

Albany County Department of Health

Who Should be Tested for Syphilis?

- All individuals with **signs and symptoms** consistent with syphilis
- **Sex partners** of confirmed cases
- Screening for syphilis among **pregnant women** is important because early, adequate treatment can prevent infection of the fetus
- Others who should be screened include **men who have sex with men** and **HIV positive individuals**
- All sexually active individuals can be offered a screening test for syphilis

Symptoms of syphilis can include chancre, rash, lymphadenopathy, malaise, mucous patches, condylomata lata, and alopecia or a history of these symptoms. Many patients report no symptoms.

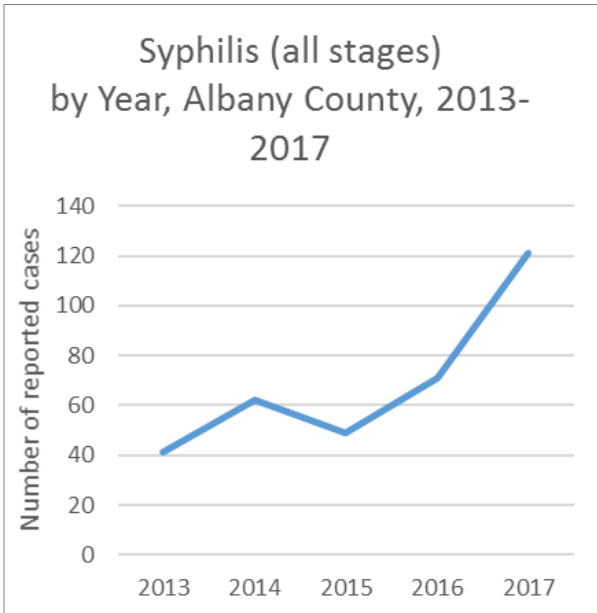
Sex partners (oral, anal, or vaginal sex) of individuals recently diagnosed with syphilis should be tested for syphilis before treatment is administered; treatment should not be delayed while waiting for results.

All pregnant women should have a serologic test for syphilis at the first prenatal visit. If a pregnant woman has additional risk factors* for syphilis, she should be tested again at the beginning of the third trimester and at delivery.

In 2018, Albany County provisionally reported its first congenital syphilis case since 2005.

Sexually active men who have sex with men should be tested annually or more often if at risk*†

Sexually active HIV positive individuals should be tested annually.



| | N (%) |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Total | 121 |
| Male | 90 (74%) |
| Female | 31 (26%) |
| <20 yrs | 5 (4%) |
| 20-29 yrs | 37 (31%) |
| 30-39 yrs | 21 (17%) |
| 40-49 yrs | 18 (15%) |
| 50-59 yrs | 23 (19%) |
| 60-69 yrs | 12 (10%) |
| 70+ | 5 (4%) |
| Hispanic or Latino, Any Race | 3 (2%) |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 18 (15%) |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 54 (45%) |
| Asian, Non-Hispanic | 3 (2%) |
| Other | 10 (8%) |
| Unknown | 33 (27%) |

| Zip Code | Number of cases |
|----------|-----------------|
| 12202 | 25 |
| 12203 | 7 |
| 12205 | 5 |
| 12206 | 35 |
| 12208 | 8 |
| 12209 | 7 |
| 12210 | 8 |
| 12189 | 5 |

Primary care providers reported 30% of all Albany County syphilis cases in 2017

*Risk factors (CDC): history of syphilis infection, incarceration, or drug use; individuals with multiple or concurrent sex partners; and women who live in high-prevalence areas.

†NYSDOH key priority populations at high risk for STDs: men who have sex with men (MSM) with particular attention to young MSM of color, African American women, sex and needle sharing partners of HIV positive individuals, persons presenting with evidence of active injection or other drug use, persons diagnosed with STDs, sex or needle sharing partners of persons diagnosed with STDs.



Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive

