



# IMPROVING SYPHILIS CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTACT TRACING IN RESPONSE TO AN OUTBREAK

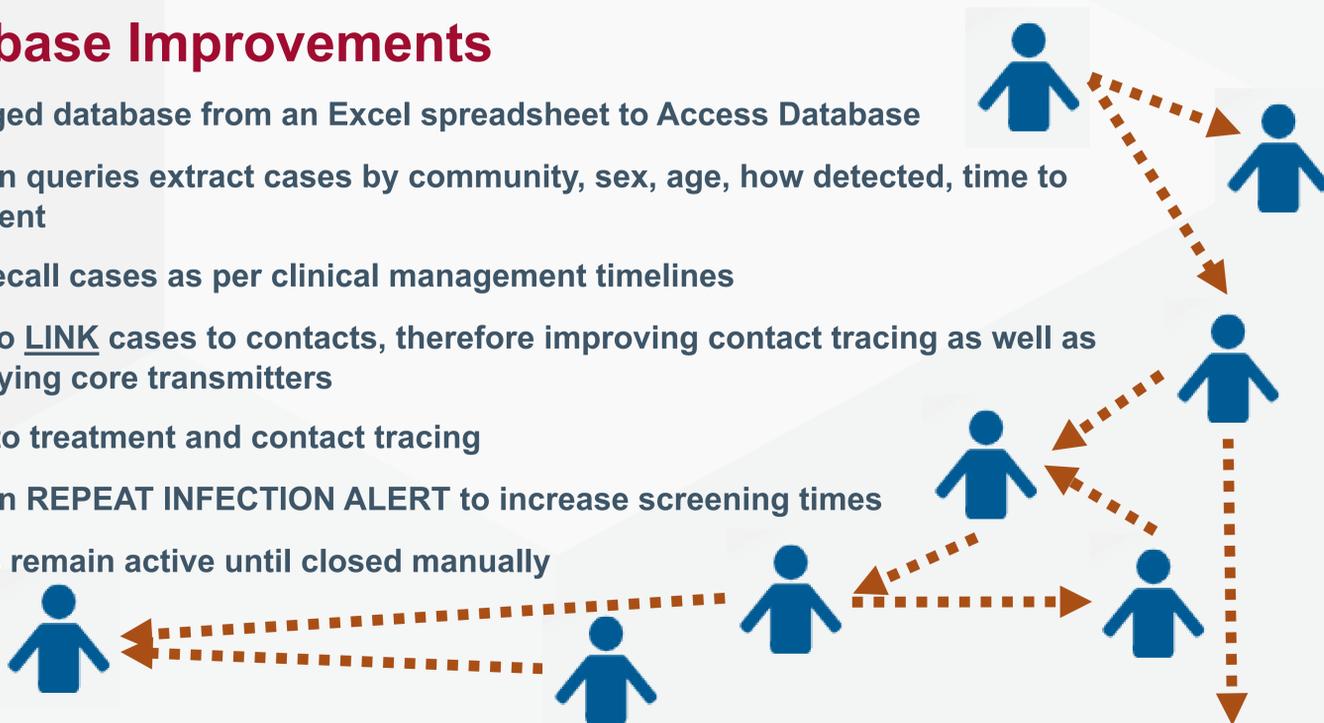
In the absence of any regional or state-wide database, the Pilbara Public Health Unit developed a Patient Tracking System to monitor Syphilis Cases.

## Clinical Timeline

- ◆ First Presentation
  - ◆ Test for Syphilis
  - ◆ Test for other sexually transmitted infections
  - ◆ Treat
  - ◆ Initiate Contact Tracing
- ◆ 6 Weeks Later
  - ◆ Repeat Serology
- ◆ 3 Months Later
  - ◆ Repeat Serology
- ◆ 6 Months Later
  - ◆ Repeat Serology
- ◆ Repeat Serology every 3 months until case returns an RPR of  $\leq 4$

## Database Improvements

- ◆ Changed database from an Excel spreadsheet to Access Database
- ◆ Built-in queries extract cases by community, sex, age, how detected, time to treatment
- ◆ Can recall cases as per clinical management timelines
- ◆ Able to LINK cases to contacts, therefore improving contact tracing as well as identifying core transmitters
- ◆ time to treatment and contact tracing
- ◆ Built-in REPEAT INFECTION ALERT to increase screening times
- ◆ Cases remain active until closed manually



## Improving Management of Syphilis in Pregnancy

- ◆ Pregnancy Alerts
- ◆ Document gestation at diagnosis / treatment
- ◆ Treatment to Estimated Date of Delivery
- ◆ Ability to record all antenatal blood results
- ◆ Delivery outcome—congenital—high medium or low risk
- ◆ Postnatal Screening and Treatments



## Barriers for Case Management & Contact Tracing

- High transiency between communities and towns
- Difficulty in contacting cases / contacts due to no fixed address or phone number
- Inability to follow reinfected cases or cross-reference contacts and cases

Aboriginal Communities:

- Town Based Community or Reserve
- Remote - Permanent
- Remote - Seasonal

