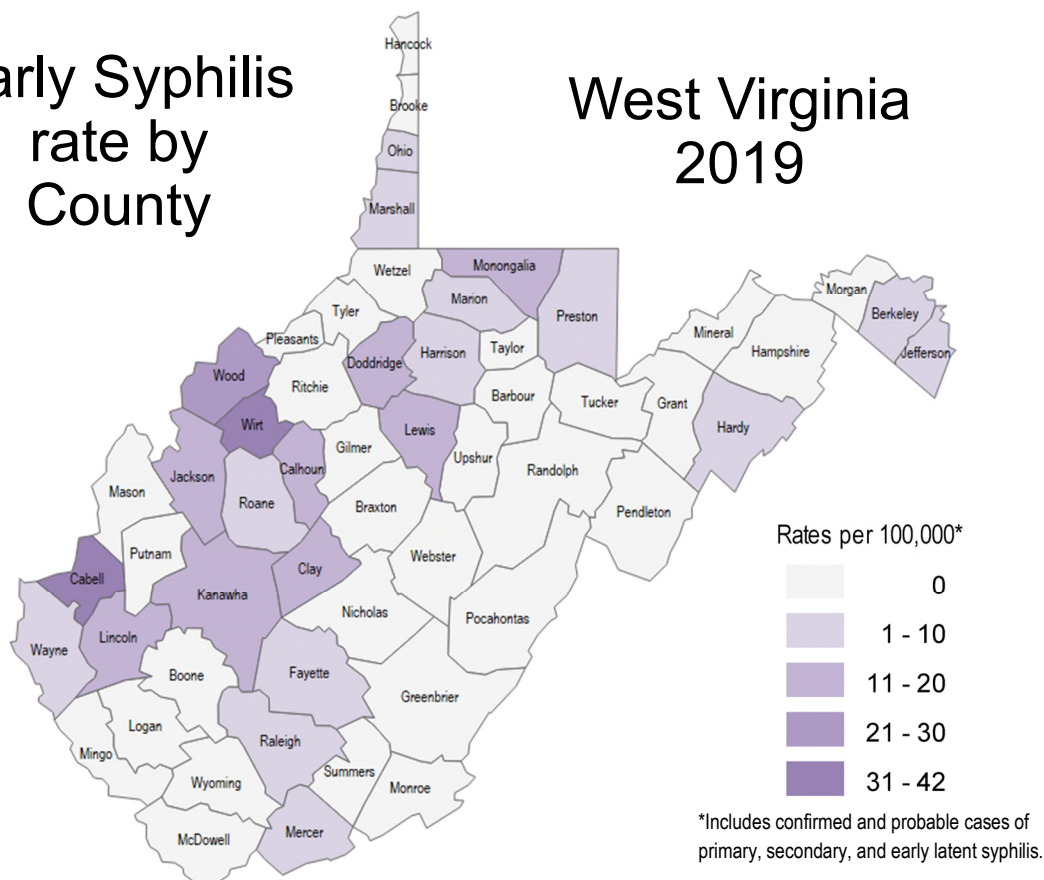


Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. The infection develops in stages (primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary). Early syphilis (ES) is defined as an infection that was contracted within the last year, when the patient is most infectious. Syphilis is spread through direct contact with a syphilis sore during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Pregnant women can also spread syphilis to their baby, causing health complications, miscarriage, or even stillbirth. During primary syphilis, a sore develops where the bacteria entered the body. Sores are usually round and painless, and go away on their own without treatment. During secondary syphilis a skin rash and/or patches in the mouth, vagina, or anus develop. Without treatment, infection will move to latent or tertiary stages, and can even spread to the brain and/or nervous system (neurosyphilis). People who test positive for syphilis should get treated with penicillin immediately. Syphilis is curable, but treatment may not undo the damage caused. Using condoms and other barrier methods correctly and consistently, as well as mutual monogamy among partners, can reduce the spread of syphilis among people who are sexually active.

Early Syphilis rate by County

West Virginia 2019



Cabell	41.4
Wirt	34.6
Wood	22.7
Monongalia	19.8
Kanawha	15.1
Lincoln	14.7
Calhoun	14.1
Jackson	14.0
Lewis	12.6
Doddridge	11.8
Clay	11.8
Marshall	9.8
Ohio	9.6
Berkeley	9.2
Raleigh	8.1
Wayne	7.6
Roane	7.3
Hardy	7.2
Preston	6.0
Jefferson	5.2
Mercer	5.1
Marion	3.6
Harrison	3.0
Fayette	2.4
Barbour	0.0
Boone	0.0
Braxton	0.0
Brooke	0.0
Gilmer	0.0
Grant	0.0
Greenbrier	0.0
Hampshire	0.0
Hancock	0.0
Logan	0.0
Mason	0.0
McDowell	0.0
Mineral	0.0
Mingo	0.0
Monroe	0.0
Morgan	0.0
Nicholas	0.0
Pendleton	0.0
Pleasants	0.0
Pocahontas	0.0
Putnam	0.0
Randolph	0.0
Ritchie	0.0
Summers	0.0
Taylor	0.0
Tucker	0.0
Tyler	0.0
Upshur	0.0
Webster	0.0
Wetzel	0.0
Wyoming	0.0

Rates per 100,000

Overview In 2019, 161 cases of early syphilis were reported in WV.

By Sex: Men made up 68.5% (111) of early syphilis cases, and women made up 31.4% (51).

By Age: People aged 25-29 accounted for 22.2% of cases (36), which was the most of any age group.

By Race/Ethnicity: White non-Hispanic people had 75.9% of cases (123). However, Black people had the highest rate per capita at 47.8 per 100,000.

By Geography: People residing in Kanawha County accounted for 23.6% of cases (38), the most total cases of any county. However, Cabell County had the highest rate of cases per capita.*

*The patient's county of residency is used to determine infection rates. Institutions such as colleges, prisons, and shelters may affect these numbers, as the patient is a temporary resident of that county.