

Bexley Sexual Health Partnership

# Headline Sexual Health Indicators

13 May 2024

[nick.aldridge@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:nick.aldridge@bexley.gov.uk)

# Contents

1. Demographics
2. Sexually transmitted infections
3. Chlamydia
4. Late HIV Diagnosis
5. Long acting reversible contraception
6. Termination of pregnancy

# **1. Demographics**

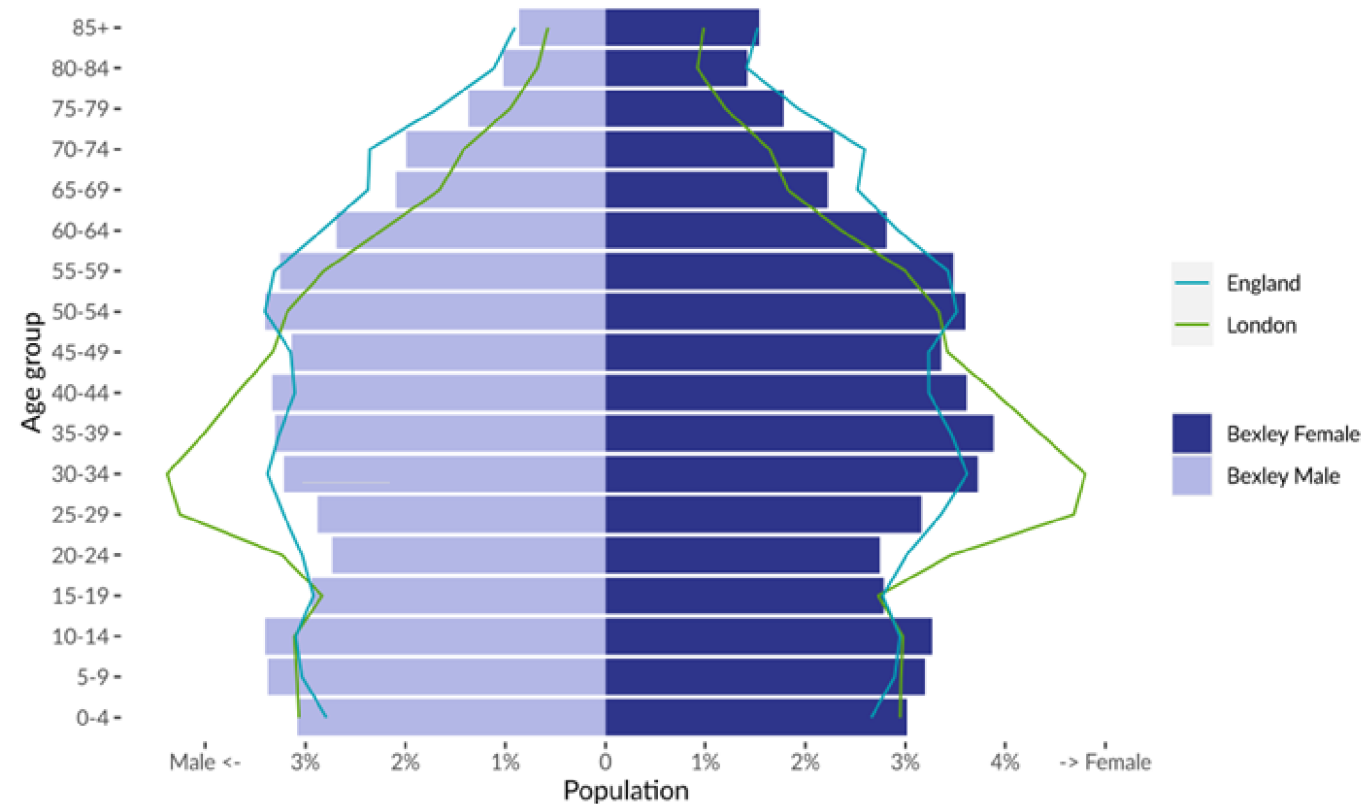
## Demographics

# Bexley's age profile is atypical of London

- Bexley's age profile is closer to England than London, lacking the pronounced spike in younger working age people
- This age group is projected to remain stable in absolute terms, but constitute a smaller proportion of the population
- Important to note when comparing against comparator areas

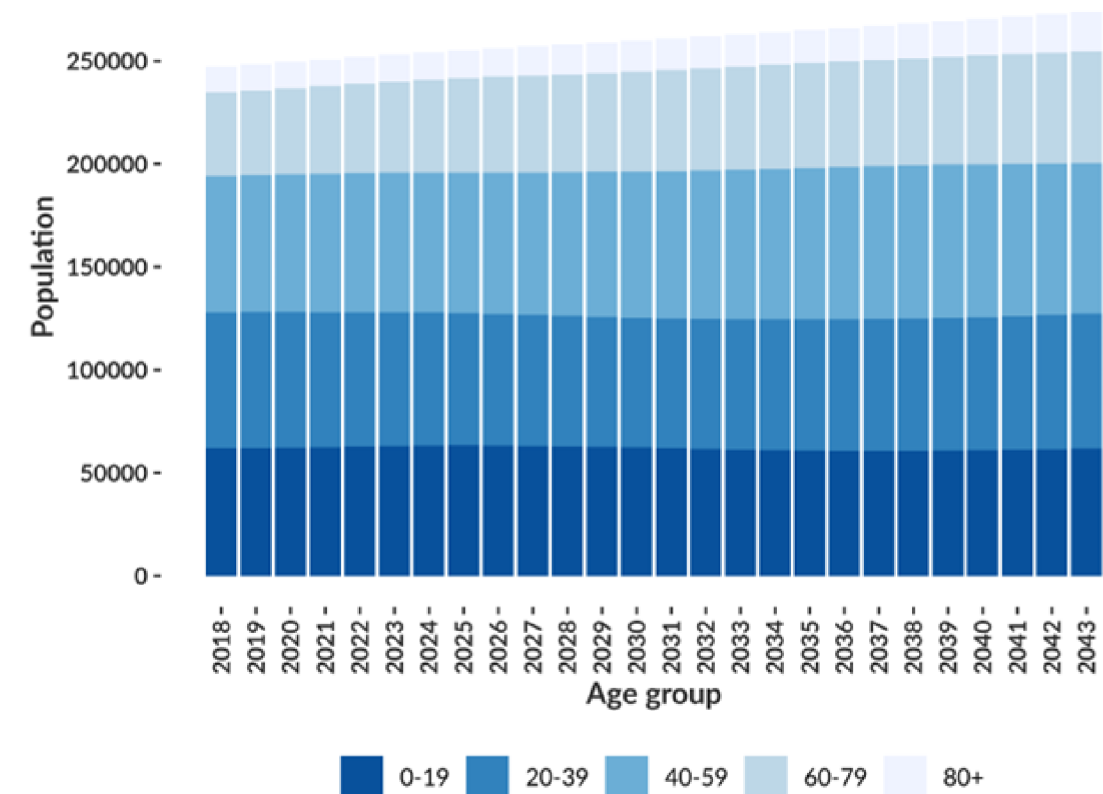
## Resident population by age and sex

Bexley, London, England 2021



## Resident population projections by age

Bexley, 2018-2043



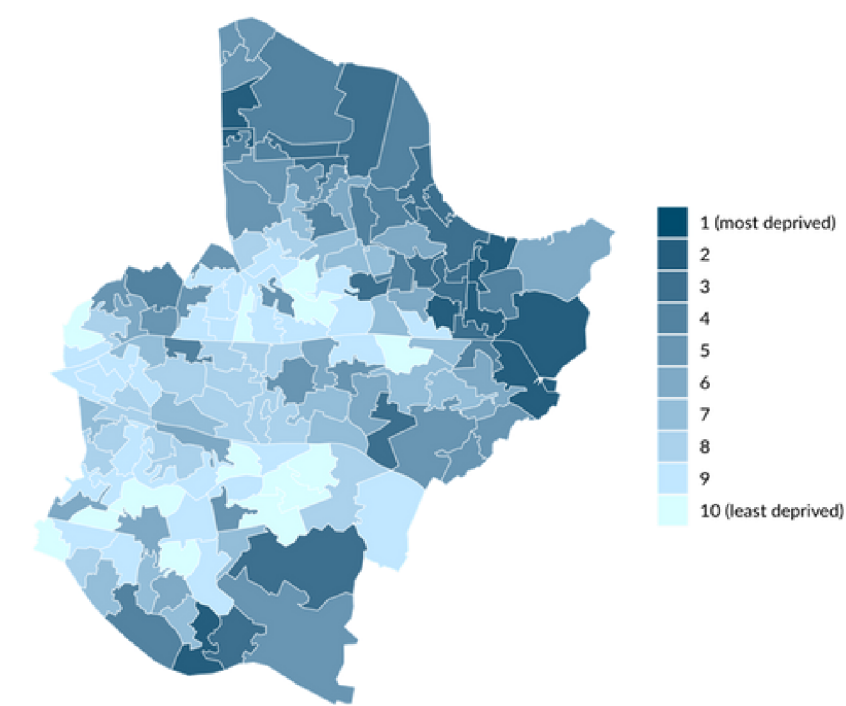


Demographics

# There is variation within Bexley

- Bexley is the 9th least deprived London borough, yet some neighbourhoods rank in the 20% most deprived in England
- 64.4% of Bexley residents identify as “White: UK”, but this varies by age group, with only 1 in 2 of 35-44 year olds
- National evidence shows that sexual health needs vary greatly by age, ethnicity, gender, and deprivation

