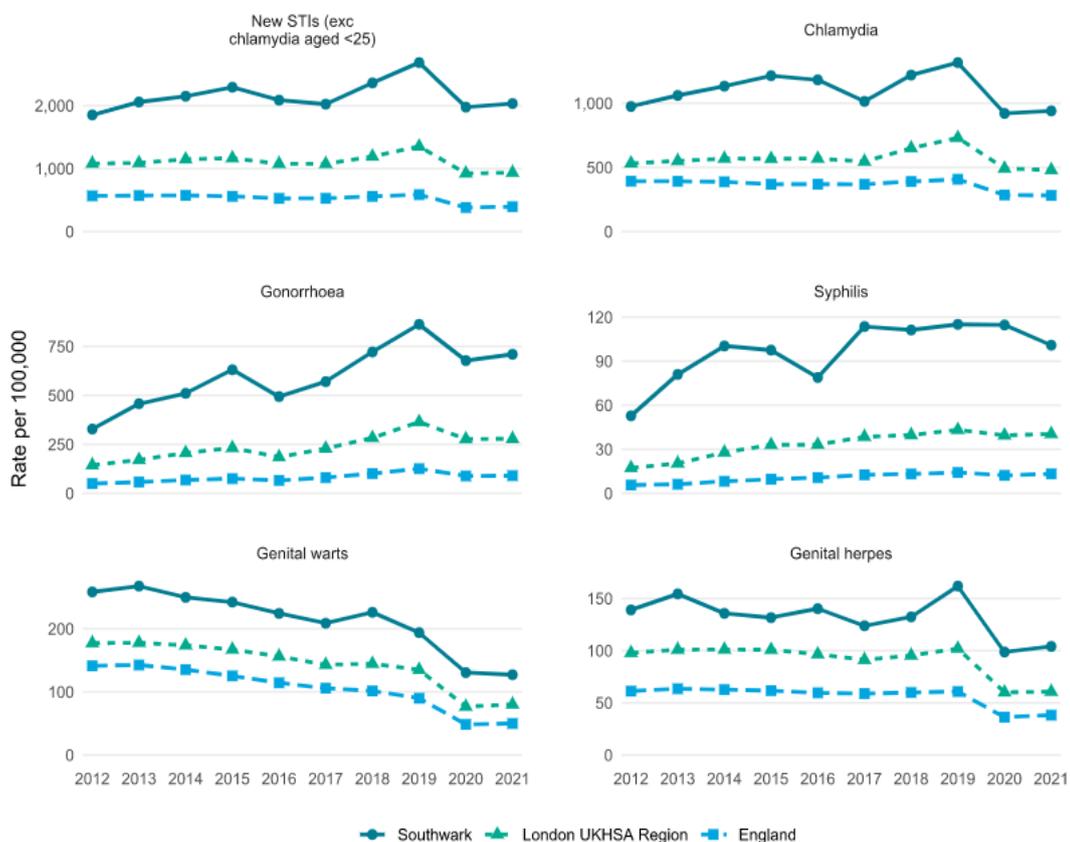


Sexual and reproductive health need and clinical activity at the Integrated Sexual Reproductive Health Services

Sexual and reproductive health need in Southwark

1. Southwark faces some of the greatest sexual health challenges in England and has high rates of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), STIs, emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) use and terminations. From 2020-22, over half of the

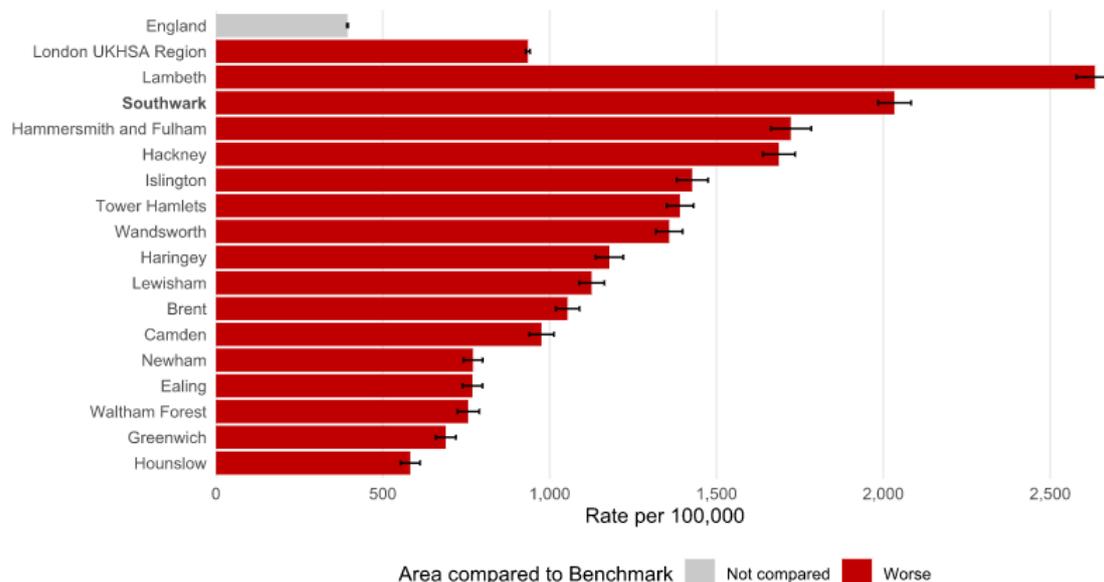
Figure 1: Rates of new STI diagnoses per 100,000 population comparing Southwark to London and England: 2012-2022¹



