

# Gonorrhoea and syphilis among heterosexuals in New Zealand

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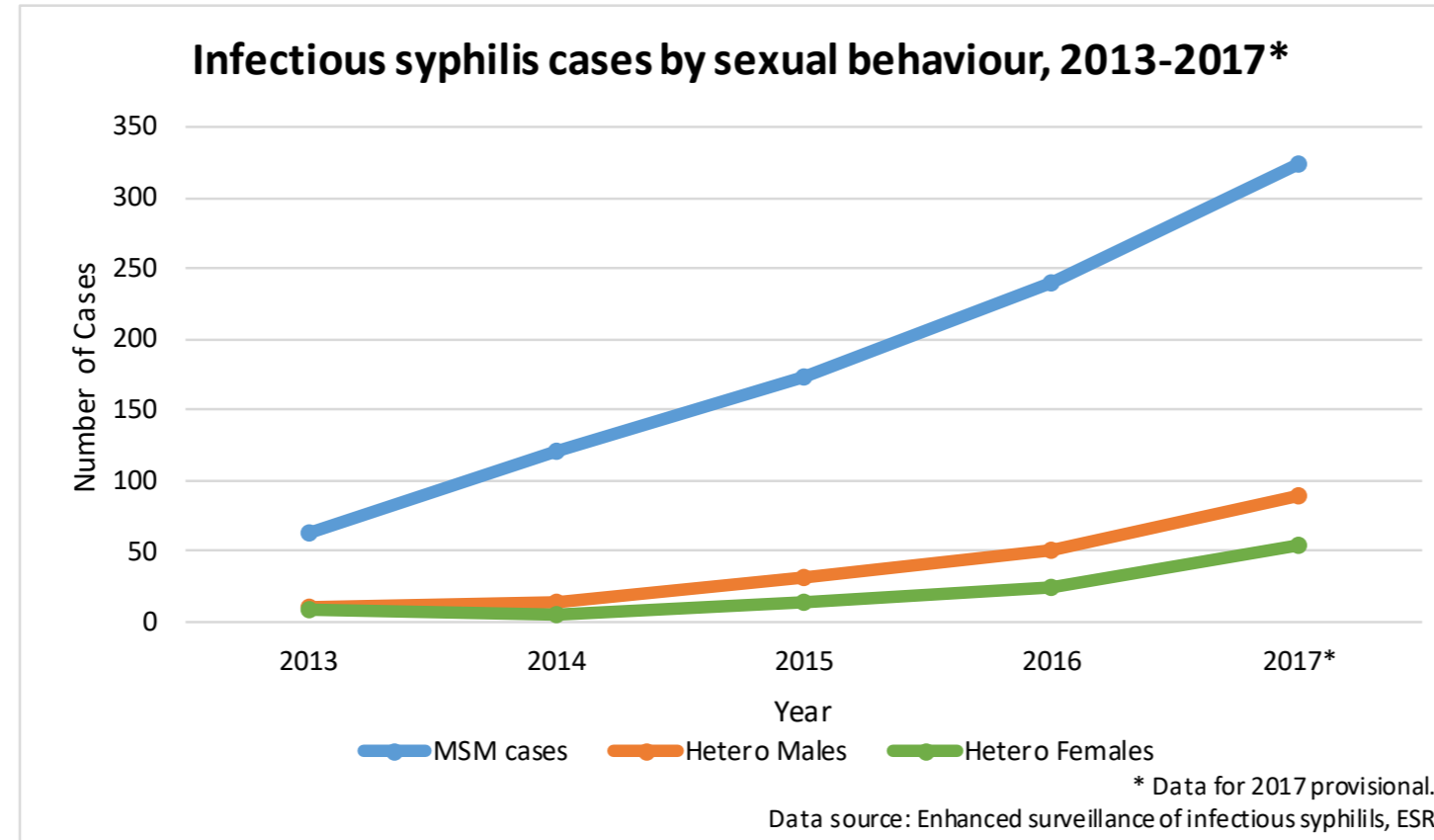
