Gonorrhoea and syphilis among heterosexuals in New Zealand

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Syphilis among heterosexuals

Infectious syphilis cases by sexual behaviour, 2013-2017*

Data source: Enhanced surveillance of infectious syphilis, ESR

* Data for 2017 provisional.

Infectious syphilis cases for heterosexual males by ethnicity, 2013-2017*

Data source: Enhanced surveillance of infectious syphilis, ESR

* Data for 2017 provisional.

Infectious syphilis cases for heterosexual females by ethnicity, 2013-2017*

Data source: Enhanced surveillance of infectious syphilis, ESR

* Data for 2017 provisional.

Congenital syphilis
Cases increasing
2016 1 stillbirth
2017 2 stillbirths, 2 live births
2018 ytd, 2 stillbirths, 2 live births
Infectious syphilis in heterosexuals by age group

**Males**

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

**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

Data source: Enhanced surveillance of infectious syphilis, ESR

* Data for 2017 provisional.
Gonorrhoea

Regions where male gonorrhoea rates are greater 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

2017 rates
Male: 125 per 100,000
Female: 74 per 100,000
Total: 99 per 100,000

National gonorrhoea rate, 2013 - 2017

Data for 2017 provisional
Data Source: Laboratory - based STI Surveillance, ESR
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

Data Source: Laboratory-based STI Surveillance, ESR
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
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