

HIGHLIGHTS – Syphilis Quarterly Report 2025-Q2

August 12, 2025



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

In 2025-Q2, 411 infectious syphilis cases were recorded in BC. Syphilis rate¹ remains at a historical high but has decreased by 21.7% vs 2024-Q2.

Key Populations

Females aged 25-29 years had the second highest infectious syphilis rate¹ in 2025-Q2, a population of concern due to risk of syphilis in pregnancy.

Congenital Syphilis

Congenital cases remained a public health concern with an additional 3 cases reported in 2025-Q2.

Testing Episode Volumes

78215 syphilis testing episodes⁴ were reported in 2025-Q2, a \uparrow 1.9% change compared to 2024-Q2.

Regional Trends

Northern Health had the highest infectious syphilis rate¹ in 2025-Q2 with 11.6/100K.

Demographics

Regional rate¹ 2025-Q2:

%Rate change (vs 2024-Q2):

Northern Health has highest rate per 100K in 2025-Q2

11.6 NH, 10.4 VCH, 7.7 ISLH, 5.4 FH, 4.4 IH

0% FH, \downarrow 9.4% ISLH, \downarrow 25.4% IH, \downarrow 30.2% VCH, \downarrow 51.1% NH

Highest rates¹ in 2025-Q2 were among females aged 25-29 (7/100k) and males aged 30-39 (8.1/100K)

Sex/Gender (%cases 2025-Q2):

65.9% Male (64.3% in 2024-Q2), 33.8% Female (35.4% in 2024-Q2)

0% Transgender (0.2% in 2024-Q2), 0.2% X (0% in 2024-Q2)

Age group (rate¹ 2025-Q2):

<15 years: -, 15-19 years: 5.5, 20-24 years: 9.7, 25-29 years: 14.9

30-39 years: 14.1, 40-59 years: 9.6, 60+ years: 1.8

Gender of Partner²

225 cases had gender of partner information in 2025-Q2

%WSM has decreased compared to 2024-Q2:

25.3% WSM in 2025-Q2 vs 32.7% in 2024-Q2

%MSW has decreased compared to 2024-Q2:

30.7% MSW in 2025-Q2 vs 29.6% in 2024-Q2

%gbMSM has increased compared to 2024-Q2:

42.2% gbMSM in 2025-Q2 vs 35.9% in 2024-Q2

Severe Outcomes

Highlighting cases linked to pregnancy and extra-genital manifestations

Maternal Syphilis

prenatal screening caught 9.6% of 2025-Q2 female cases aged 15-49

Congenital Syphilis³

3 cases in 2025-Q2, \downarrow 50% vs 2024-Q2 (6 cases)

14 syphilitic stillbirths³ and early neonatal losses (within 7-days of live birth) have been reported since 2019

Ocular & Neurosyphilis³

2.7% of 2025-Q2 vs 4.9% of 2024-Q2 cases

Time to Treatment (Tx)

328 cases had time to Tx information in 2025-Q2

Time interval (time from syphilis diagnosis to treatment initiation):

Females experience longer time to Tx than males: within one-week 57.5% Male / 51.5% Female

Majority receives Tx within 30-days:

within 30-days 96% Male / 97% Female

MSW experience longer time to Tx than gbMSM:

within one-week 53.2% MSW / 65.9% gbMSM

Tx Completion

94% of cases started and 77.3% completed Tx in 2024-Q4

Tx completion is reported with a two-quarter lag to allow sufficient time for follow-up

%Tx not started is higher in females than males: 4.1% Male / 9.7% Female of 2024-Q4 cases

¹rate: cases per 100,000 population, ²Gender of Partner information updates over time, interpret historical comparison with caution. Gender of Partner categories: MSW - Men who report having sex with women only; WSM - Women who report having sex with men only, gbMSM – gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men, for other gender of partner categories refer to [full report](#), ³defined in BC case definitions, ⁴one episode represents a 30-day testing window. Data Note: Case data are sourced from Intrahealth Profile EMR. Testing episodes are sourced from STIBBI Mart.