41% | 18% |

| Local Authority | Ethnicity | 2020 | 2022 | Difference |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|------|------------|
| Newham | Asian | 9% | 9% | 0% |
| | Black | 35% | 31% | -4% |
| | Mixed | 9% | 11% | 2% |
| | Other | 3% | 6% | 3% |
| | White | 44% | 43% | -1% |
| Tower Hamlets | Asian | 6% | 9% | 3% |
| | Black | 8% | 8% | 0% |
| | Mixed | 8% | 8% | 0% |
| | Other | 8% | 8% | 0% |
| | White | 70% | 67% | -3% |
| Waltham Forest | Asian | 6% | 5% | -1% |
| | Black | 25% | 26% | 1% |
| | Mixed | 11% | 11% | 0% |
| | Other | 3% | 3% | 0% |
| | White | 55% | 55% | 0% |

Source: Preventx

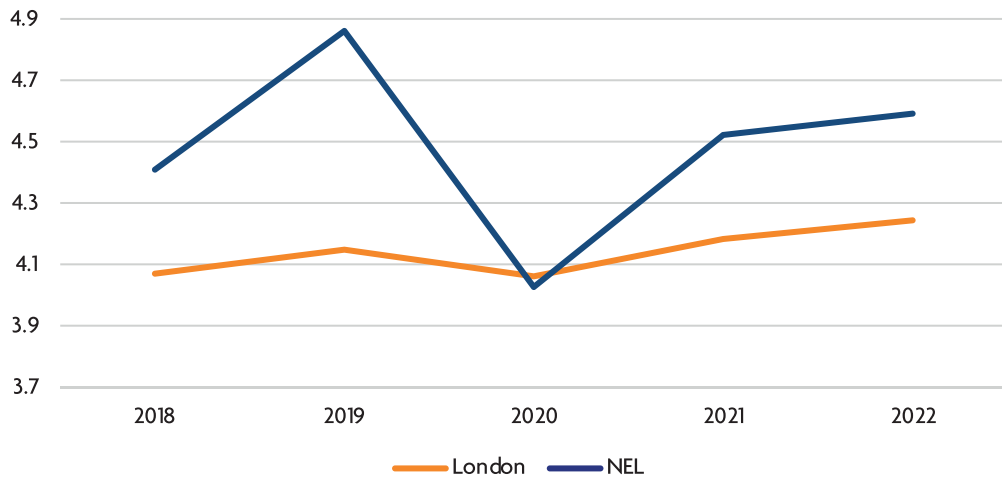
The average 'return rate' for NEL authorities (excluding C&H) for STI kits in 2022 was 77%, a 1% decrease from 2020⁷. Return rates did not differ significantly by LA.

5. HIV

5.1 HIV prevalence

Diagnosed HIV prevalence in NEL continues to be above the London average (Figure 26).

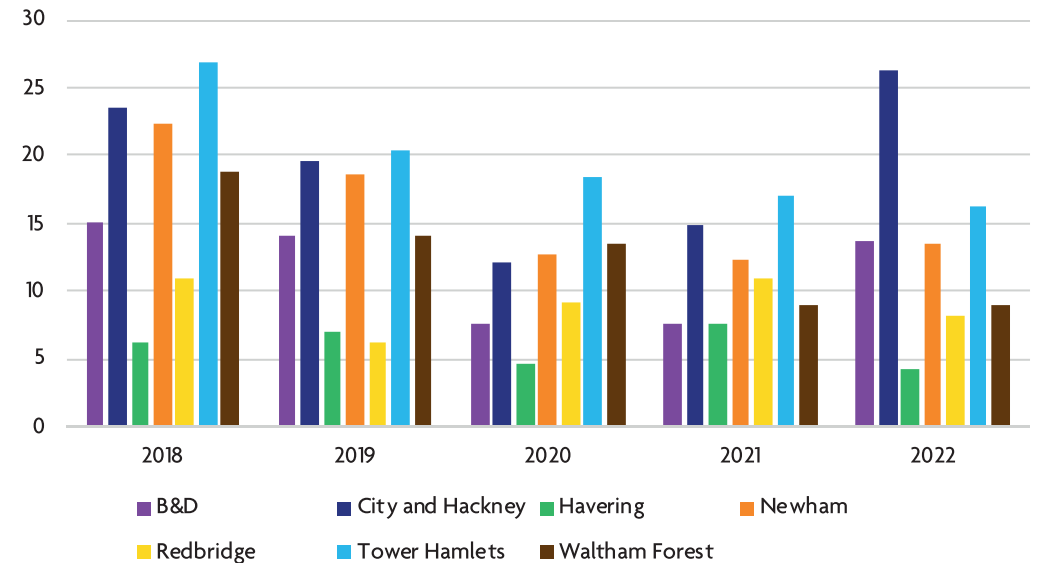
Figure 26: NEL and London HIV diagnosed prevalence comparison; rate per 1000, (2018-2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health Profile

