

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

William F.X. O'Neil
County Executive



Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP
Commissioner

Public Health Advisory

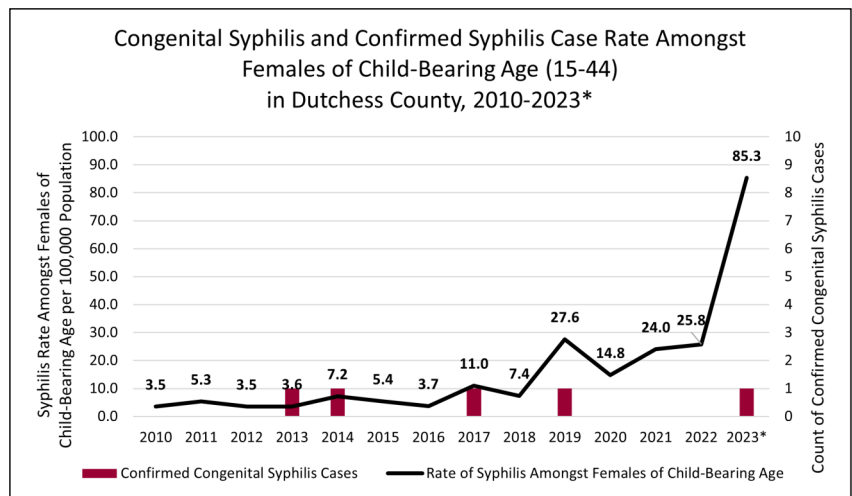
Thursday, September 14, 2023 - 9 am

CONGENITAL SYPHILIS CASE CONFIRMED IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Providers Urged to Increase Testing as Infection Rates Surge

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) is reporting its first case of congenital syphilis in Dutchess County since 2019. In addition, the rate of syphilis in the County among females of child-bearing age is an alarming 230% higher than the rate was in 2022.

Further, there has been a 43% increase in the volume of syphilis cases in Dutchess County to date this year (109 cases) compared to 2022 (76 cases). Prior to that, the overall number of syphilis cases in the County increased 245% between 2013 (22 cases) and 2022.



Providers are urged to:

- ▶ **Order blood testing for syphilis and HIV** when testing for other STIs, such as chlamydia or gonorrhea.
- ▶ **Test pregnant individuals for syphilis in the first AND third trimester.** (While recommended now, this will be mandatory beginning in 2024.)
- ▶ **Use the Reverse Sequence Algorithm** (far right) for patients aged 18-44 who are being screened for any reason, as well as for individuals outside that age range where syphilis is suspected. **For questions re: ordering tests using reverse sequence, call DBCH at 845-486-3425.**
- ▶ **Refer cases of reportable STIs** to the DBCH Communicable Disease Coordinator at 845-486-3425. **Reporting of syphilis cases is required by phone within 24 hrs of positive lab results.**
- ▶ **Remind patients** that Dutchess County offers free, confidential, and bilingual STI clinic services at its Health Clinic in the Family Partnership Center, 29 N. Hamilton St. in Poughkeepsie. Appointments available by phone: 845-486-3535 or email: clinics@dutchessny.gov.