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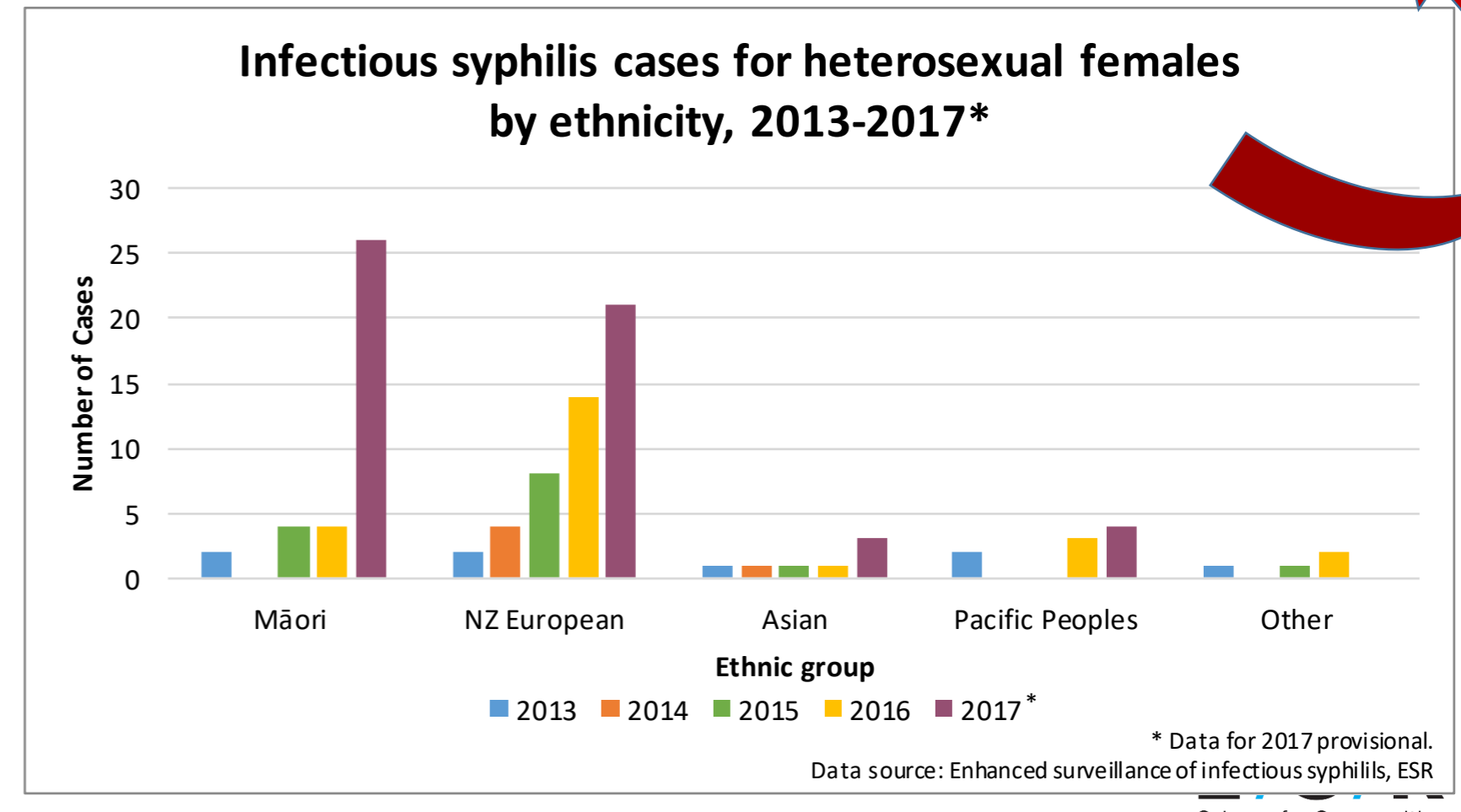
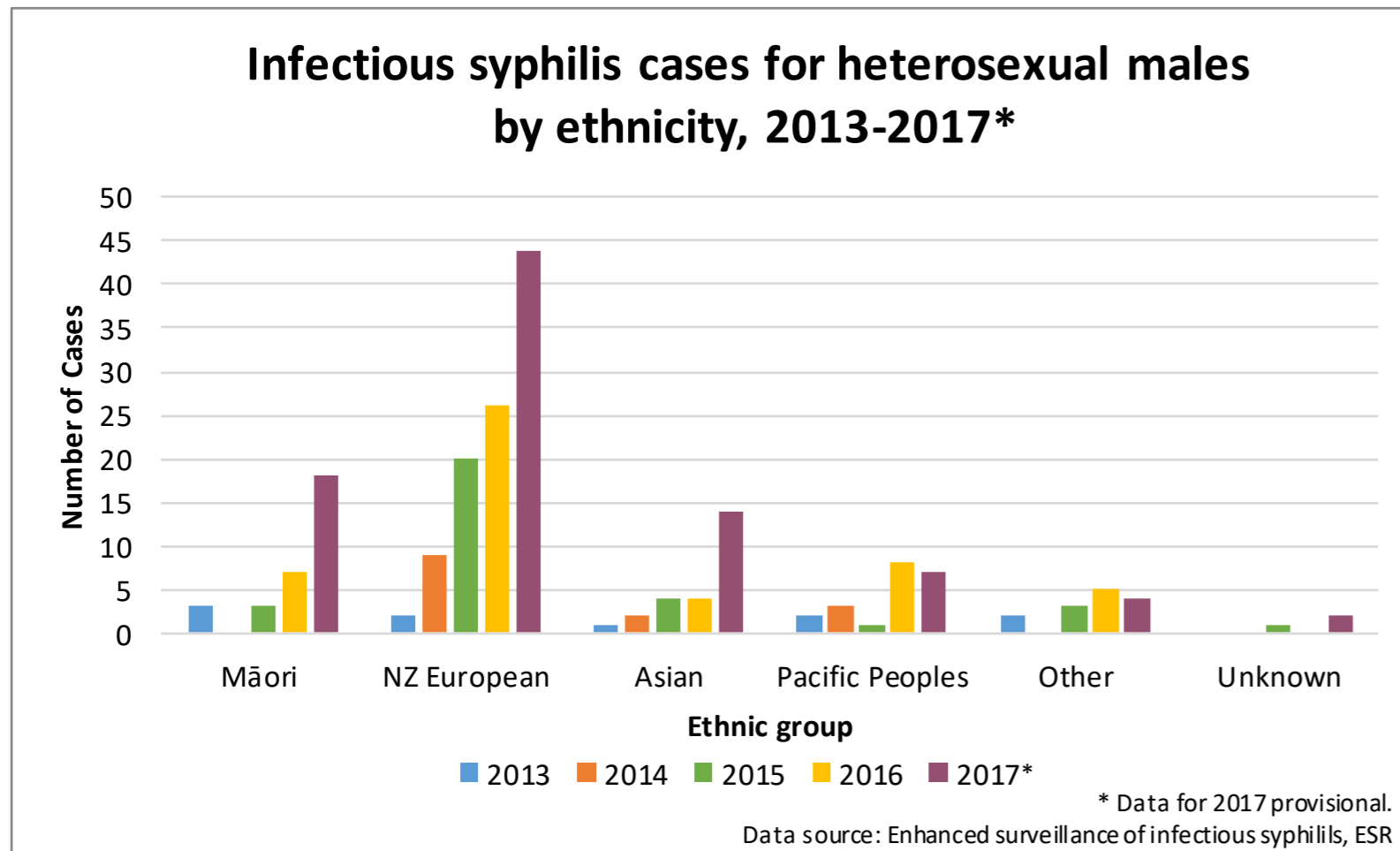
**Disclosure:** No conflicts of interest relevant to this work to disclose