Index of multiple deprivation  
Bexley, 2019



Resident population by age and ethnicity  
Bexley, 2021

	Aged 16 to 24 years	Aged 25 to 34 years	Aged 35 to 44 years	Aged 45 to 54 years	Aged 55 to 64 years	Aged 65 to 74 years	Aged 75 years and over
White: Roma	32	80	67	33	14	10	3
White: Other White	1171	2927	4306	2134	1017	492	305
White: Irish	115	215	282	369	524	372	531
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	77	83	68	66	48	42	22
Other ethnic group: Arab	49	84	104	74	44	22	17
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	521	808	1127	760	596	343	210
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	429	428	227	150	87	28	19
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	241	155	122	104	60	18	4
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	230	261	192	117	89	41	33
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	280	344	282	188	122	39	35
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Other Black	519	284	233	272	194	63	26
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Caribbean	293	494	541	477	552	222	161
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African	2795	2957	3811	4311	2405	572	215
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Pakistani	145	217	290	147	98	55	29
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Other Asian	602	1038	1322	935	489	324	157
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian	706	1463	2650	1298	1029	726	535
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Chinese	257	603	946	531	414	243	121
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Bangladeshi	212	281	404	208	85	42	20

## Demographics

# We don't know enough about sexual orientation

- In Bexley only 2,551 people (2.1%) identified with an LGB+ orientation in the 2021 Census, compared to 3.2% average across England and 4.3% average in London.
- A much higher number (13,640) did not answer the question, as was the case across England
- National evidence shows that sexual health needs vary greatly by sexual orientation

Resident population (16+) by sexual orientation

Bexley, 2021

	Number	Proportion
Straight or Heterosexual	178,051	90.92%
Gay or Lesbian	2,058	1.05%
Bisexual	1,585	0.81%
Pansexual	348	0.18%
Asexual	68	0.03%
Queer	40	0.02%
All other sexual orientations	37	0.02%
Not answered	13,640	6.97%

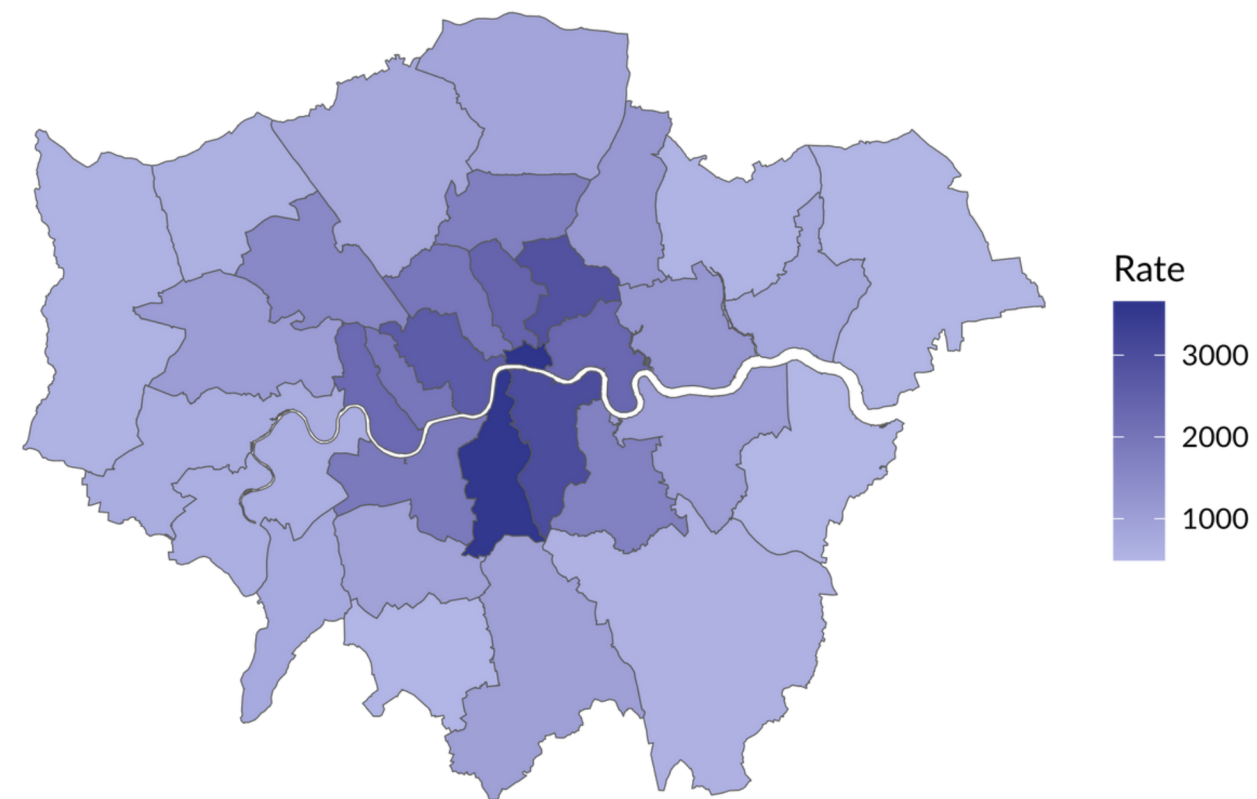
## **2. Sexually Transmitted Infections**

## Sexually Transmitted Infections

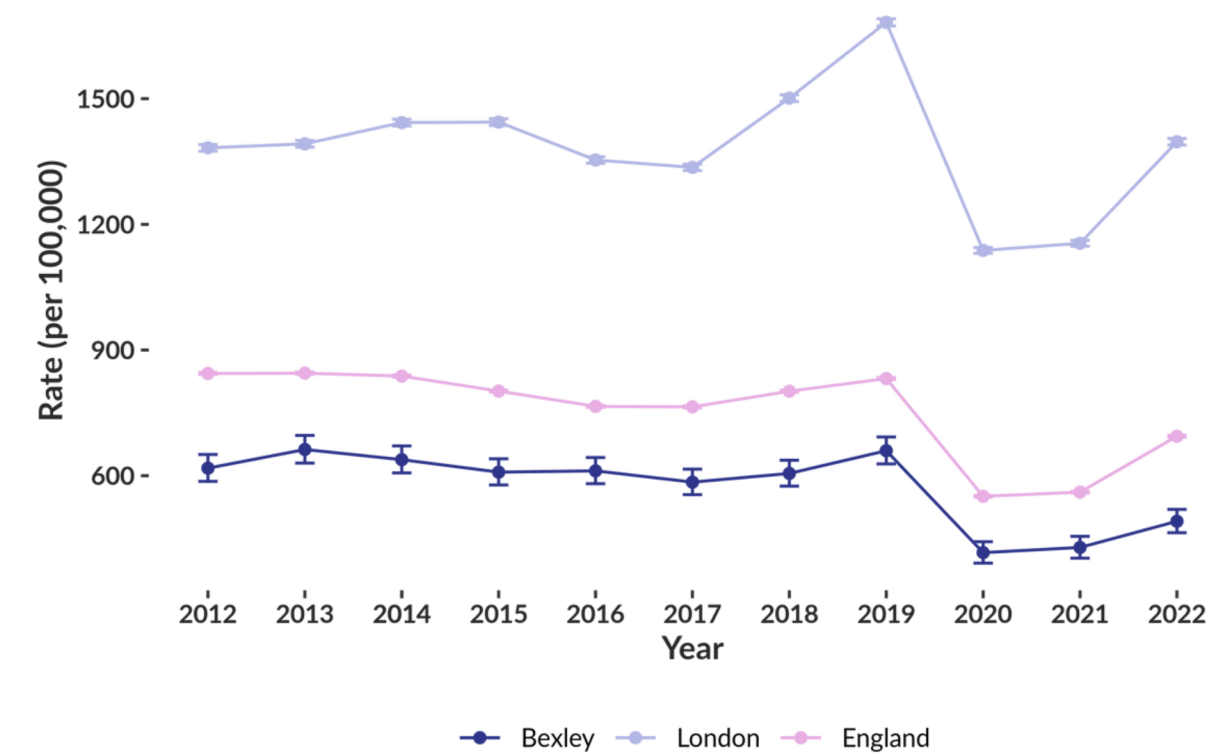
# Bexley has a low STI diagnosis rate

- Bexley's overall STI diagnosis rate is the lowest in London, 491 per 100,000, compared to a high of 3,655 (City)
- For the last ten years Bexley's rate has been significantly lower than both London and England
- Does this indicate low circulation or poor detection?

