

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

William F.X. O'Neil
County Executive



Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP
Commissioner

Public Health Advisory

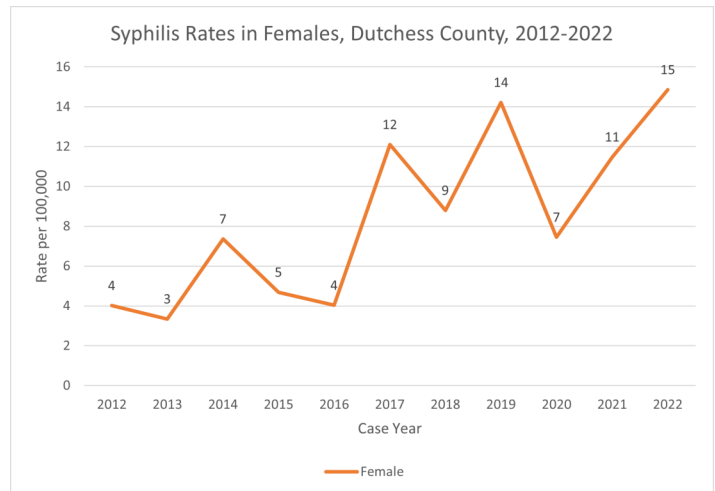
Thursday, April 20, 2023 - 12 pm

Providers Urged to Increase Testing for Syphilis and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) alerts providers, during Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Awareness Month, of alarming national, state, and local epidemiological trends in reported cases of congenital syphilis between 2017 and 2022.

At this time, New York State is reporting its highest number of congenital syphilis cases in 20 years.

In Dutchess County, the rates of early syphilis infection increased by 100% in females between 2020 and 2022.



Also of note:

- There were 114 cases of Gonorrhea in the first quarter of 2023 in Dutchess County, the highest first quarter case reporting in the past decade.
- Mpox (Monkeypox) cases have declined throughout NYS, but transmission continues among high-risk groups and case count may increase as people congregate more during the summer. Since June 2022, Dutchess County has had 12 reported Mpox cases, the 8th highest Mpox total case count in NYS, excluding NYC.

Providers are urged to:

- Stress to patients the importance of routine screenings for STIs, especially among those at increased risk per [current CDC guidelines](#).
- Conduct syphilis screening for pregnant patients at first prenatal exam, again between 28-32 weeks of pregnancy, and again at delivery.
- Refer cases of reportable STIs to the DBCH at 845-486-3402 to initiate partner services and to offer [Expedited Partner Therapy \(EPT\)](#) to those who meet the criteria.
- Offer [pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#) to patients at risk, and continue to vaccinate those at risk for Mpox.
- Remind patients that Dutchess County offers free, confidential, and bilingual STI clinic services at its Family Health Clinic located at the Family Partnership Center, 29 N. Hamilton Street in Poughkeepsie. Appointments available by calling 845-386-3535 or emailing clinics@dutchessny.gov.