Reference

- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Public health profiles, Sexual and Reproductive individuals who accessed EHC in Southwark had used EHC on a previous occasion within the last year, which is an indicator of unmet reproductive health need.
- The number of new STI diagnoses in Southwark are significantly higher than London and England. In 2021, there were 2,333 cases of STIs per 100,000 residents, which was higher than the 551 cases of STIs per 100,000 people in England (figure 1).

Figure 2: Rates of new STI diagnoses per 100,000 population in under 25s (excluding chlamydia) comparing Southwark to similar boroughs with the England rate being the benchmark: 2021¹



Reference

- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Public health profiles, Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles. 2023 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/SEXUALHEALTH>
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- In 2021, numbers of new STI diagnoses were particularly high amongst young people under 25, where Southwark ranked second highest out of all local authorities in England for new STI diagnoses, excluding chlamydia when compared to the benchmark of STI diagnoses rates in England (figure 2).
- The number of new HIV diagnoses in Southwark has decreased by 54% since 2016 (figure 3). This reduction may be due to a range of factors, which could include the availability of the highly effective HIV prevention drug pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and Southwark’s range of HIV prevention programmes for residents. Despite this progress, Southwark has the second largest number of people living with HIV compared to other local authorities in England. This demonstrates there is still a high need in the borough and the importance of ensuring people living with HIV have access to the services and support to enable them to live a healthy and fulfilling life.

Figure 3: Rate of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 population among people aged 15 years or above, comparing Southwark to London and England: 2011-2021¹



Reference

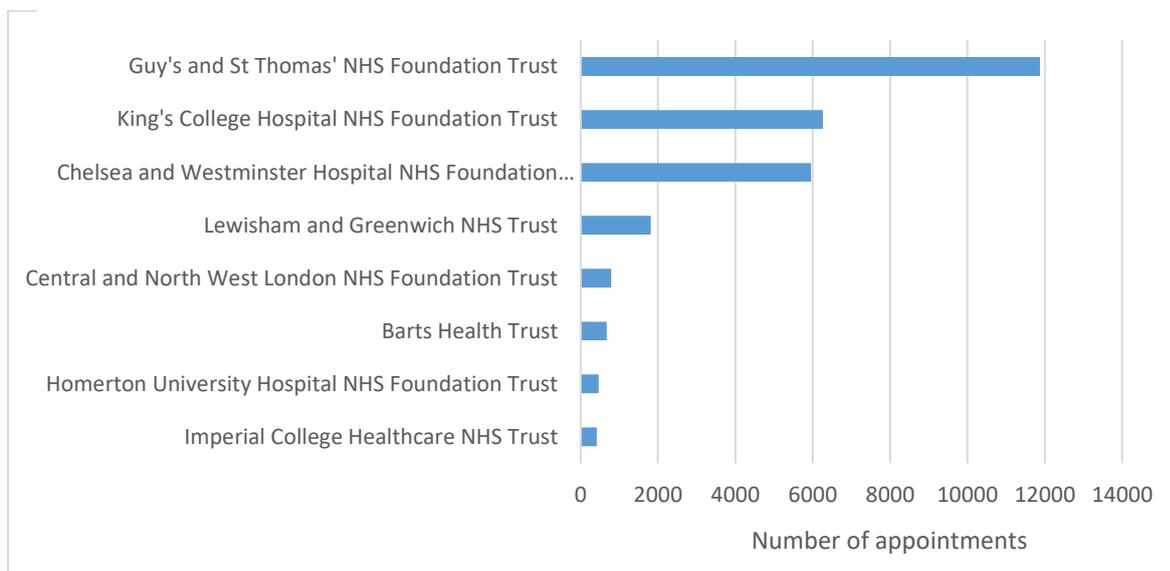
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Public health profiles, Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles. 2023 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/SEXUALHEALTH>
- Rates of teenage pregnancy have significantly reduced in Southwark over the past 20 years. In 2020, the under-18 conception rate was 7.5 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 17 years, which was lower than the rate of 13 per 1,000 in England. In Southwark, the under-18 conception rate decreased by 50% between 2019 and 2020.
- Southwark has a young and diverse population which often have high needs for sexual and reproductive health (SRH). There are persistent inequalities in SRH among young people, men who have sex with men, transgender and non-binary people and people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups.
- Southwark has a population that is substantially younger than the national average. According to the 2021 Census, the average age in Southwark is 32.4 years, which is more than two years younger than the average for London and seven years younger than the average for England. Young people often have high needs for SRH and in Southwark young people are at risk of poor SRH, including high rates of STIs. According to school-based surveys across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham (LSL), there is some evidence of poor knowledge of contraceptive methods and healthy relationships.
- We expect our population to continue to grow across the borough, particularly in neighbourhoods undergoing extensive redevelopment (Elephant & Castle, Aylesbury and Canada Water). The expected continued growth will lead to additional demand on local SRH services.
- Southwark also has one of the largest transgender, non-binary and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGB+) populations in England. According to the 2021 Census, 1.2% of residents had a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth and 8.1% of residents aged 16 years and over identified as LGB+. Both transgender and non-binary people and LGB+ populations often experience discrimination and feel excluded when accessing health services. Similarly, both groups have high needs for SRH, which often is met through specialist SRH services.

