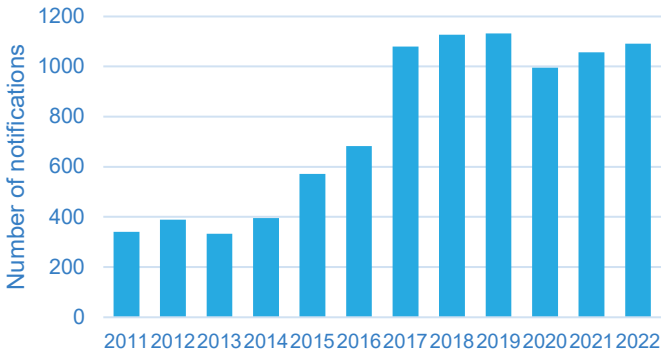


Queensland Syphilis Investment Plan 2023-2024

Syphilis is a sexually transmissible infection (STI) of public health concern

- Syphilis cases are increasing in young heterosexual people across QLD
- Syphilis rates are higher in First Nations Queenslanders
- Syphilis can pass to an unborn baby during pregnancy (congenital syphilis)
- QLD recorded the highest number of congenital syphilis cases of all states and territories between 2011 and 2022

Syphilis in Queensland – Snapshot 2011–2022¹



Congenital Syphilis – 2011–2022

28	congenital syphilis cases
9	infant deaths as a result of congenital syphilis

A \$1 million investment to:

Boost capacity for the Queensland Syphilis Surveillance Service and for contact tracing in regional Queensland	All populations
Establish nursing and midwifery positions to support women at risk safely through pregnancy, including a dedicated position for First Nations mothers	First Nations peoples Women of reproductive age
Deliver training and system improvements for syphilis prevention in antenatal settings	Women of reproductive age
Extend nurse-led satellite clinic project in corrections to increase testing among incarcerated populations	All populations




The additional investment in 2023-24 will supplement existing programs and services for priority populations and the general community, delivered through:

- Queensland Sexual Health Services and Public Health Units
- Community controlled health services for First Nations peoples
- Community-based organisations providing peer-led syphilis testing, treatment and management of STIs for priority populations
- Primary care services

How will we know if we've been successful?

- Reduced notifications of congenital syphilis
- Two positions established to support Queensland mothers through pregnancy
- One extra nurse position in the Queensland Syphilis Surveillance Service
- An additional contact tracing support officer established in regional QLD
- Increased testing in corrections

Priority Populations

-  First Nations peoples
-  Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)
-  Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men

The Queensland Syphilis Action Plan will:

Promote health



- Increase public awareness and education
- Embed community engagement into practice
- Address determinants of health, stigma and shame

Prevent disease



- Increase testing and support timely access to treatment
- Improve contact tracing

Manage risk



- Strengthen policy and governance
- Ensure patient safety
- Increase workforce capacity and training
- Strengthen public health intelligence

1. From Queensland Health Notifiable Conditions Reports at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/surveillance/reports/notifiable/annual> Nov 2023. Accessed 8 Nov 2023