All new STI diagnoses rate per 100,000  
London boroughs, 2022



All new STI diagnoses rate per 100,000  
Bexley, London, England, 2012-2022



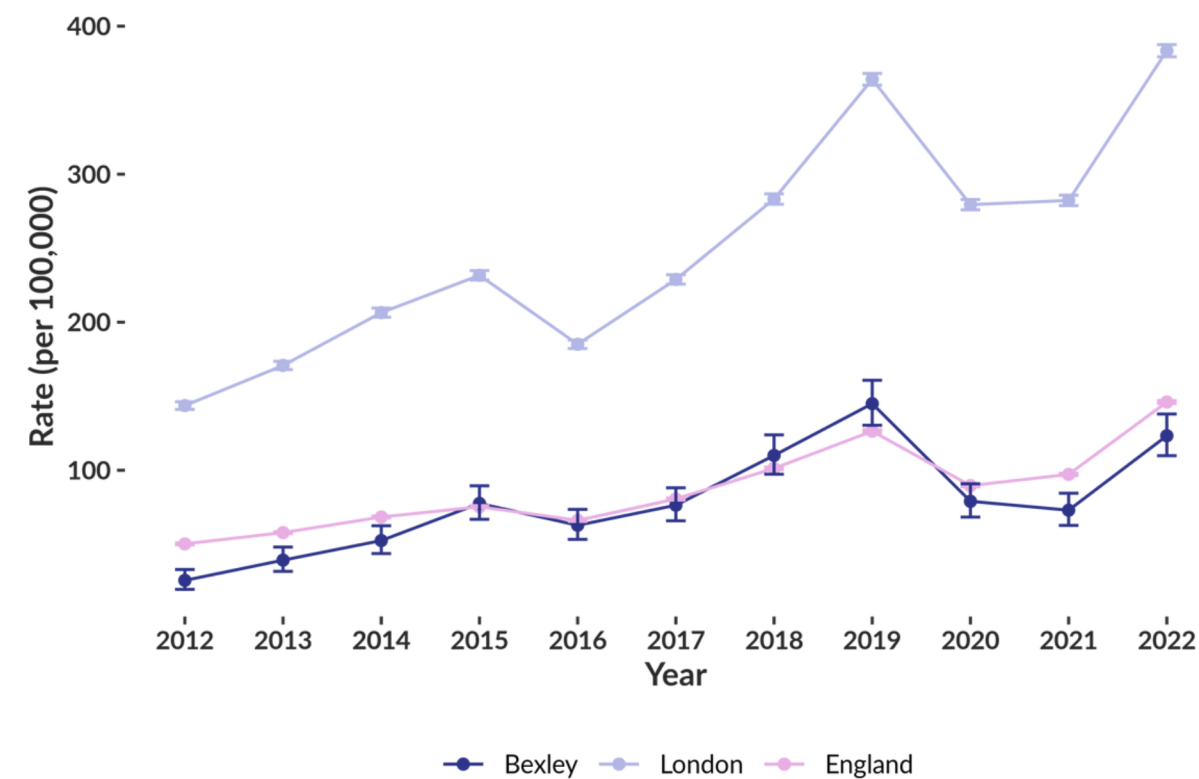
## Sexually Transmitted Infections

# Bexley has a low STI diagnosis rate

- Gonorrhoea and syphilis diagnosis rates are stronger indicators of infection circulation
- Nationally, after a dip during the Covid-19 pandemic, rates have bounced back to their highest ever levels
- Bexley, however, remains significantly lower than England, and STI test positivity rates (excluding chlamydia) remain low, suggesting that whilst testing rates are low, they may be sufficient

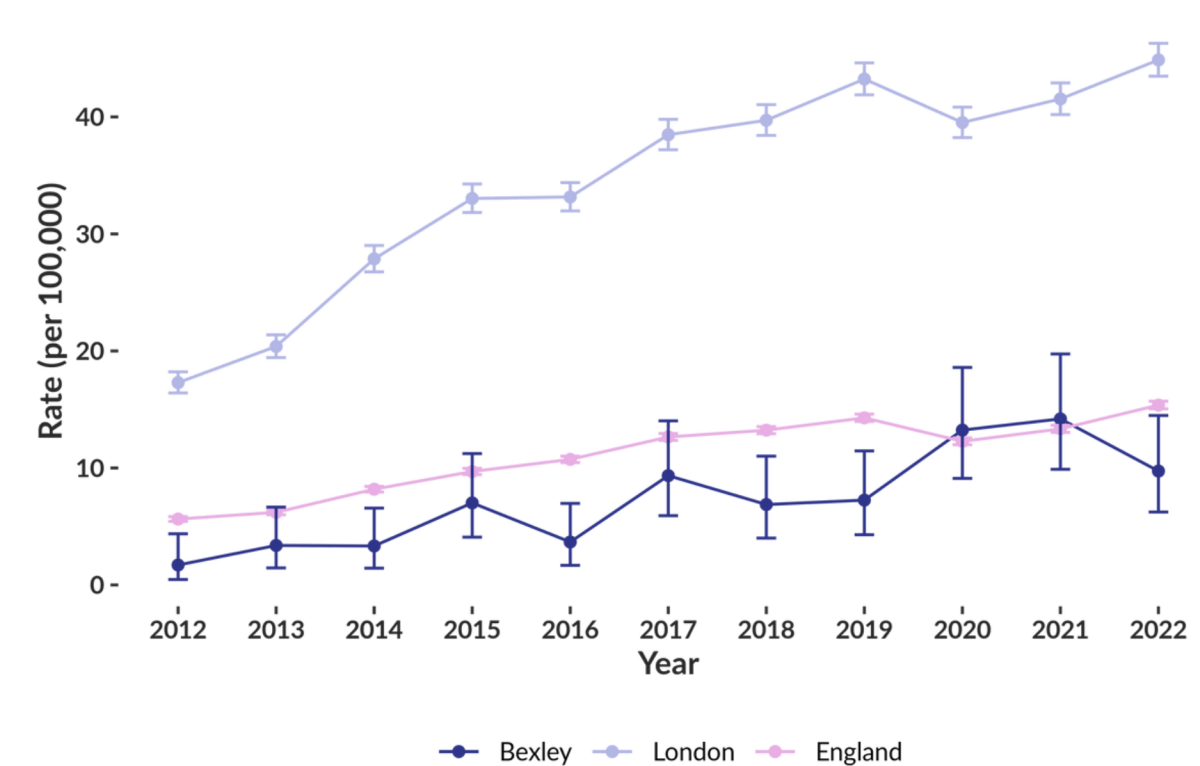
### Gonorrhoea diagnostic rate per 100,000

Bexley, London, England, 2012-2022



### Syphilis diagnostic rate per 100,000

Bexley, London, England, 2012-2022



# **3. Chlamydia**

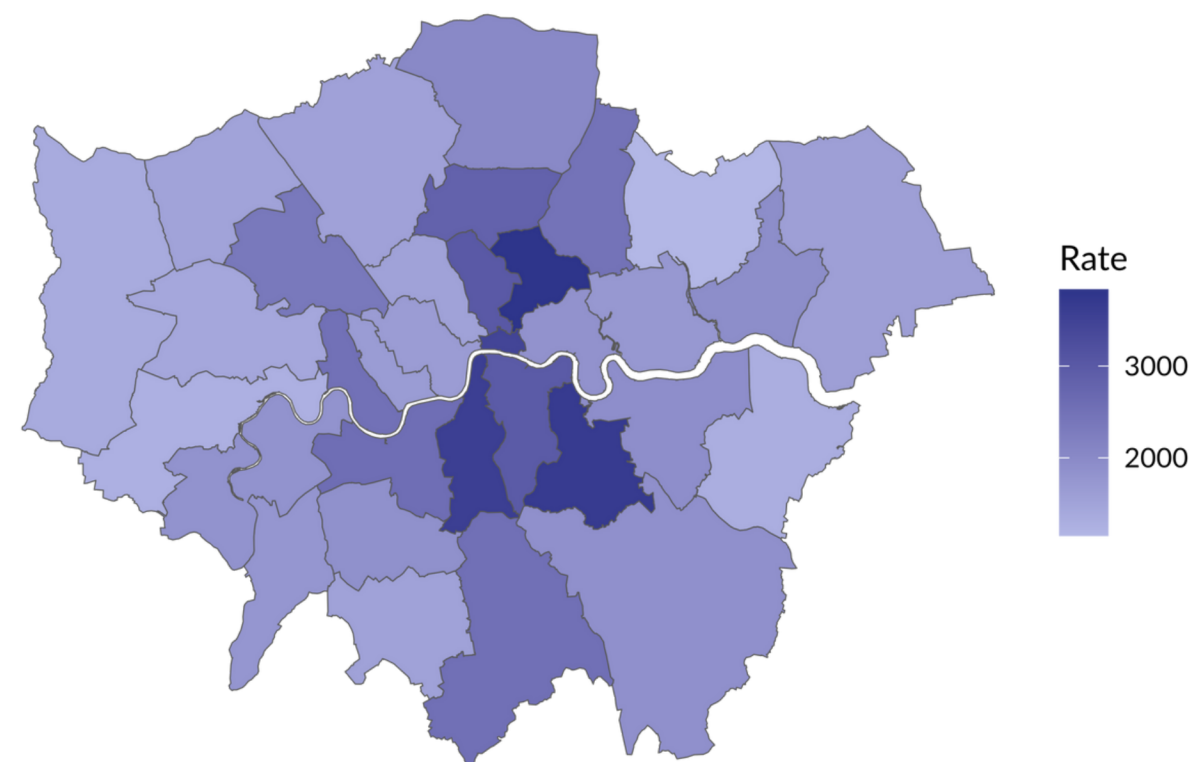
## Chlamydia

# Bexley has a low chlamydia detection rate

- In 2021 the National Chlamydia Screening Programme shifted focus to only proactively offer screening to people at risk of reproductive harm from infection, that is, people with a womb or ovaries
- Bexley has a consistently low rate of detection in young females, compared to other boroughs and to London and England
- Bexley also has low screening coverage in this population (16.5 per 100), the fourth lowest in London

