

HIGHLIGHTS – Syphilis Quarterly Report 2025-Q3

October 28, 2025



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

In 2025-Q3, 332 infectious syphilis cases were recorded in BC. Syphilis rate¹ remains at a historical high but has decreased by ↓31.8% vs 2024-Q3.

Key Populations

Cases of females ages 15-49 continued to decline for the third quarter in a row (Q1 n=147, Q2 n=136, Q3 n=102.)

Congenital Syphilis

Congenital syphilis is a significant public health concern. Two cases were reported in Q3, down from a high of eight cases in Q1 and three in Q2.

Testing Episode Volumes

78,362 testing episodes⁴ were reported in 2025-Q3, which is a ↑5% change compared to 2024-Q3.

Regional Trends

2025 Q3 saw the fewest cases since 2021 Q2. Island and Interior remain stable over 2025. All other regions recorded a third straight quarter of decline.

Demographics

Regional rate¹ 2025-Q3:

Northern Health has highest rate per 100K in 2025-Q3

9.4 NH, 8 VCH, 6.7 ISLH, 4.4 IH, 4.1 FH

%Rate change (vs 2024-Q3):

↓15.2% ISLH, ↓24.1% FH, ↓26.7% IH, ↓38.5% VCH, ↓54.1% NH

Highest rates¹ in 2025-Q3 were among females aged 30-39 (4.5/100k) and males aged 30-39 (7.4/100k)

Sex/Gender (%cases 2025-Q3):

66.3% Male (62.1% in 2024-Q3), 33.1% Female (37% in 2024-Q3)
0.3% Transgender (0.2% in 2024-Q3), -% X (0.2% in 2024-Q3)

Age group (rate¹ 2025-Q3):

<15 years: -, 15-19 years: 2.4, 20-24 years: 8.6, 25-29 years: 9.2
30-39 years: 12.1, 40-59 years: 8.4, 60+ years: 1.4

Gender of Partner²

154 cases had gender of partner information in 2025-Q3

%WSM has decreased compared to 2024-Q3:

26.6% WSM in 2025-Q3 vs 34.5% in 2024-Q3

%MSW has decreased compared to 2024-Q3:

29.9% MSW in 2025-Q3 vs 28.2% in 2024-Q3

%gbMSM has increased compared to 2024-Q3:

41.6% gbMSM in 2025-Q3 vs 35.3% in 2024-Q3

Severe Outcomes

Highlighting cases linked to pregnancy and extra-genital manifestations

Maternal Syphilis

prenatal screening caught 5.9% of 2025-Q3 female cases aged 15-49

Congenital Syphilis³

2 cases in 2025-Q3, ↓75% vs 2024-Q3 (8 cases)

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

Ocular & Neurosyphilis³

3.6% of 2025-Q3 vs 2.9% of 2024-Q3 cases

Time to Treatment (Tx)

261 cases had time to Tx information in 2025-Q3

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

Females experience longer time to Tx than males: within one-week 65.2% Male / 59.3% Female

Majority receives Tx within 30-days: within 30-days 96.1% Male / 97.5% Female

MSW experience longer time to Tx than gbMSM: within one-week 54.5% MSW / 75% gbMSM

Tx Completion

95% of cases started and 78% completed Tx in 2025-Q1

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: 2.1% Male / 9.4% Female of 2025-Q1 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.