# Syphilis among heterosexuals

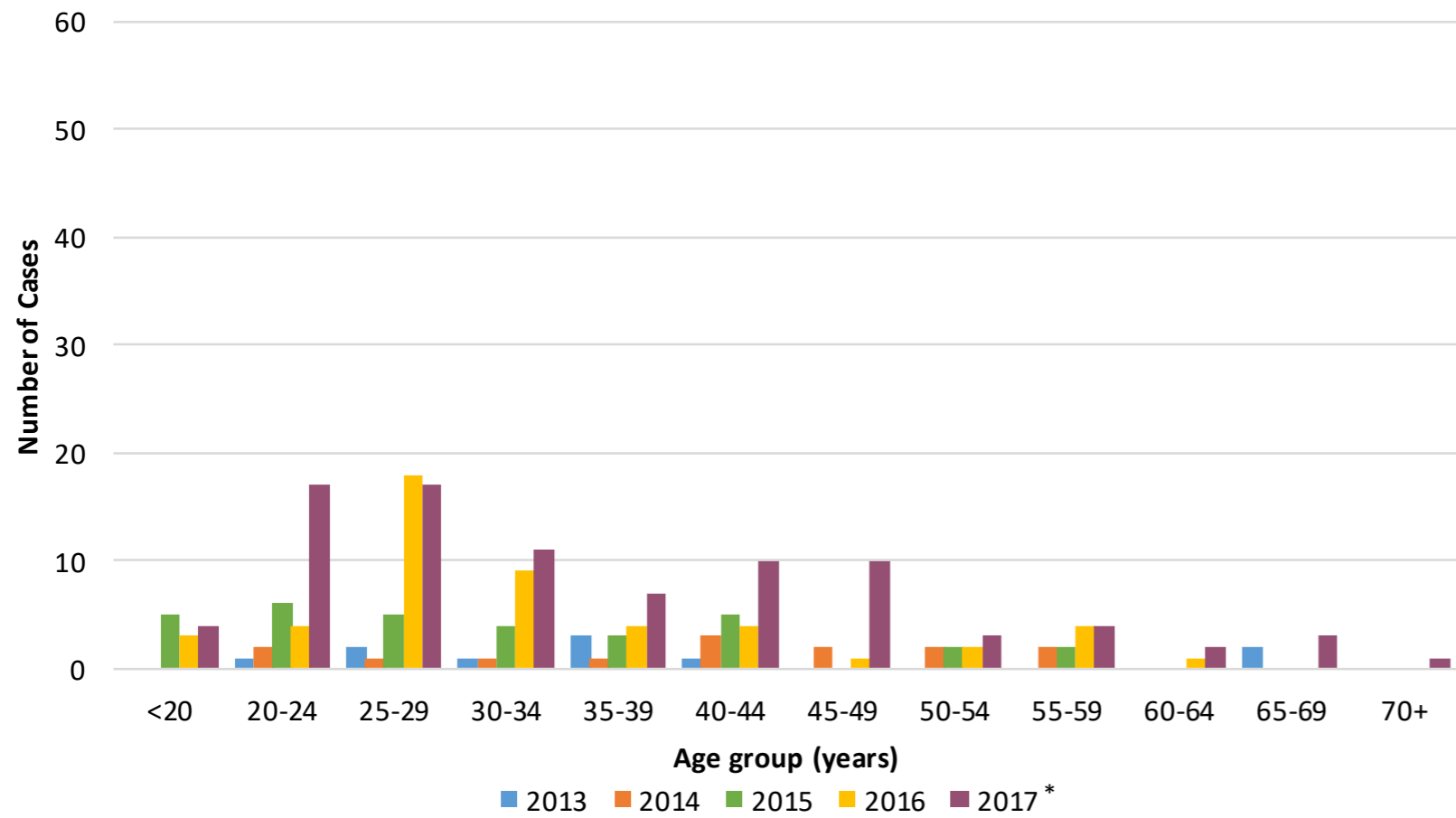


**Congenital syphilis**  
Cases increasing  
2016 1 stillbirth  
2017 2 stillbirths, 2 live births  
2018 ytd, 2 stillbirths, 2 live births



# Males

Infectious syphilis cases for heterosexual males by age group, 2013-2017\*



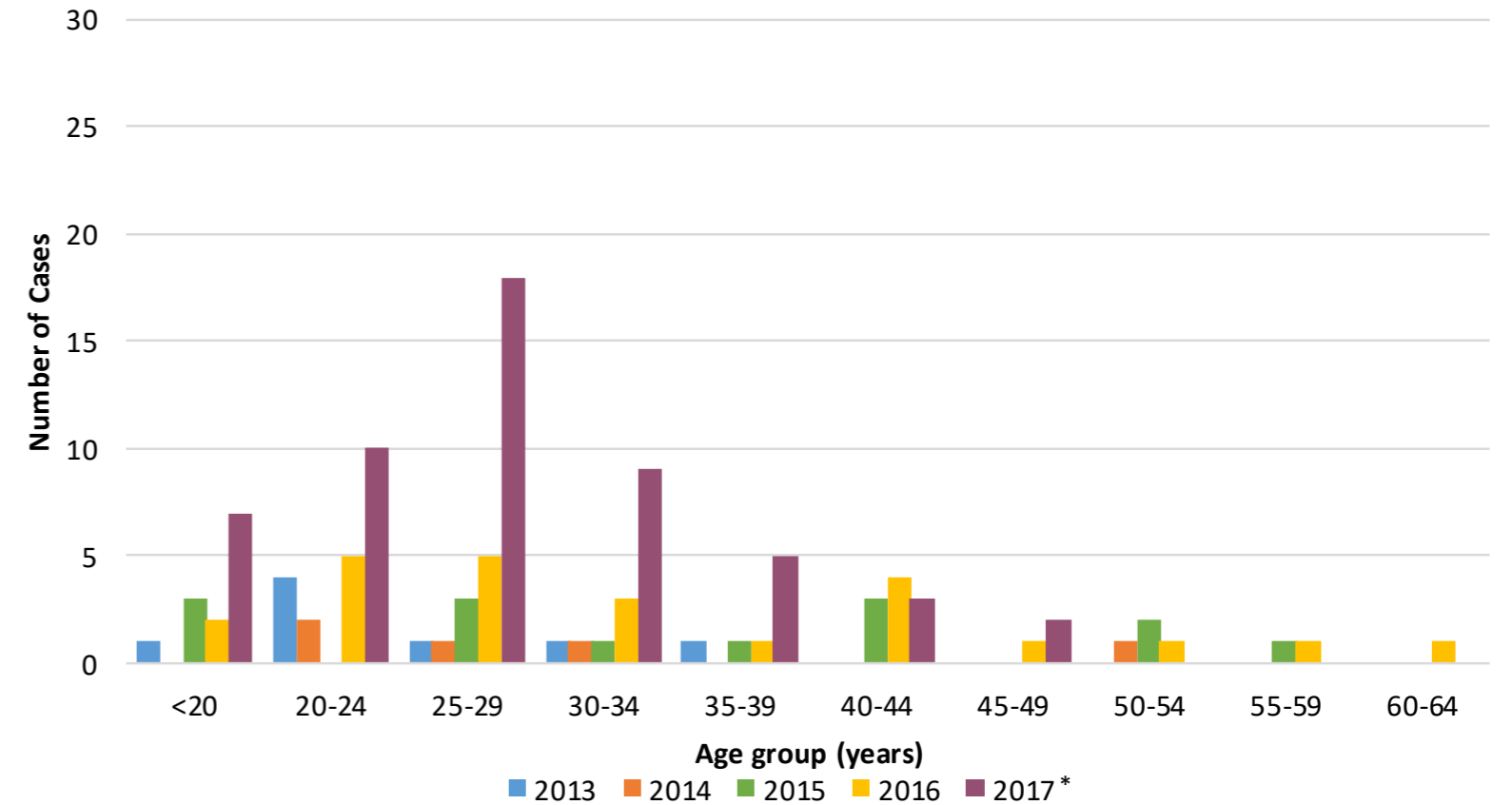
\* Data for 2017 provisional.