10. According to the 2021 Census, one quarter of Southwark’s residents identified their ethnicity as Black, Black British, Caribbean or African. This remains substantially higher than the proportion across both London (8%) and England (3%). People from these ethnic groups often have a high SRH need. For example, young women from a Black ethnic background are more likely to access EHC compared to other ethnic groups, which is an indicator of unmet reproductive health need.

ISRH clinical activity

11. From April 2022 to January 2023, Southwark residents accessed ISRH services across sixteen different providers in London, with GSTT and KCH being the most popular providers for Southwark residents. During this period, 28,551 appointments were delivered to Southwark residents across London clinics; GSTT delivered 11,877 appointments and KCH delivered 6,262 appointments. Of all appointments provided to Southwark residents, GSTT and KCH delivered 64% of appointments and other providers across London provided the remaining 36% of appointments to Southwark residents. Figure 4 illustrates the number of appointments delivered to Southwark residents at the eight most visited providers by Southwark residents from April 2022 to January 2023.

Figure 4: Number of appointments delivered to Southwark residents at the most popular sexual health clinics for Southwark residents, Apr 2022 - Jan 2023



12. GSTT and KCH are popular ISRH clinics for residents across London in addition to Southwark and Lambeth residents. GSTT and KCH provide the most appointments to Southwark and Lambeth residents. From April 2022 to January 2023, approximately a third of GSTT and KCH appointments were delivered to Southwark residents, a third to Lambeth residents and the remaining appointments to individuals from other boroughs (figures 5 and 6). Southwark and Lambeth jointly commission the ISRH services at GSTT and KCH and most appointments are serving residents in both boroughs.

Figure 5: Number of in-person attendances at GSTT by borough of residence, 2022-23

