

# Syphilis in Durham Region

## 2017-2021

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



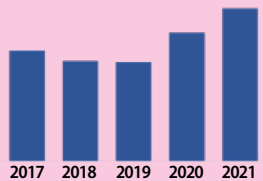
**77%** of syphilis cases were male

On average,  
**113**

cases of syphilis (infectious and non-infectious) were reported in Durham Region each year between 2017 and 2021

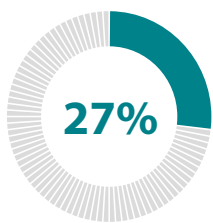


The average age at time of syphilis diagnosis was 42 years

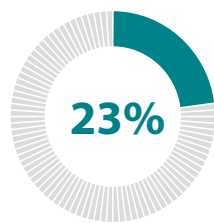


There were 38% more cases of syphilis in 2021 (146) than in 2017 (106). Interpret 2020 and 2021 data with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### % of males reporting symptom

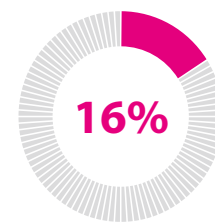


Chancres

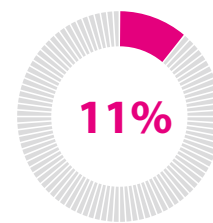


Rash

### % of females reporting symptom



Rash



Chancres



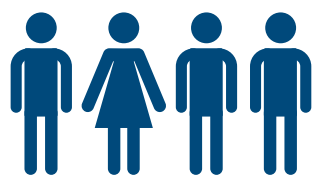
**Did You Know?** 37% of male cases and 63% of female cases reported having no symptoms

**70%**  
of cases reported



not using condoms

**30%**  
of cases reported



multiple sexual contacts

**27%**  
of cases reported



new sexual contact in the last 2 months

**23%**  
of cases reported



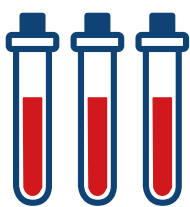
anonymous sex

**9%**  
of cases reported

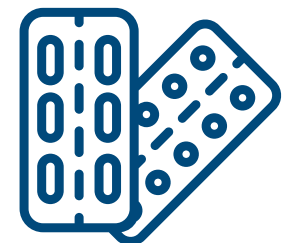


a previous sexually transmitted infection

- Always test blood samples
- Test cerebrospinal fluid if neurosyphilis is suspected



Treat according to syphilis stage



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, 2017-2021 (infectious and non-infectious syphilis combined)
- To see Durham compared to Ontario and other public health units go to [Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario](#)