Data source: Enhanced surveillance of infectious syphilis, ESR

# Infectious syphilis in heterosexuals by age group

## Females

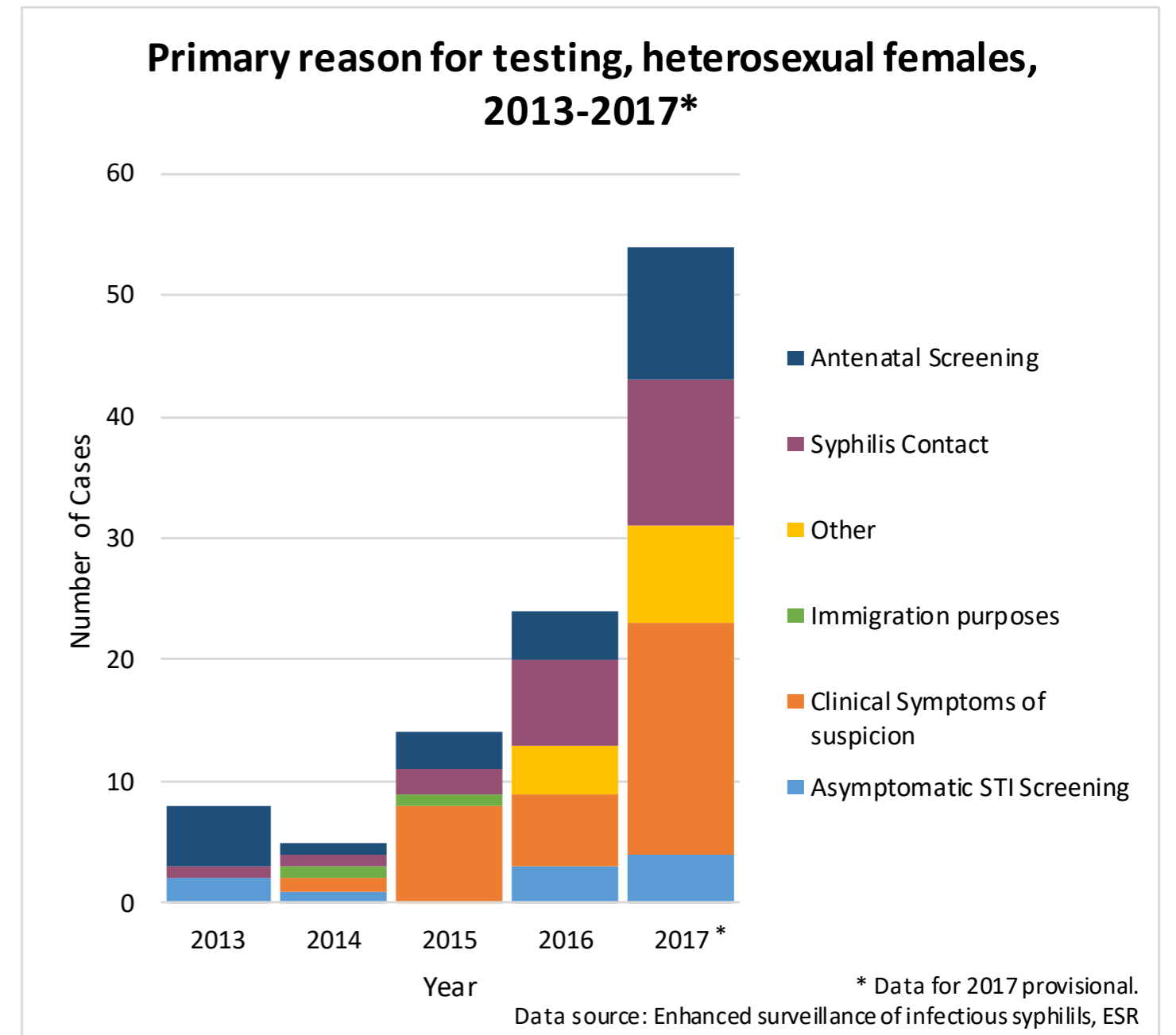
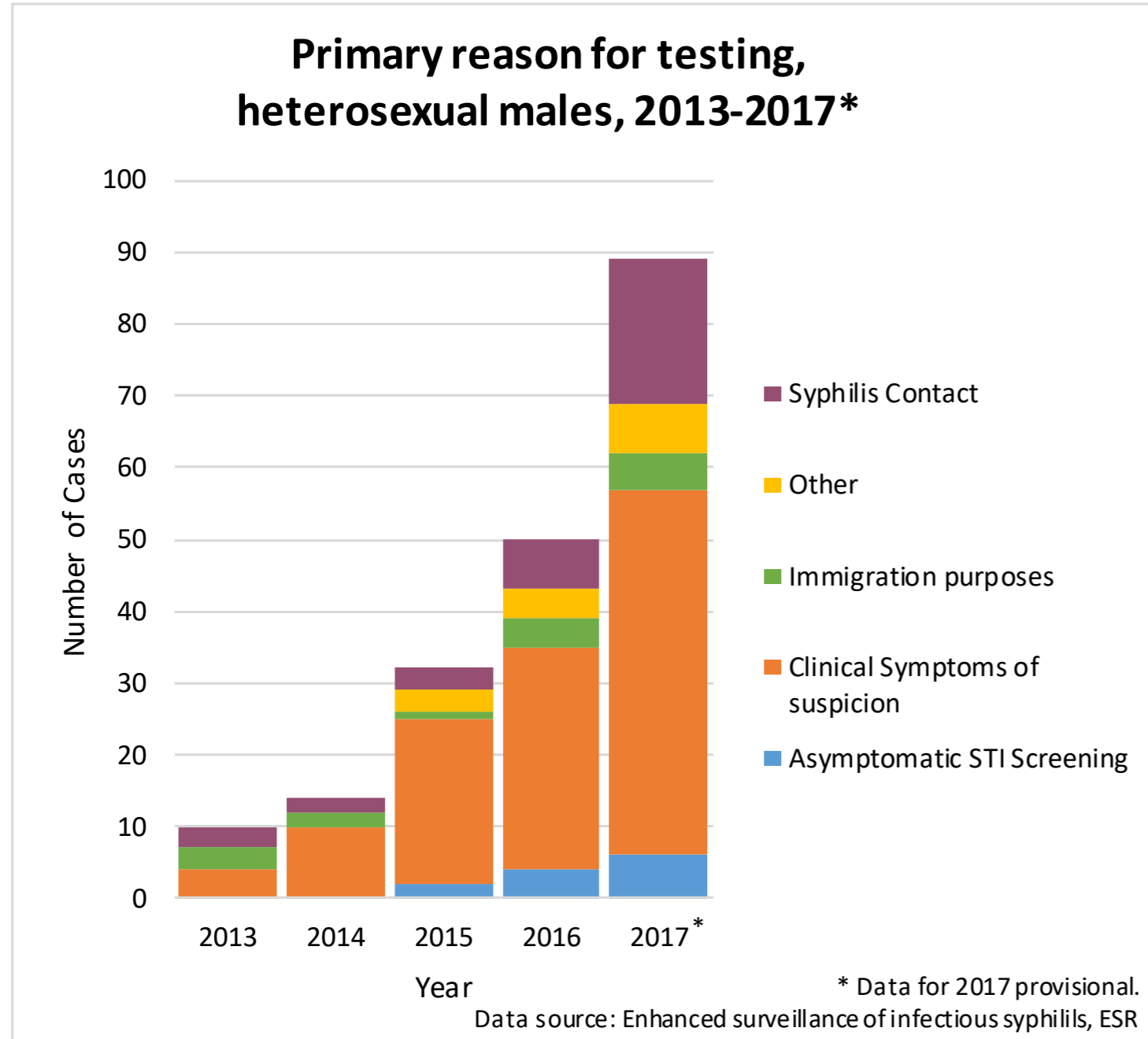
Infectious syphilis cases for heterosexual females by age group, 2013-2017\*