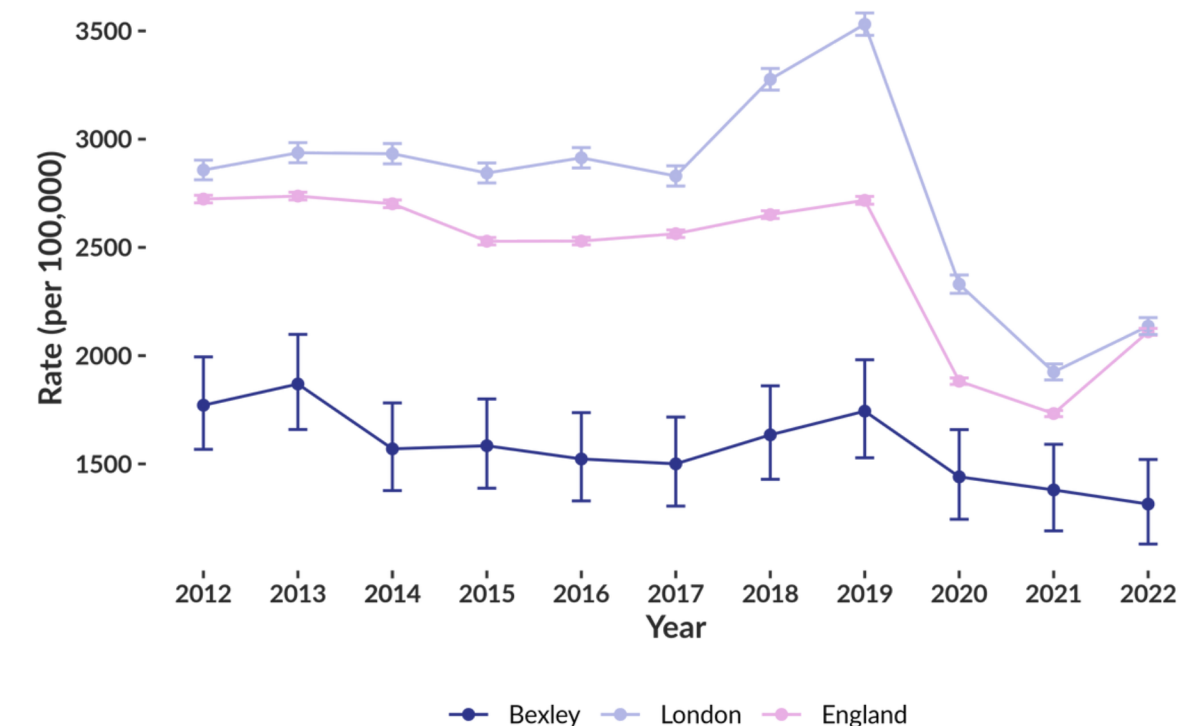
Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 (females 15 to 24)

London boroughs 2022



Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 (females 15 to 24)

Bexley, London, England, 2012-2022



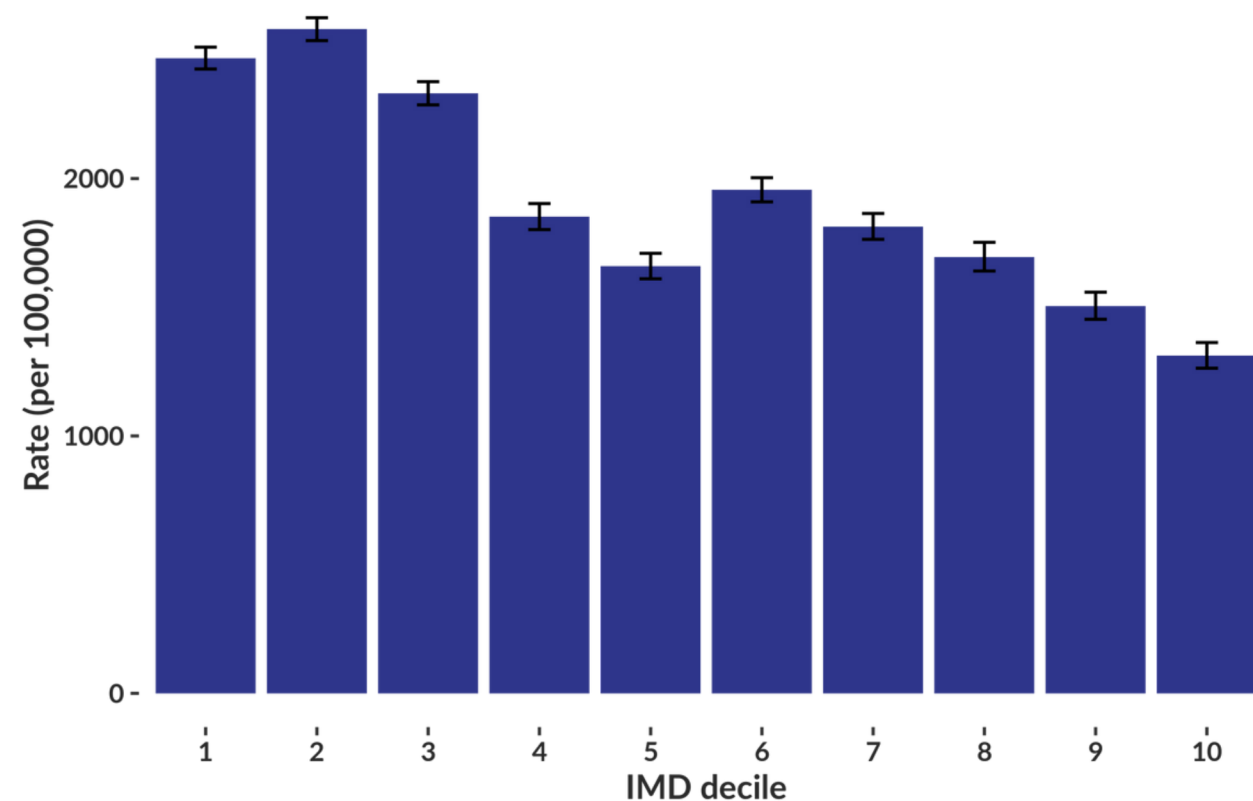


## Chlamydia

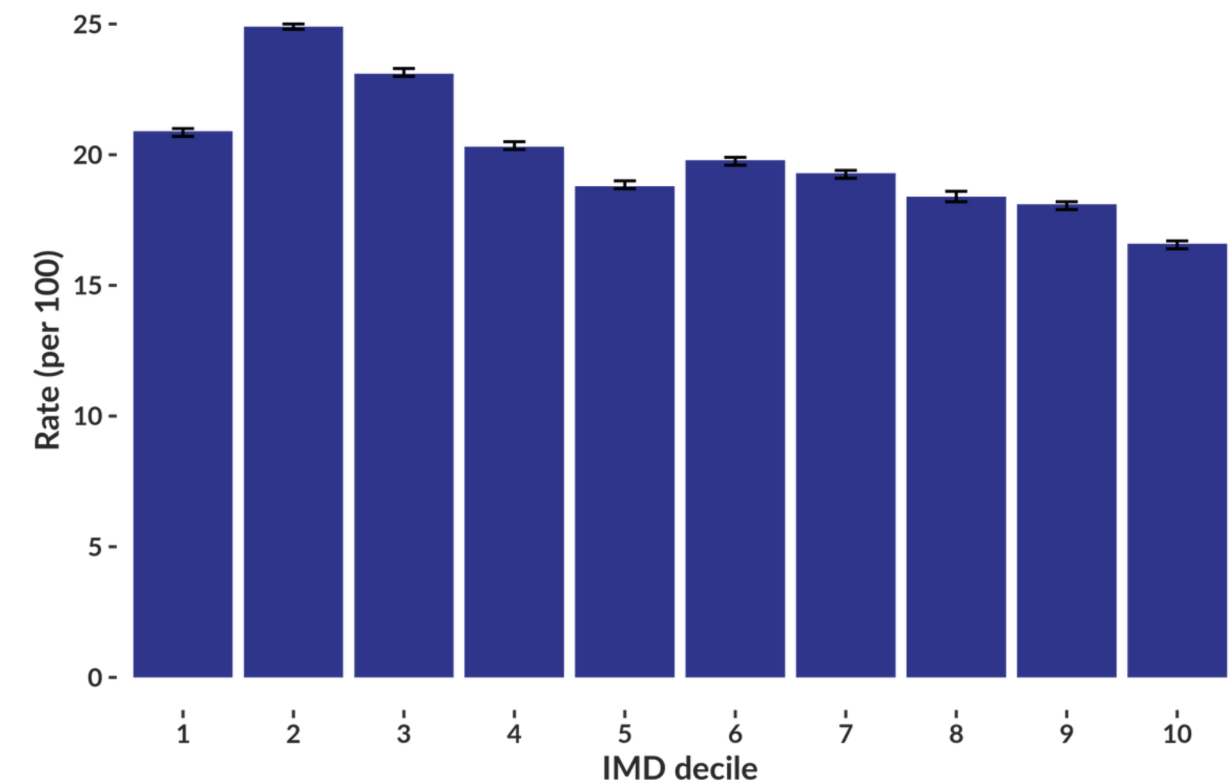
# Bexley has a low chlamydia detection rate