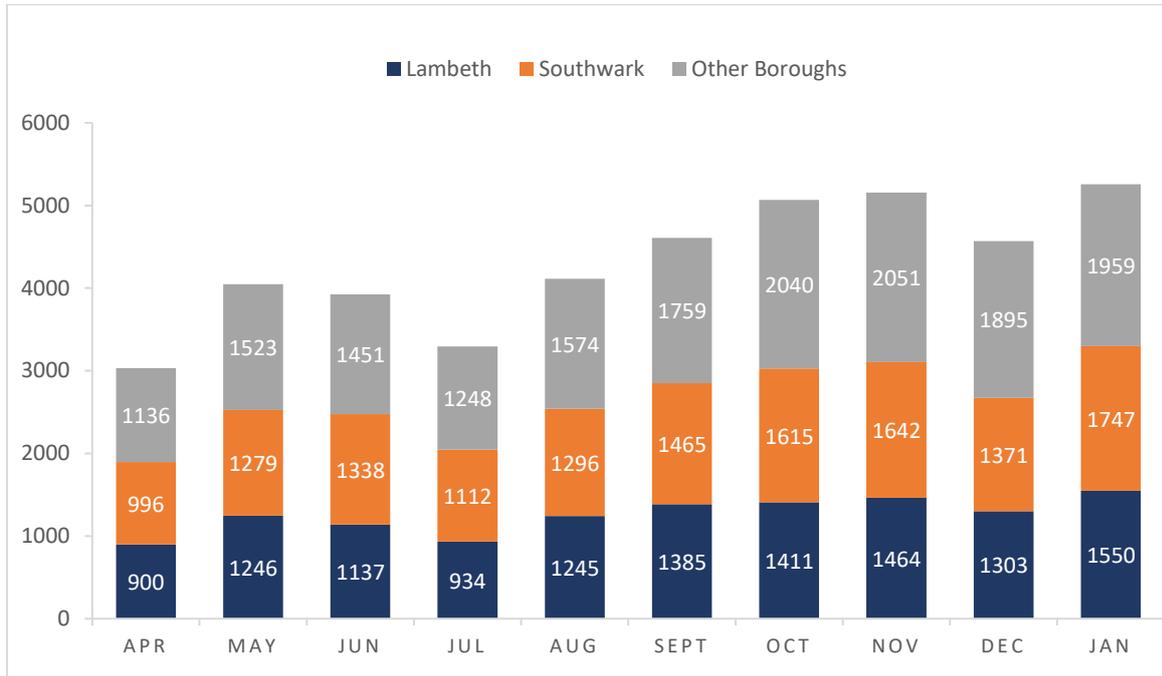
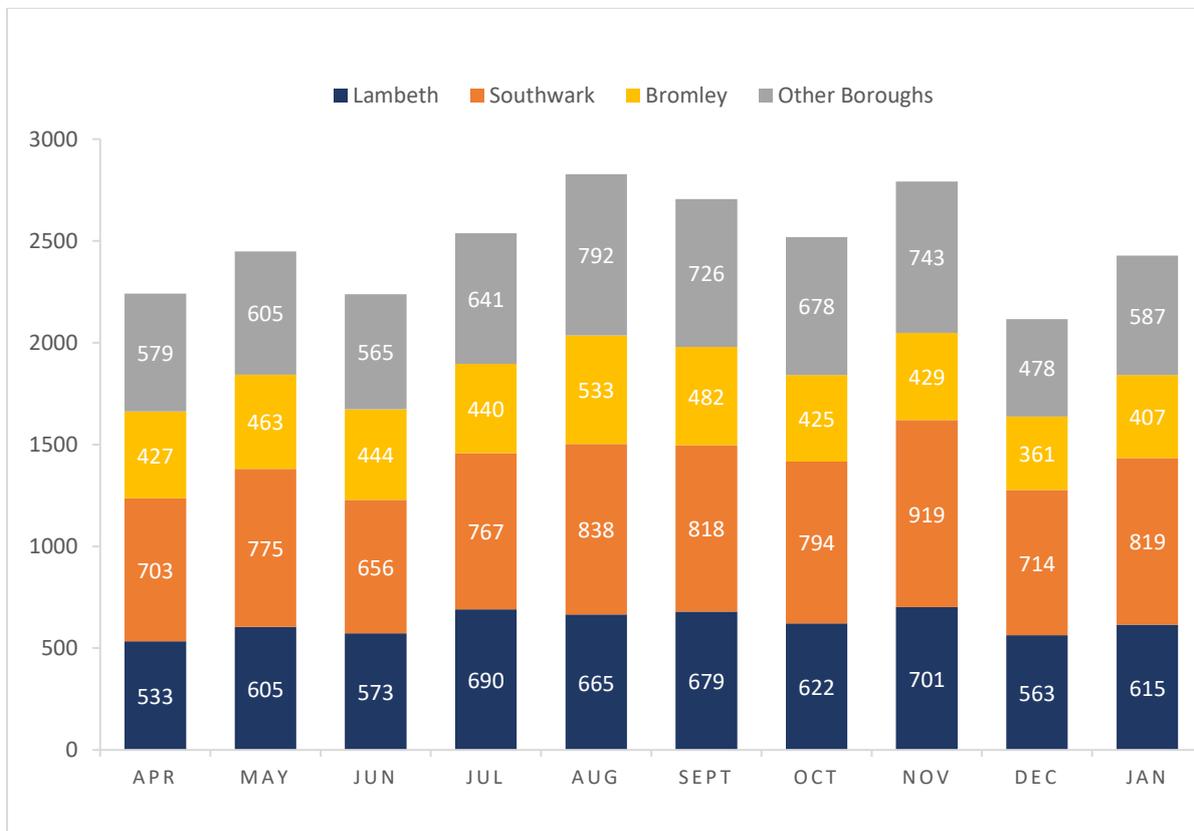