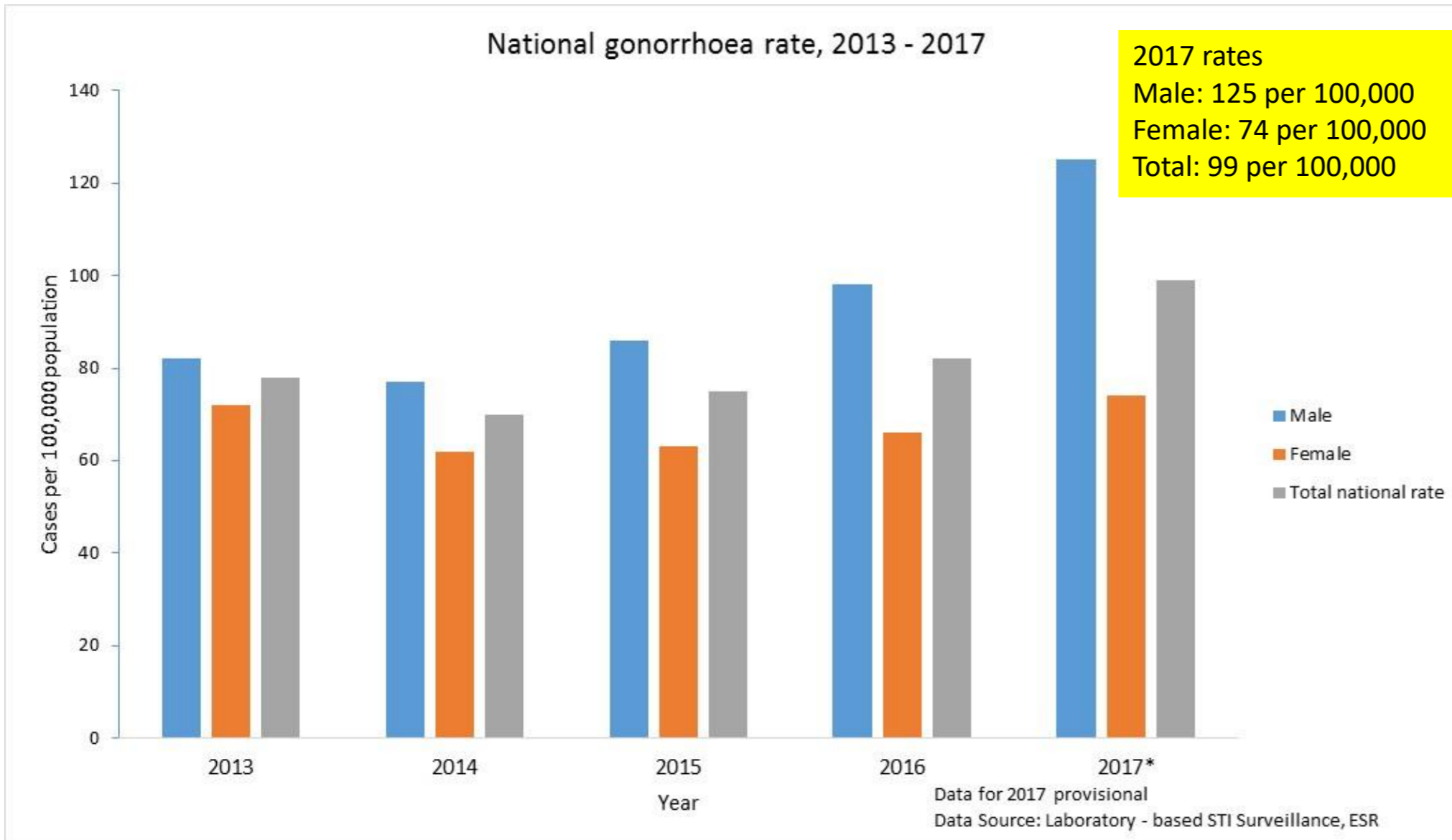
\* Data for 2017 provisional.

