

Syphilis is Surging in New York State

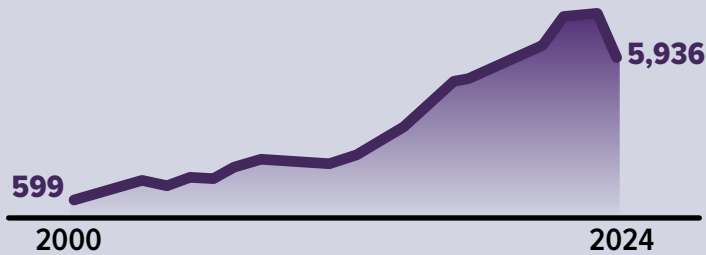
Overview Through 2024

What is syphilis and why does it matter?

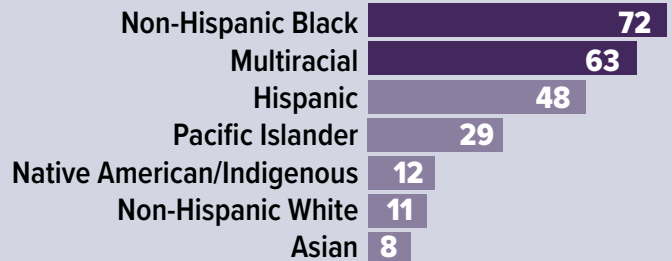
Syphilis is a treatable bacterial sexually transmitted infection spread through oral, anal, and/or vaginal sex. If left untreated, it may cause damage to the nervous system, eye, ear and internal organs, and can cause death.¹ Syphilis can be passed during pregnancy to the unborn baby (congenital syphilis)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

Although early syphilis diagnoses (infection acquired in the past 12 months) decreased in 2024, the number has risen substantially since 2000, disproportionately impacting communities of color.

In 2024, early syphilis diagnoses were nearly **10x** higher than in 2000.

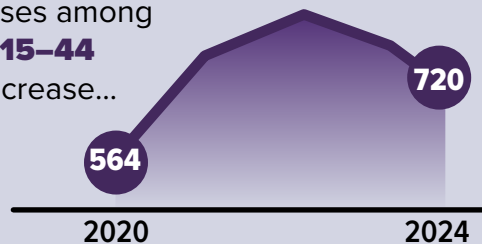


Early syphilis rates² in 2024 were highest among **Non-Hispanic Black** and **Multiracial** persons.

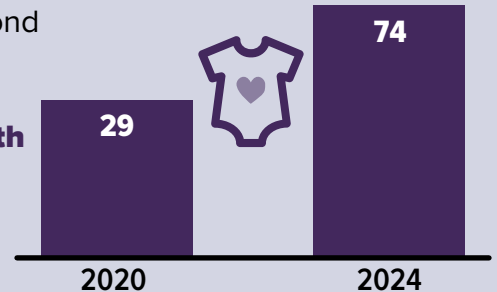


Recent increasing numbers of early syphilis diagnoses among females³ of reproductive age correspond with the concerning rise in congenital syphilis cases.

From 2020–2024, early syphilis diagnoses among **females aged 15–44** continued to increase...



...and correspond with the rising 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, health care providers, policymakers, and other jurisdictions to improve surveillance and programmatic activities.

Health Care 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, at 28 weeks, and at delivery.

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

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

Notes: 1. cdc.gov/syphilis/about/index.html 2. Age adjusted per 100,000

3. Sex assigned at birth 4. Includes stillbirths

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Department of Health