

Syphilis in Durham Region

2019-2023

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted bacterial infection that can cause serious health problems if untreated

Quick Facts



74% of syphilis cases were male

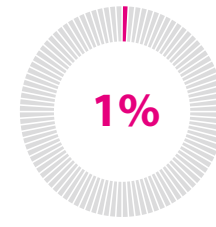


12% of female cases were pregnant

On average,

146

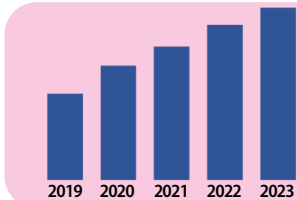
cases of syphilis (infectious and non-infectious) were reported in Durham Region each year between 2019 and 2023



of cases were congenital syphilis, occurring in newborn infants



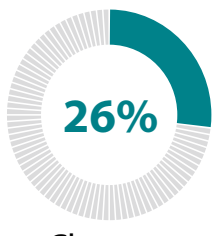
The average age at time of syphilis diagnosis was 41 years



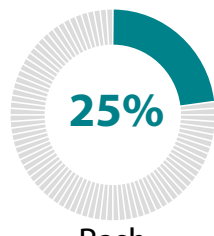
There were twice as many syphilis cases in 2023 (191) than in 2019 (95). Interpret 2020 and 2021 data with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Symptoms

% of males reporting symptom

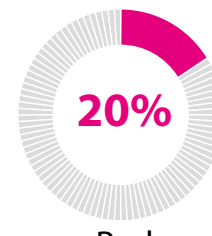


Chancre

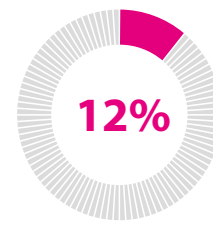


Rash

% of females reporting symptom



Rash



Chancre



Did You Know? 39% of male cases and 54% of female cases reported having no symptoms

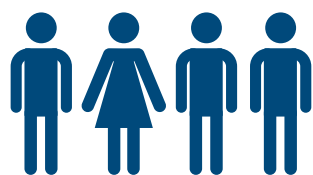
Risk Factors

68%
of cases reported



not using condoms

27%
of cases reported



multiple sexual contacts

26%
of cases reported



new sexual contact in the last 2 months

15%
of cases reported



anonymous sex

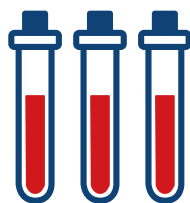
9%
of cases reported



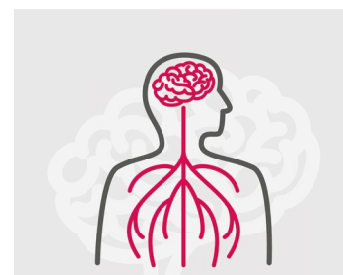
a previous sexually transmitted infection

Testing

- Always test blood samples
- If syphilis is suspected and initial result is negative, testing should be repeated 2-4 weeks later



Neurological signs or symptoms?
Consult an ID specialist



For detailed guidelines on syphilis testing and treatment, see: [Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Syphilis guide: Treatment and follow-up, Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

- Data Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, 2019-2023 (infectious and non-infectious syphilis combined)
- To see Durham compared to Ontario and other public health units go to [Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario](#)