

Dutchess County Department of Health

Public Health Alert*

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Infectious Syphilis Cases Increasing In Dutchess County

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

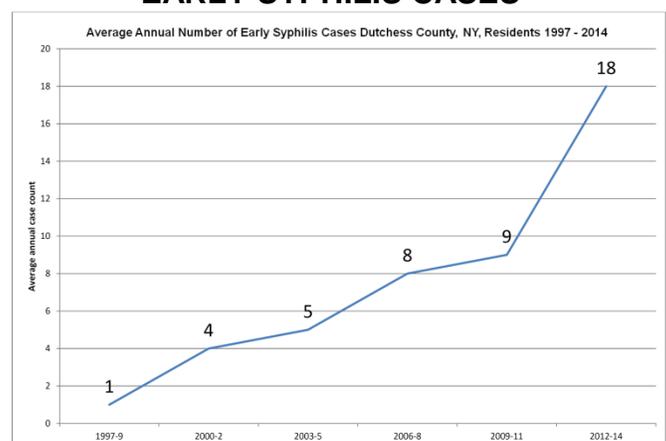
Dutchess County Department of Health Advises:

- **Infectious syphilis cases are steadily increasing in New York and Dutchess County.** Although syphilis is rare, there has been a notable increase in early syphilis cases diagnosed since 1997 among Dutchess County residents (see chart below). From 2010-2014, 87% of early syphilis cases occurred among males. There were two cases of congenital syphilis diagnosed in 2013-2014, with one fatality.
- **Maintain a high index of suspicion for syphilis.** Providers are encouraged to **test** suspect cases and **treat** presumptively at the time of initial assessment to interrupt the spread of syphilis.
- **Report all suspect and confirmed syphilis cases promptly to the Dutchess County Department of Health at (845) 486-3402.** The Department can also assist providers with securing treatment for their patients as well as partner notification.

Recommendations (See attached tool for details*):

1. Conduct a complete sexual risk assessment.
2. **Screen and test** high-risk individuals for **sexually transmitted diseases, including syphilis and HIV.**
3. Examine any and all exposed sites as well as mouth, anus, cervix, vagina, hands, and feet for syphilitic lesions
4. **Treat promptly**, especially high-risk populations such as **MSM and pregnant women.**
5. Encourage patients with syphilis to refer their partners for testing and prophylaxis.
6. Report the case to the **Dutchess County Department of Health at (845) 486-3402.**

EARLY SYPHILIS CASES



Average annual case counts for residents of Dutchess County, New York diagnosed with primary, secondary and early latent syphilis as reported by the New York State Department of Health.

* Syphilis & STD Risk Assessment Tool is also available at www.DutchessNY.gov/SyphilisRiskAssessment

Health Alert- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

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