

In 2026-Q1, 304 infectious syphilis cases were recorded in BC. Syphilis rate remains at a historical high but has decreased by ↓31% vs 2025-Q1.

Key Populations

Rate¹ of infectious syphilis for women 15-49 was 6/100k, a near 50% drop vs 2025-Q1 (11/100k)

Congenital Syphilis

Congenital cases remain a concern. There were 22 cases in 2025. Case review for 2026-Q1 is ongoing²

Testing Episode Volumes

80,581 testing episodes³ were reported in 2026-Q1, which is a ↑7% change compared to 2025-Q1

Regional Trends

Northern Health had the highest infectious syphilis rate¹ with 12/100K. Island Health observed the only rate increase (1%) compared to 2025-Q1

Demographics

Regional rate¹ 2026-Q1

% Rate change (vs 2025-Q1)

Highest rates¹ by age group and sex were females aged 30-39 (4/100k) and males aged 40-59 (7/100K)

Sex/Gender (%cases 2026-Q1): 69% Male (64% in 2025-Q1), 31% Female (36% in 2025-Q1)
0% Transgender (-% in 2025-Q1)

Age group (rate¹ 2026-Q1): <15 years: NA, 15-19 years: 2, 20-24 years: 7, 25-29 years: 9
30-39 years: 10, 40-59 years: 9, 60+ years: 1

Northern Health has highest rate per 100K in 2026-Q1

12 NH 7 VCH 6 ISLH 4 FH 4 IH

↓41% NH ↓41% VCH ↑1% ISLH ↓30% FH ↓%23 IH

Gender of Partner⁴

116 cases had gender of partner information in 2026-Q1

%WSM has decreased compared to 2025-Q1: 23% WSM in 2026-Q1 vs 31% in 2025-Q1

%MSW has increased compared to 2025-Q1: 33% MSW in 2026-Q1 vs 28% in 2025-Q1

%gbMSM is unchanged compared to 2025-Q1: 39% gbMSM in 2026-Q1 vs 39% in 2025-Q1

Severe Outcomes

Highlighting cases linked to pregnancy and extra-genital manifestations

Maternal Syphilis

Of female cases aged 15-49, prenatal screening caught 14%

Congenital Syphilis⁵

There were 22 congenital cases in 2025²

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

Ocular & Neurosyphilis⁵

5% of 2026-Q1 vs 3% of 2025-Q1 cases

Time to Treatment (Tx)

294 cases had time to Tx information in 2025-Q4

Time from syphilis diagnosis to Tx initiation, lagged one quarter to allow follow-up

Females experience longer time to Tx than males: within one-week 56% Male / 44% Female

Majority receives Tx within 30-days: within 30-days 96% Male / 90% Female

MSW experience longer time to Tx than gbMSM: within one-week 47% MSW / 67% gbMSM

Tx Completion

91% of cases started and 74% completed Tx in 2025-Q4

Tx completion is lagged one quarter to allow follow-up

%Tx not started is higher in females than males: 6% Male / 15% Female of 2025-Q4 cases

¹rate: cases per 100,000 population, ²Quality checks suggest some presumptively treated congenital cases in 2026 were misclassified 'congenital probable'. Case review is ongoing. ³One episode represents a 30-day testing window. [Data Note](#): Case data are sourced from Intrahealth Profile EMR. Testing episodes are sourced from STIBBI Mart. ⁴Gender 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](#). ⁵Defined in [BC case definitions](#).