- Nationally, there are higher rates of both screening coverage and detection in more deprived areas
- However, after adjusting for deprivation, Bexley would expect 247 detections per year, but in 2022 detected 181 (73%)
- Similarly Bexley would expect screening coverage of 19.7 per 100, but only achieved 16.5 per 100 in 2022

Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 (females 15 to 24)  
England (IMD deciles) 2022



Chlamydia screening coverage per 100 (females 15 to 24)  
England (IMD deciles) 2022





## 4. HIV

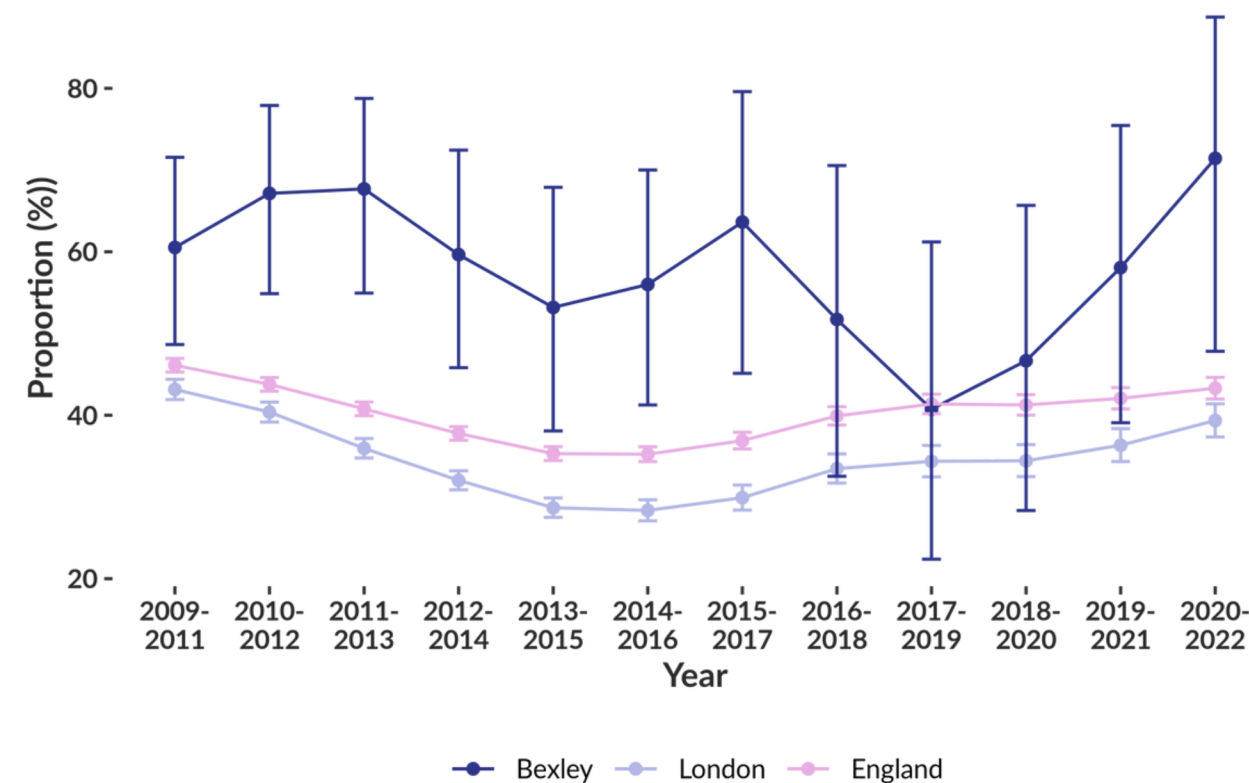
## HIV

# Bexley has a high rate of late HIV diagnosis

- In the last 12 years the rate of late HIV diagnosis in Bexley has only once dipped below the England average, and for eight of those years was statistically significantly higher than the England average
- Bexley seems to have a good rate of testing for HIV (albeit with a big dip during the pandemic), however important to note this only measures uptake of people already attending SHS

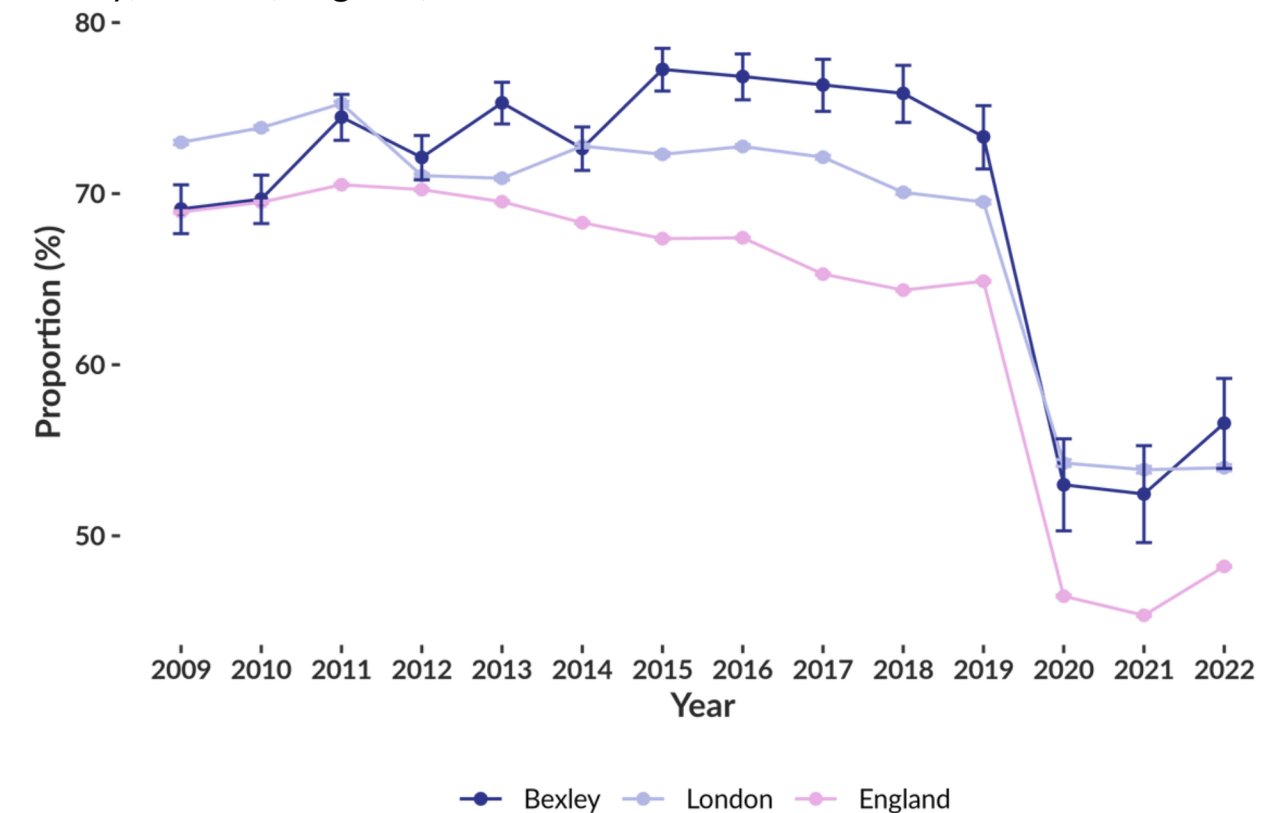
HIV late diagnosis in people first diagnosed with HIV in the UK

Bexley, London, England, 2009-11 - 2020-22



HIV testing coverage (of those eligible at SHS)

