

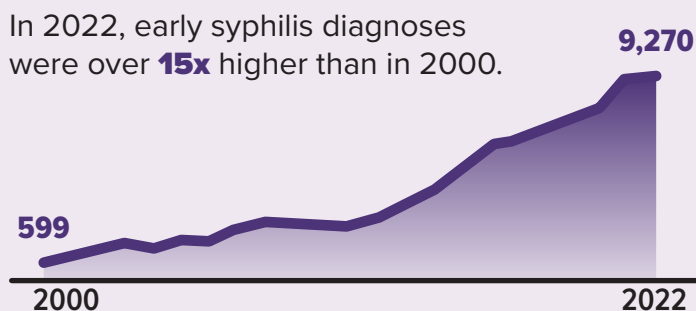
Syphilis is surging in New York State

Overview through 2022

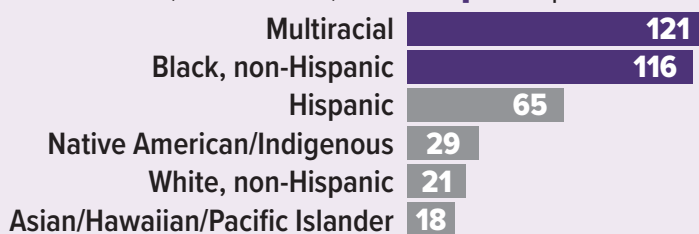
What is syphilis and why does it matter?

Syphilis is a treatable bacterial sexually transmitted infection spread through oral, anal, and/or vaginal sex. If left untreated, it may cause damage to the nervous system, eye, ear and internal organs, and can cause death.¹ Syphilis can be passed during pregnancy to the unborn baby (congenital syphilis) and may result in impaired fetal development, stillbirth, and infant death.¹

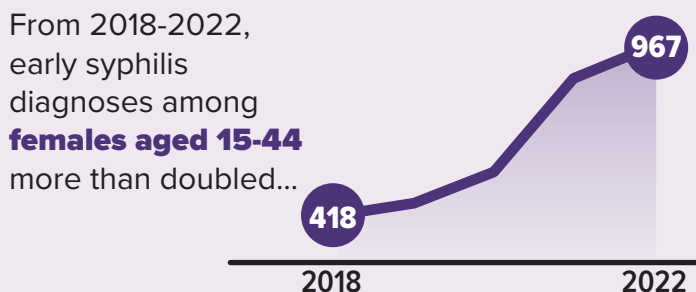
Diagnoses of early syphilis (infection acquired in the past 12 months) increased sharply since 2000, with certain communities of color disproportionately affected.



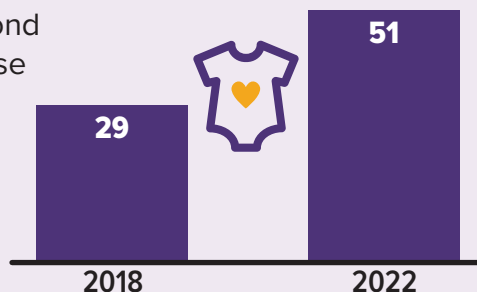
Early syphilis rates² in 2022 were highest among **Multiracial**, and **Black, non-Hispanic** persons.



Recent increasing numbers of early syphilis diagnoses among females³ of reproductive age correspond with the concerning rise in congenital syphilis cases.



... and correspond with the increase in the number of **newborns⁴ with syphilis.**



PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CAN:

- **Improve** care coordination and utilize referrals for support services to eliminate barriers to care.
- **Collaborate** with community leaders, healthcare providers, policy makers, and other jurisdictions to improve surveillance and programmatic activities.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS SHOULD:

- **Promote** sexual health and wellness as an important aspect in overall patient care.
- **Reduce transmission** through identifying and treating undiagnosed persons and their sexual partners.
- **Provide** required syphilis testing to pregnant persons at first prenatal visit, 28 weeks, and at delivery.

For more information: <https://health.ny.gov/statistics/diseases/communicable/std/>.

Data Source: New York State and New York City Communicable Disease Surveillance.

Notes: 1. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/stdfact-syphilis-detailed.htm>.

2. Age-adjusted per 100,000. 3. Sex assigned at birth. 4. Includes stillbirths.

Office of Sexual Health & Epidemiology, June 2024. stdc@health.ny.gov



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