HIV incidence in NEL declined over the past five years, but continues to be one of the highest in London and England. There is considerable variation in HIV prevalence rates across the NEL Local Authorities (Figure 27) with the highest rates seen in City of London (10.1 per 1,000) Hackney (5.79 per 1,000), Tower Hamlets (5.94 per 1,000) and Newham (4.55 per 1,000).

Figure 27: HIV New Diagnosis Rate per 100,000 people between 2018 and 2021

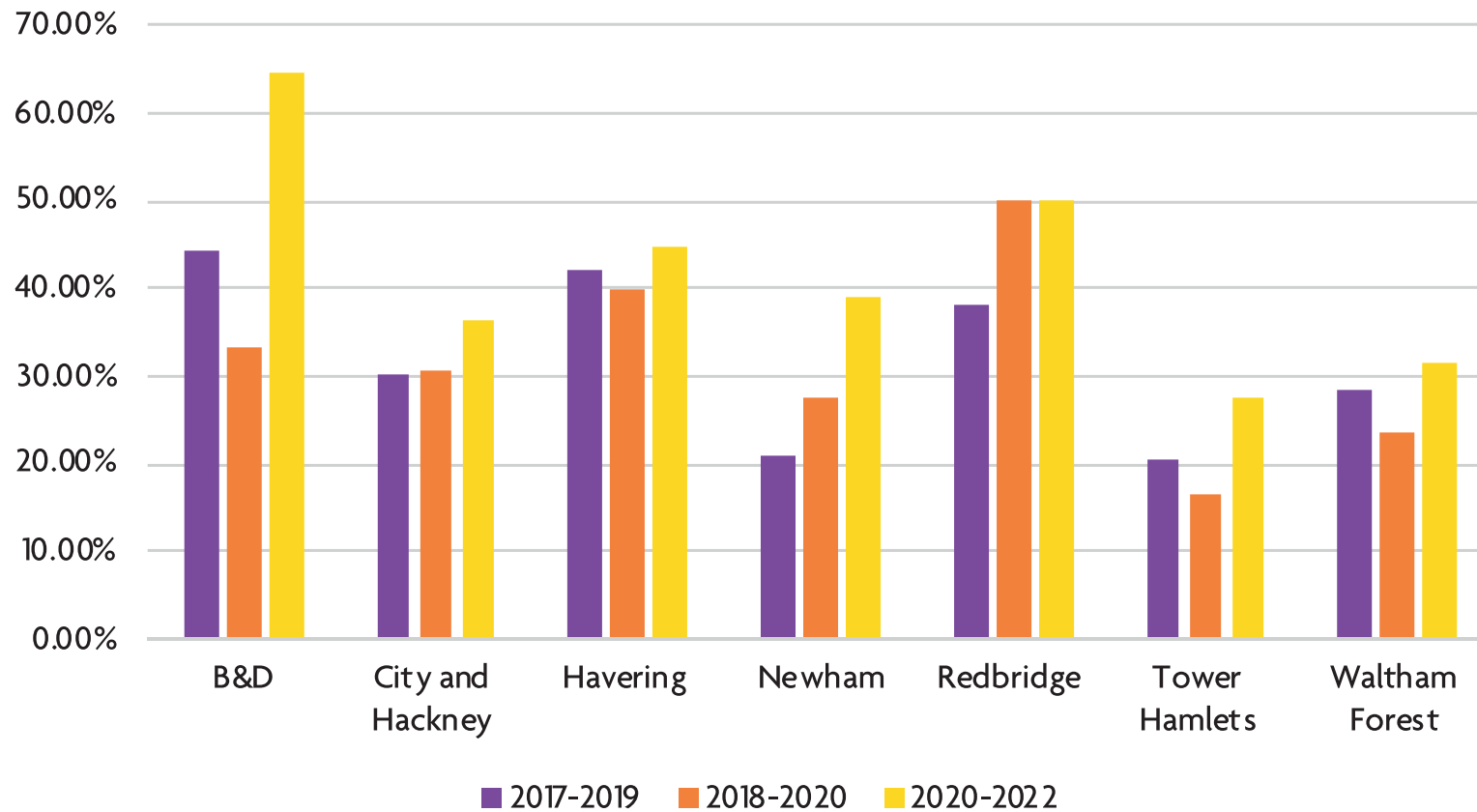


Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles

5.2 HIV Late Diagnosis

Late diagnosis of HIV can lead to significantly worse outcomes for the individual and increased costs to the health and care system. There is substantial variance in rates of late HIV diagnoses across NEL (Figure 28), with Barking and Dagenham (48%), Havering (41.0%) and Redbridge (48.6%) exceeding average rates for London (38.6%) and England (43.4%).