Bexley, London, England, 2009-2022

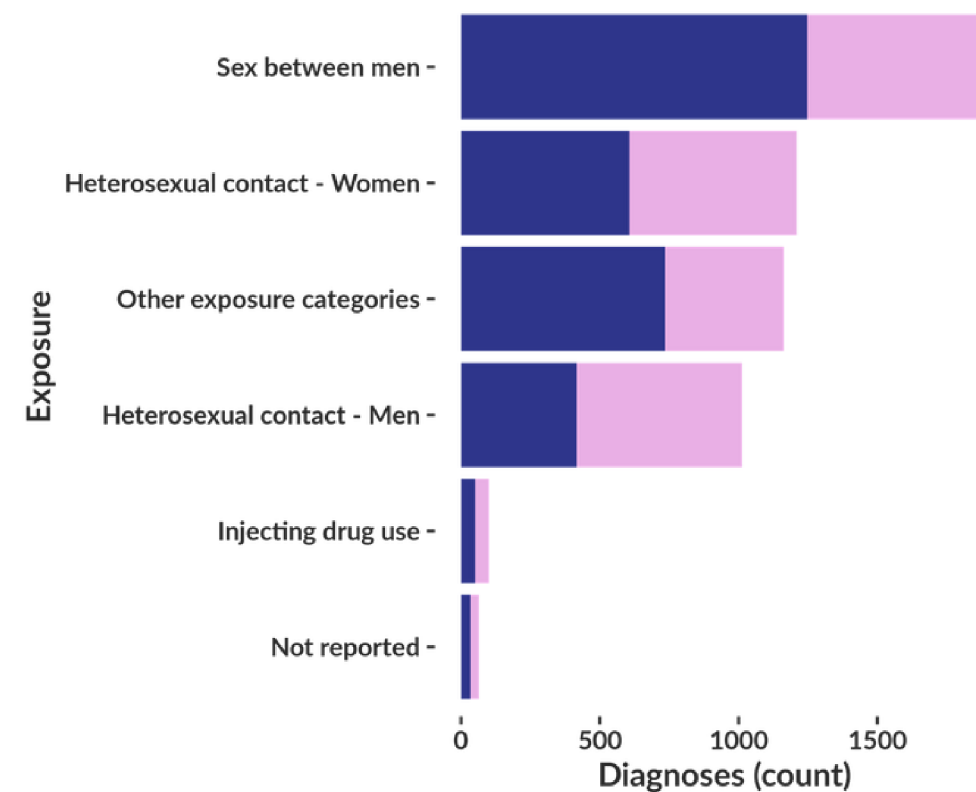


## HIV

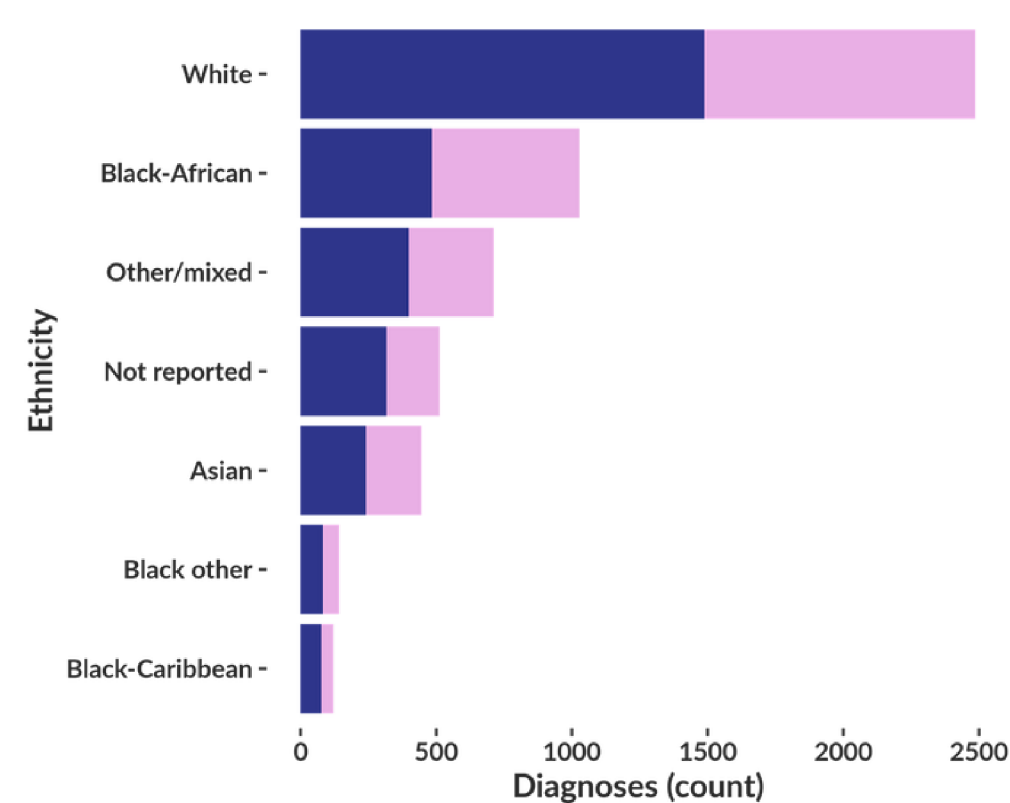
# Bexley has a high rate of late HIV diagnosis

- Nationally, the risk factors for late HIV diagnosis have to be taken in the context of the underlying population:
- Sex between men = lower risk but higher absolute number (i.e. a small proportion of a large number)
- Black African = higher risk but lower absolute number (i.e. a larger proportion of a smaller number)
- Deprivation = no correlation with risk, but underlying incidence follows a gradient

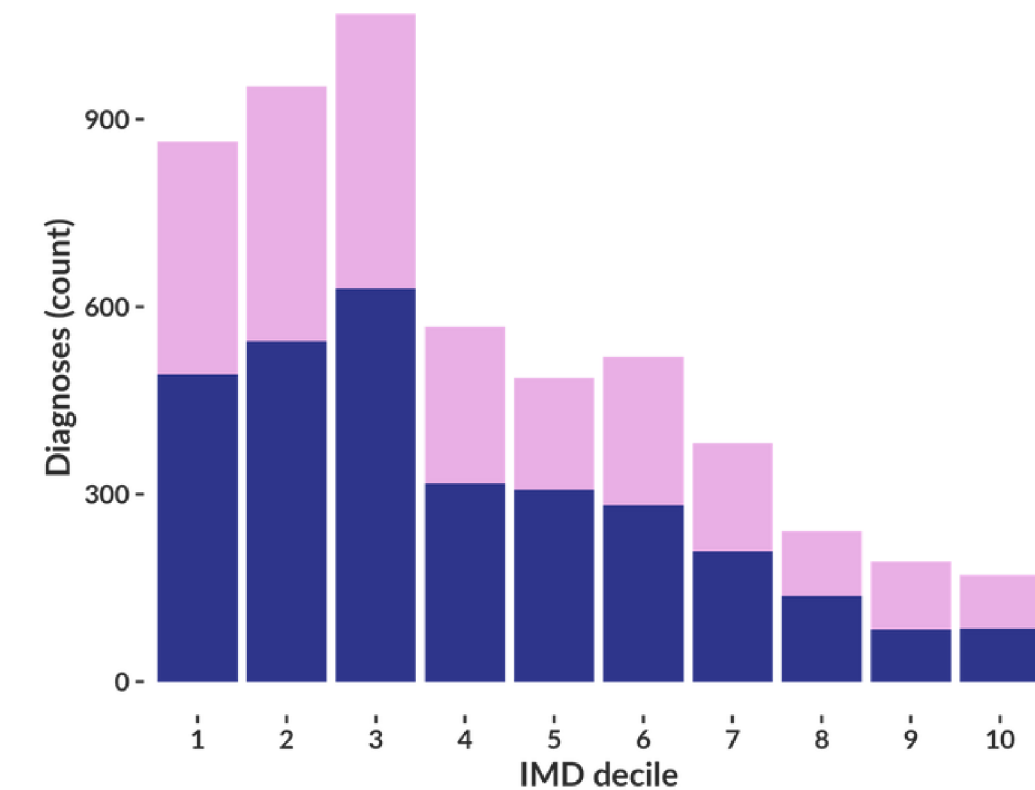
Timing of first HIV diagnosis by exposure  
England, 2020-22