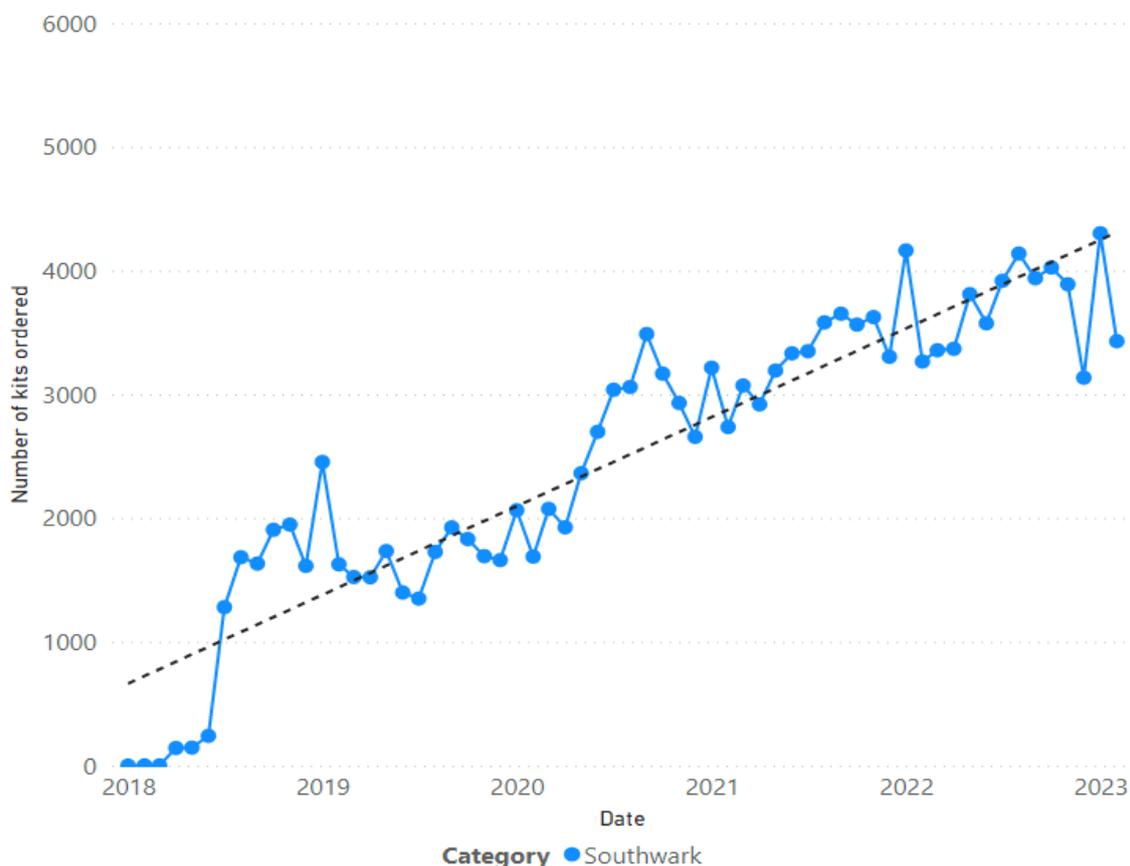
Figure 6: Number of in-person attendances at KCH by borough of residence, 2022-23



E-service

13. Southwark is part of a London-wide commissioning of an online e-service, Sexual Health London (SHL), which provides good value for money and a range of access options for residents. The e-service includes STI testing and some treatment, EHC, routine contraception and condom packs. Where appropriate, clinics are expected to transfer patients with no symptoms to SHL, which is a more cost-effective delivery platform for uncomplicated health needs. This arrangement helps to preserve appointments for in-clinic services for more complex care. The e-service is a separate service to the clinical services provided by GSTT and KCH, but is included for context of the range of ISRH services on offer to Southwark residents. Figure 7 illustrates the popularity of the e-service since 2018.

Figure 7: Number of kits ordered through the e-service in Southwark, including STI testing, emergency hormonal contraception, routine contraception and condom packs, 2018-2023²



Reference

2. Lambeth Public Health. E-service activity, SHL.UK