Figure 28: Proportion (%) of late HIV Diagnosis out of all first diagnosis (NEL, 2017- 2022)



Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles

5.3 HIV Prevention

Among NEL residents attending SRH clinics in 2022, the percentage of eligible residents who received an HIV test was 54.5% (on average), which was similar to the London average (54%). However, this represented a 16% decrease since 2018 (Figure 29).

In 2022, HIV testing rates were significantly higher for men compared to women (Figure 30), which is most likely reflects relatively high awareness of HIV and familiarity in testing among the GBMSM community. Nonetheless, there is a clear need to increase testing for HIV among heterosexual populations, especially for women.

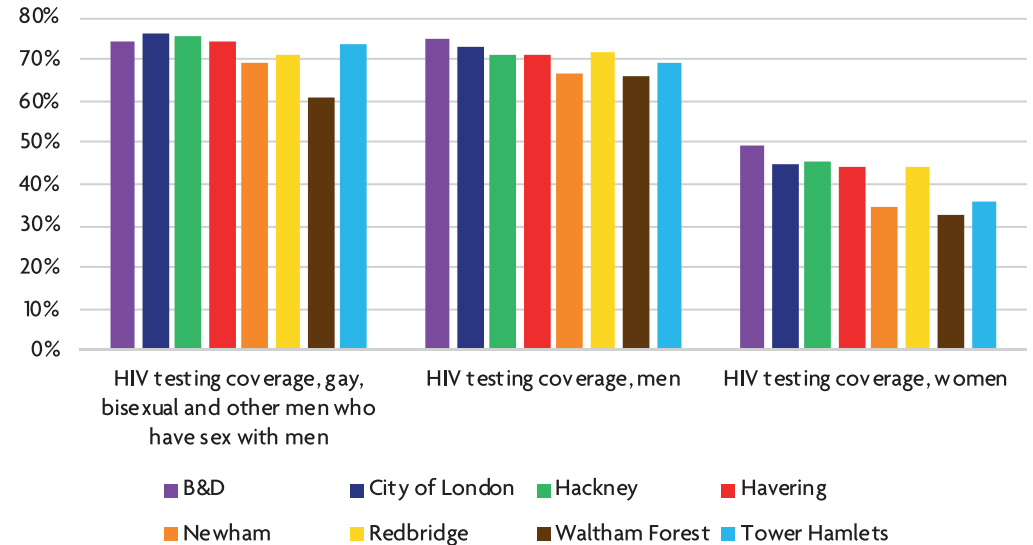
In 2022, the average NEL testing rate for GBMSM was 74.1%, similar to London (73.6%) and England (73.3%).

Figure 29: NEL, London and England Proportion of HIV testing coverage comparison; per 100,000 (2022)