Timing of first HIV diagnosis by ethnicity  
England, 2020-22



Timing of first HIV diagnosis by IMD decile  
England, 2020-22



■ Late  
■ Not late

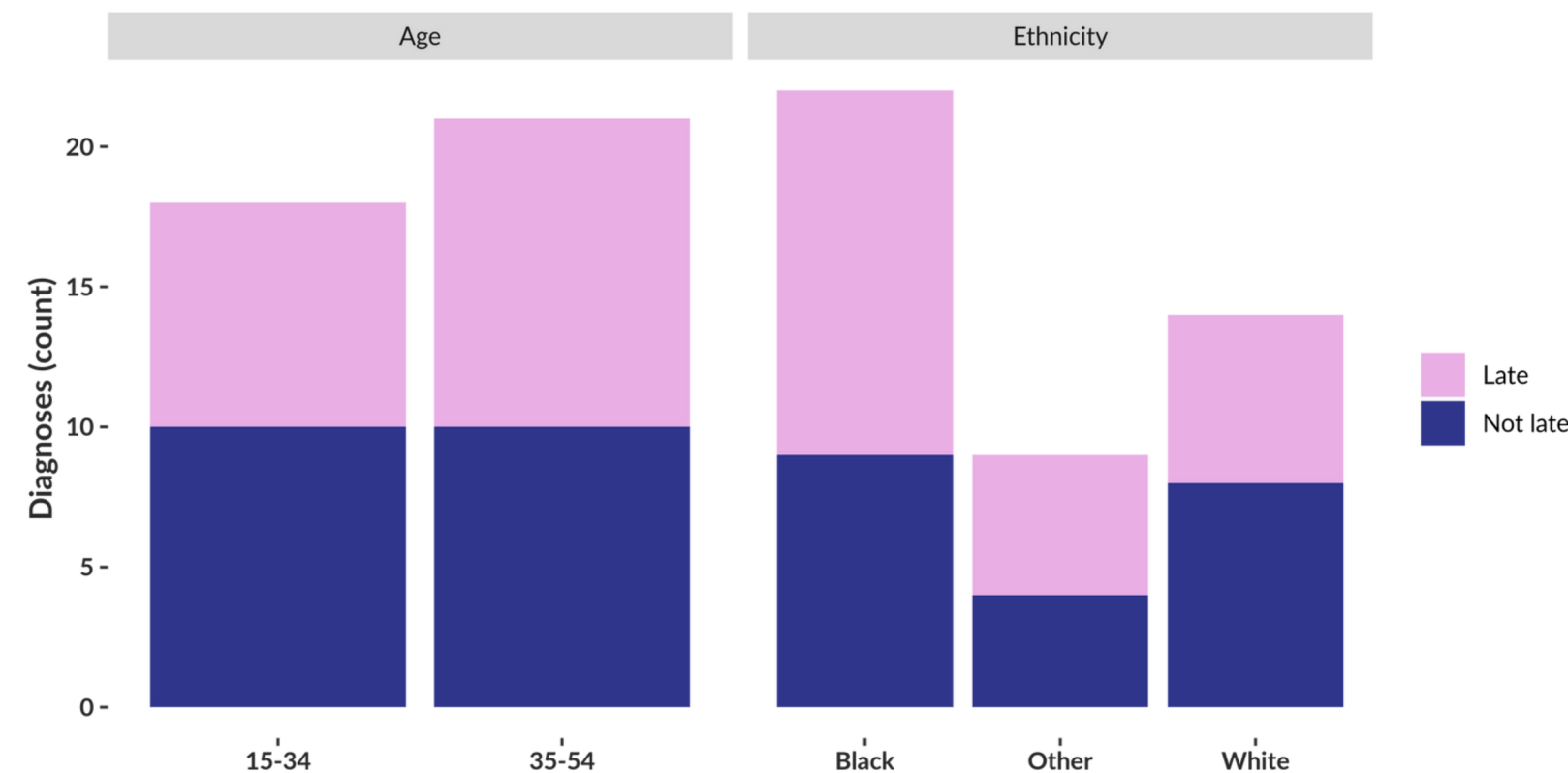
## HIV

# Bexley has a high rate of late HIV diagnosis

- Limited data is available for Bexley and should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers
- Local data on ethnicity does not align with the national picture, with the Black ethnic group having both the highest risk and the highest absolute numbers
- Underlying numbers not available for exposure, but sex between men a much lower rate than heterosexual contact

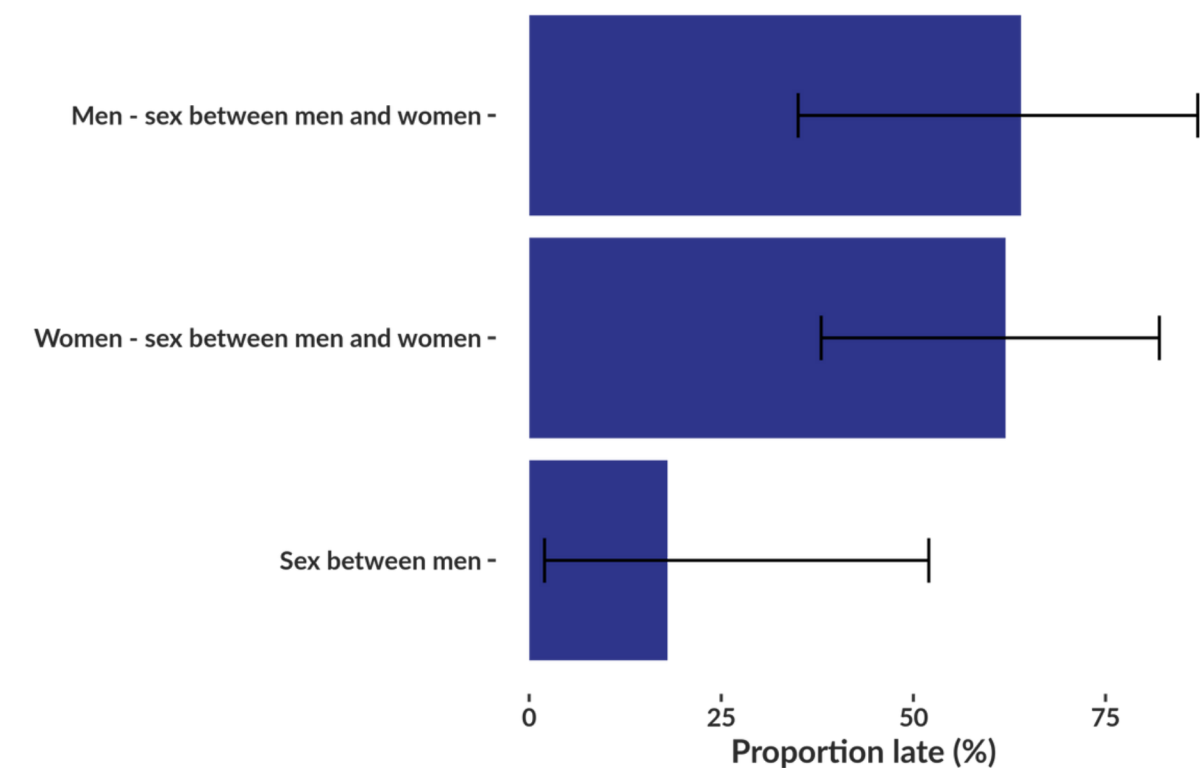
Timing of first HIV diagnosis by age (left) and ethnicity (right)

Bexley, 2017-22



HIV late diagnosis by exposure (%)

Bexley, 2017-22



# **4. Long acting reversible contraception**

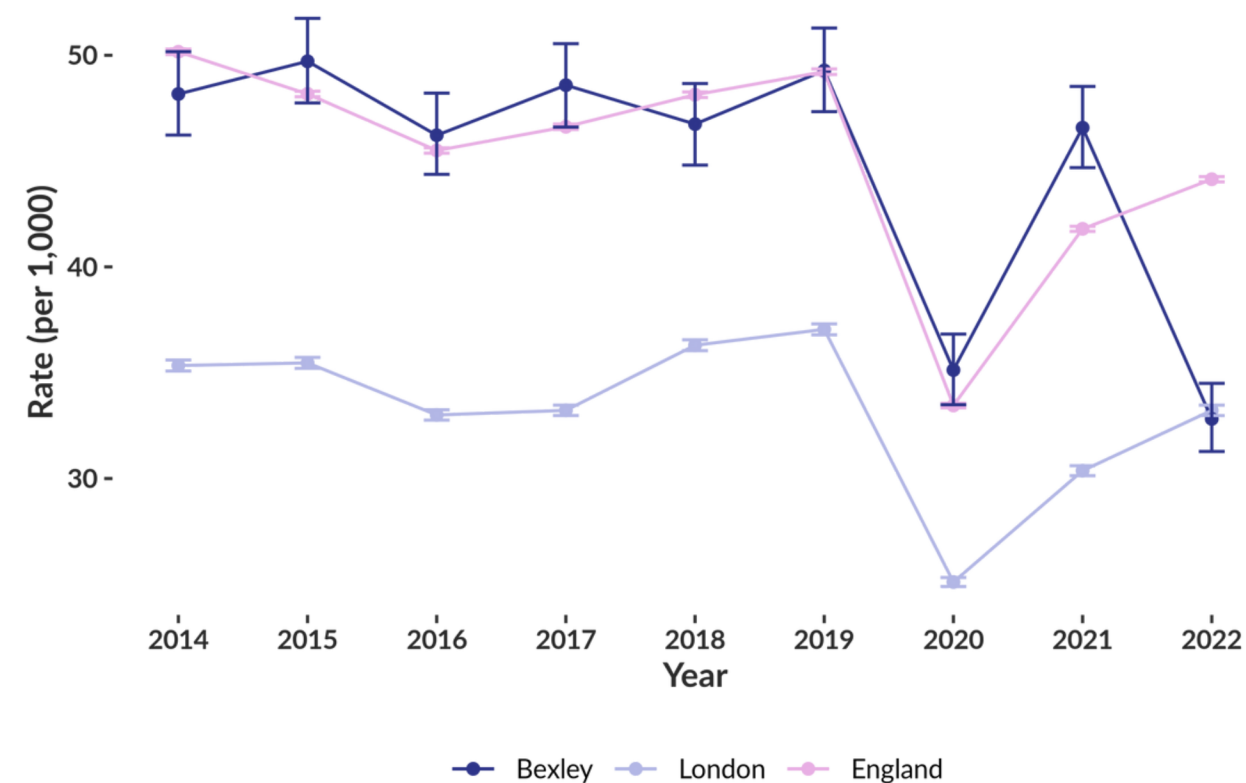
## LARC

# Bexley residents choose the GP for LARC

- Bexley has historically performed well on LARC prescribing, however the pandemic impacted dramatically
- GP prescribed LARC is more stable but on a gradual decline
- GP prescribing makes up a far higher proportion (83%) of total LARC prescribing compared to the London average (32%)
- In fact, females under 25 in Bexley attend specialist contraceptive services at a third of the rate of London