Data source: Enhanced surveillance of infectious syphilis, ESR

# Primary reason for testing, infectious syphilis, heterosexuals



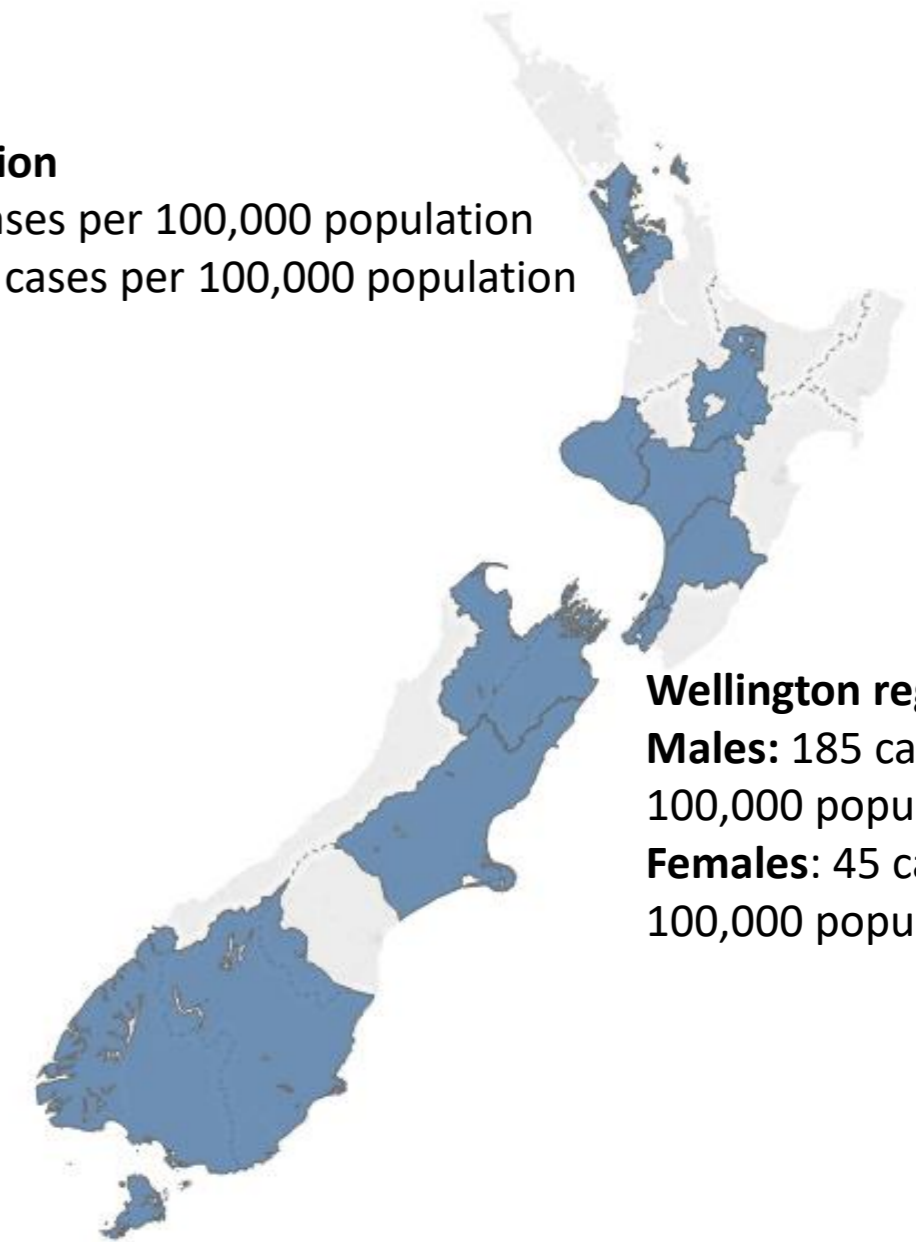
# Gonorrhoea



Regions where male gonorrhoea rates are > than female gonorrhoea rates ■

## Auckland region

Males: 204 cases per 100,000 population  
 Females: 105 cases per 100,000 population