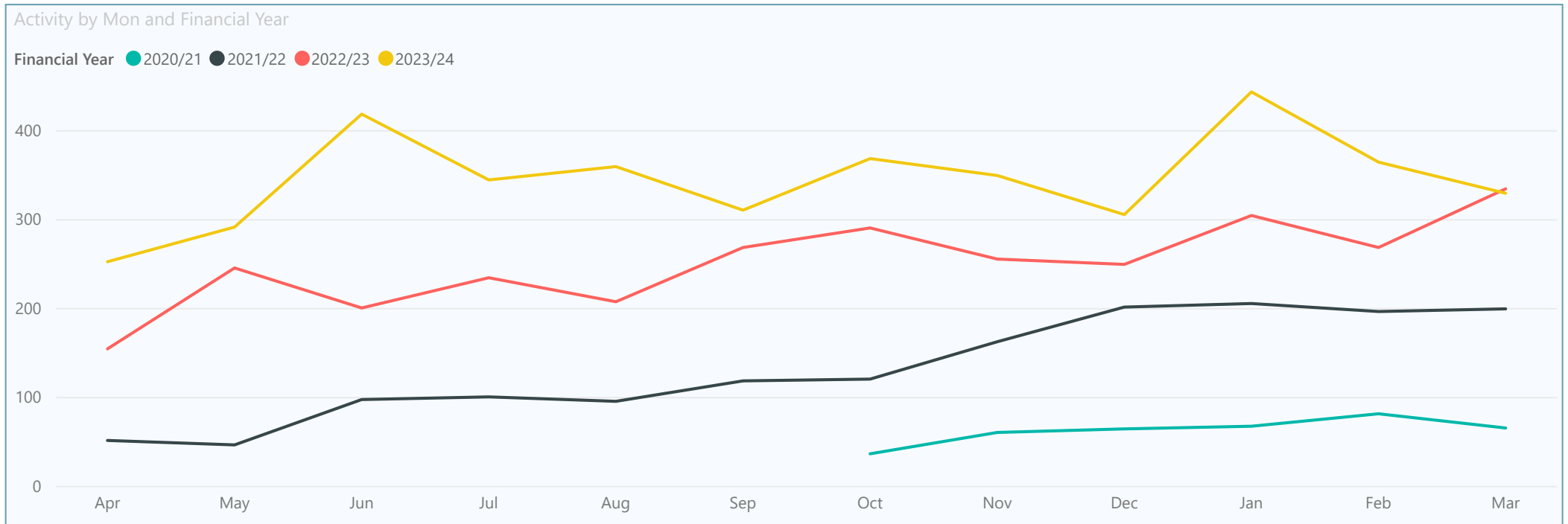
Source: OHID (2023) Fingertips Public Health Data, Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles

Figure 30: HIV testing coverage per 100,000 residents in NEL by Gender (2022)



Routine commissioning of PrEP for communities at risk has been a significant development in HIV prevention. There was a 55% increase in overall PrEP uptake in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22, and the number of NEL residents who started PrEP in 2022-23 was 36% higher than 2021-22 (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Increase in PrEP activity in NEL Sexual Health Clinics (October 2020 – March 2023)



Source: LBN Power BI (including B&D, Havering, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest)

6. Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Description |
|--------------|--|
| B&D | Barking and Dagenham |
| BI | Business Intelligence |
| CoL | City of London |
| DRI | Detection Rate Indicator |
| GBMSM | Gay, Bisexual and Men who have sex with Men |
| GUMCAD | Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Dataset STI Surveillance System |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| NA | Needs Assessment |
| NCSP | National Chlamydia Screening Programme |
| NEL | North East London |
| LA | Local Authorities |
| LGBTQ | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer |
| OHID | Office of Health Disparities and Improvements |
| PA | Pathway Analytics |
| PHOF | Public Health Outcome Framework |
| SRH | Sexual and Reproductive Health |
| SPLASH | Summary Profiles of Local Authority Sexual Health |
| STIs | Sexually Transmitted Infections |
| TH | Tower Hamlets |
| ToPs | Termination of pregnancies |
| WF | Waltham Forest |

Endnotes

- 1 How your area has changed in 10 years: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
- 2 ONS 2018 based projections.
- 3 Perceptions of Factors Leading to Teenage Pregnancy in Lindi Region, Tanzania: A Grounded Theory Study - PMC (nih.gov)
- 4 [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-pregnancy#:~:text=Adolescent%20mothers%20\(aged%2010%E2%80%9319,birth%20and%20severe%20neonatal%20condition.](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-pregnancy#:~:text=Adolescent%20mothers%20(aged%2010%E2%80%9319,birth%20and%20severe%20neonatal%20condition.)
- 5 A study of young peoples' attitudes to opportunistic Chlamydia testing in UK general practice - PMC (nih.gov)
- 6 Sexually transmitted infections and screening for chlamydia in England: 2022 report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- 7 Preventx

**Barking &
Dagenham**



Hackney

Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Newham London

London Borough of
Redbridge

Waltham Forest

TOWER HAMLETS

NHS
North East London

North East London Joint Sexual & Reproductive Health Strategy (2024 – 2029)

Data Summary

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