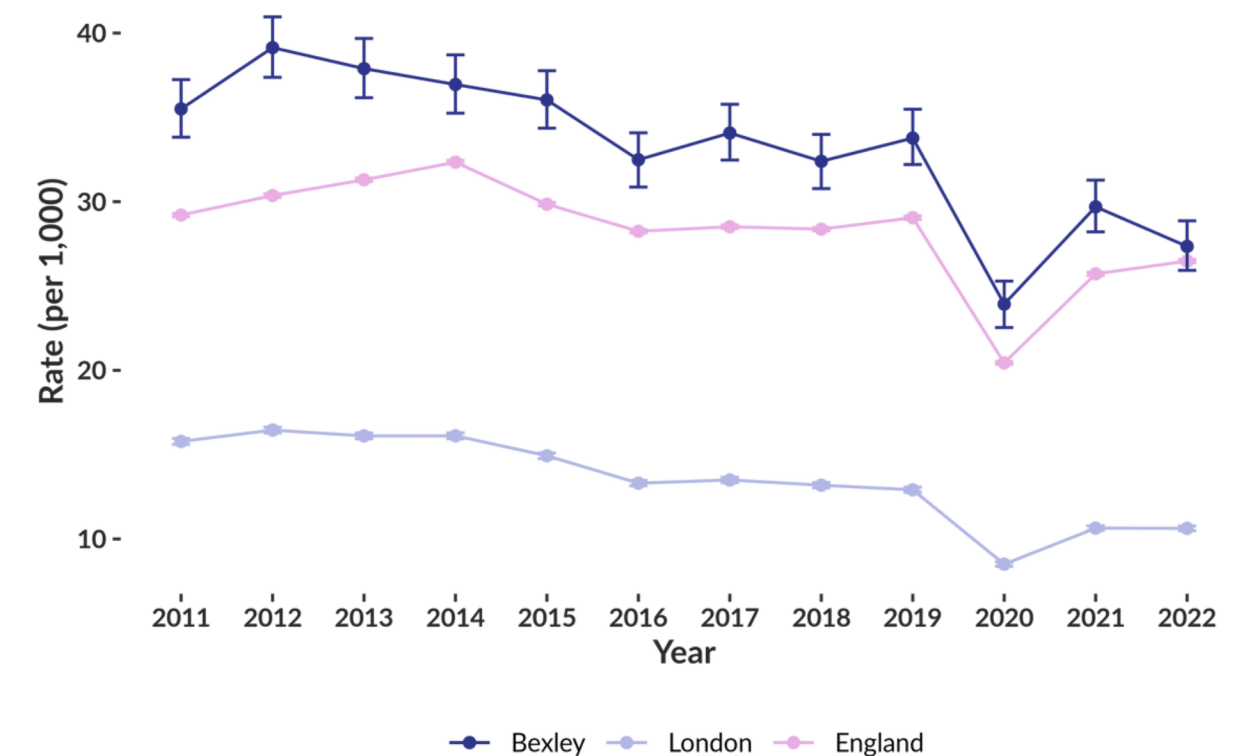
Total prescribed LARC excluding injections rate per 1,000

Bexley, London, England, 2014 - 2022



GP prescribed LARC excluding injections rate per 1,000

Bexley, London, England, 2014 - 2022



# **5. Termination of pregnancy**

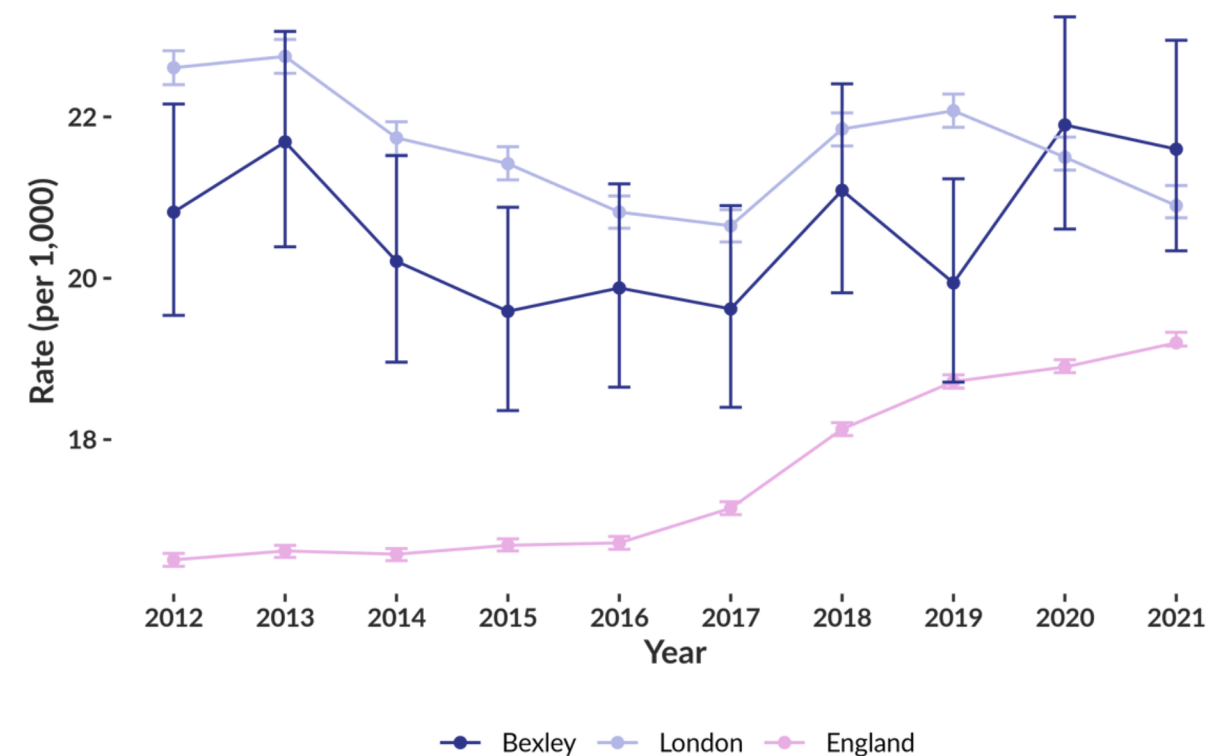
ToP

# Bexley has a similar rate of abortion to London

- The total abortion rate in Bexley is not significantly different from London, although both are higher than England
- The proportion of repeat under 25s abortions is also very similar to London

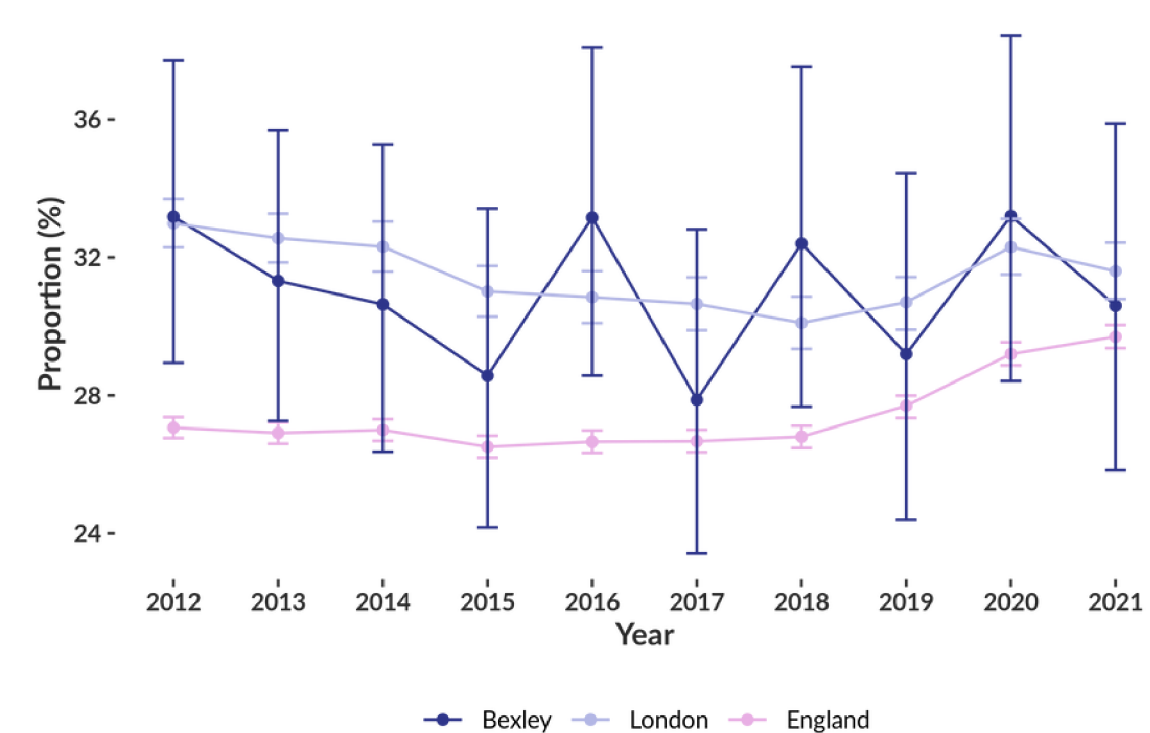
Total abortion rate per 1,000

Bexley, London, England, 2012 - 2021



Under 25s repeat abortions (%)

Bexley, London, England, 2014 - 2022





**Thank you**