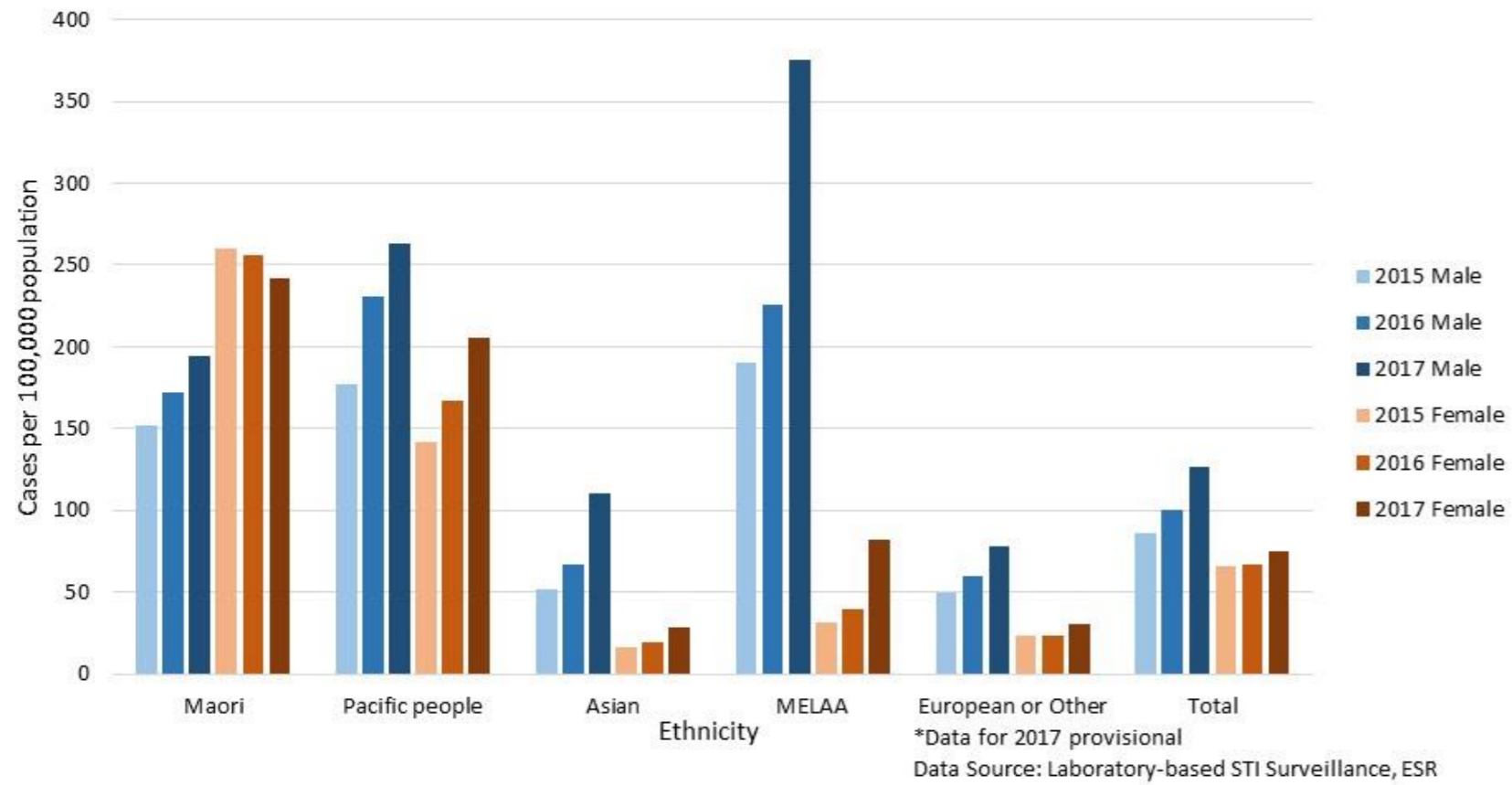


## Wellington region

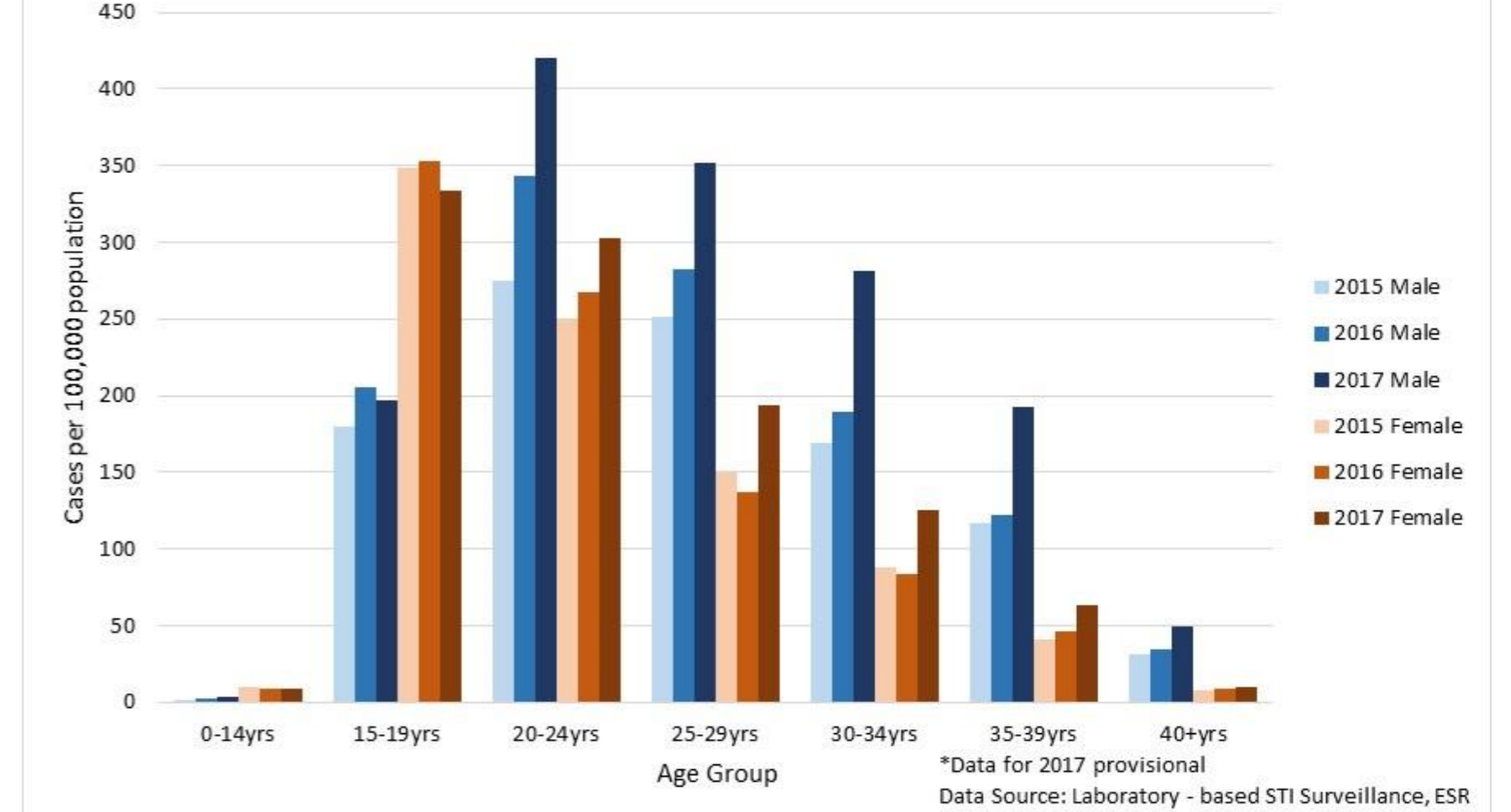
Males: 185 cases per 100,000 population  
 Females: 45 cases per 100,000 population

