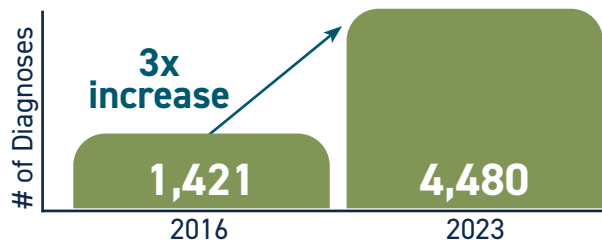


# SYPHILIS FACTS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

## SYPHILIS IS ON THE RISE

- Syphilis is a curable sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a bacteria.
- The number of people diagnosed with syphilis in Washington **tripled** between 2016 - 2023.
- People who use drugs and pregnant people are being affected by the major increase in syphilis.

## SYPHILIS DIAGNOSES, WASHINGTON STATE



## HARM REDUCTION TIPS

- **Get tested for syphilis if any of the following apply to you or your partner:**
  - o Have had oral, anal, or vaginal sex during the last year and are younger than 45 years old.
  - o Are pregnant or trying to get pregnant.
  - o Use meth or nonprescription opioids, like heroin or fentanyl.
  - o Are homeless/unhoused.
  - o Have symptoms like:
    - A painless sore on your butt, penis, vagina, or mouth.
    - A non-itchy rash on your chest, back, palms of your hands, and/or bottoms of your feet.
- **Get new drug use supplies at a syringe exchange and avoid sharing works.**
  - o Syphilis is usually spread through sexual contact. Even though it's unlikely to get syphilis from sharing needles or other injection equipment, using new and sterile supplies every time you inject can still help prevent syphilis and other infections like hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV.
  - o To find a syringe exchange near you, scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.
- **Practice safer sex.**
  - o Use condoms or other barrier methods, like dental dams or latex gloves.
  - o Doxy PEP is an antibiotic that can prevent syphilis and chlamydia if taken within 72 hours of having sex. Ask a health care provider if Doxy PEP is right for you.
- **Get treated if you or your partner has been diagnosed with syphilis.**
  - o Syphilis can be cured with antibiotics. Getting treated can prevent the spread of syphilis.

## SYPHILIS FACTS

- Syphilis is spread through skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal, or oral sex.
- You can have syphilis even if you do not have symptoms. Get tested to find out.
- Without treatment, syphilis can cause serious damage to your eyes, brain, and other organs.
- Syphilis can be passed from a pregnant person to their baby during pregnancy and birth.
- Babies infected with syphilis can have severe birth defects or die. Pregnant people with syphilis should get treated and cured as soon as possible to protect the health of their baby.



**Want to get tested for syphilis?**  
Ask a healthcare provider or scan the QR code to find a testing location near you!  
[www.doh.wa.gov/sti-testing](http://www.doh.wa.gov/sti-testing)



**Find a Syringe Exchange**  
[www.doh.wa.gov/SSPDirectory](http://www.doh.wa.gov/SSPDirectory)