# Gonorrhoea

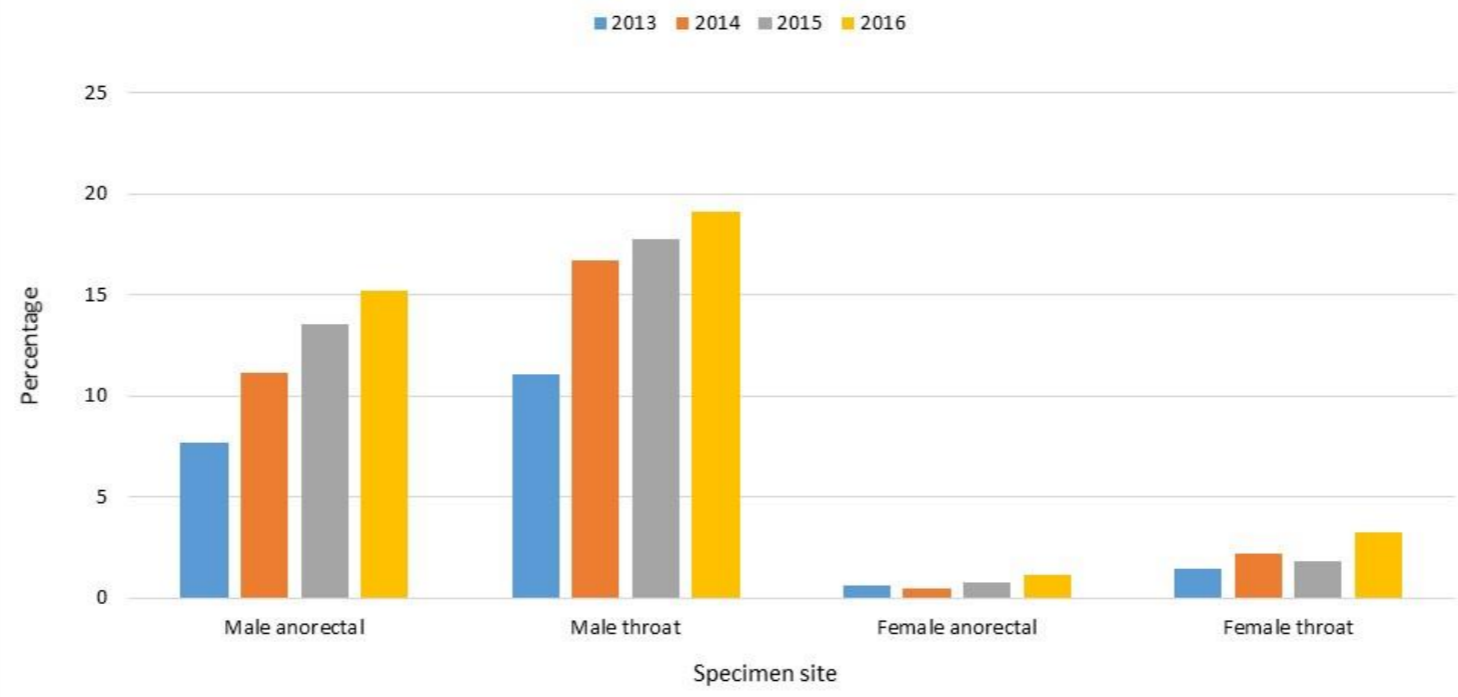
Gonorrhoea rates by ethnicity and sex, 2015 - 2017\*



Gonorrhoea rates by age group and sex 2015-2017\*



Specimen site as a percentage of all positive gonorrhoea tests 2013 - 2016



# Summary

- **Syphilis**

- Steady increase in infectious syphilis cases diagnosed in heterosexual males and females past 4 years
- Increase is most apparent in the “reproductive” age groups, especially for females
- Increase in the number of cases of congenital syphilis reported past 2 years
- For males increases seen in Māori, Asian and NZ European ethnic groups; for females greatest increase is in Māori ethnic group
- “Reasons for testing” data suggests under-screening of some populations at risk

- **Gonorrhoea**

- Increased incidence, driven by increased diagnoses in males in regions with large urban centres
- Increased rates across all ethnic groups for males. Increased rates for females most notable for Māori, Pacific peoples and MELAA ethnic groups.
- For males, recent increases in rates seen in the 20-39 years age group; for females increases in the 20-35 years age groups
- There is a trend of an increasing proportion of positive tests where site of infection is anorectal or throat, especially for males
- It seems likely that the increase in males in the large urban centres may be driven by transmission among MSM, whereas the increase in other regions is due to transmission occurring among heterosexuals

# Acknowledgements

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- Diagnostic Laboratories
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- Communicable Diseases Team, Ministry of Health

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