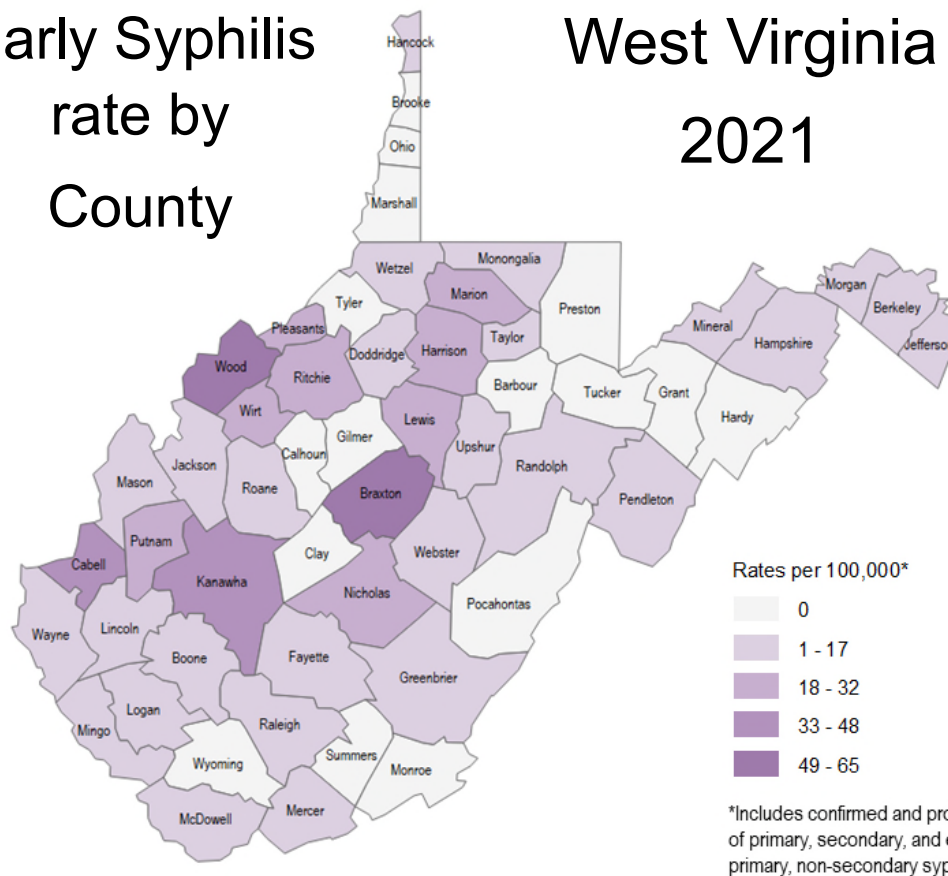


**Syphilis** is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. The infection develops in stages (primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary). Early syphilis (ES) is defined as an infection that was contracted within the last year, when the patient is most infectious. 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



|            |      |
|------------|------|
| Wood       | 64.6 |
| Braxton    | 57.2 |
| Cabell     | 47.1 |
| Kanawha    | 44.4 |
| Marion     | 28.6 |
| Pleasants  | 26.3 |
| Nicholas   | 24.7 |
| Ritchie    | 23.9 |
| Lewis      | 23.7 |
| Putnam     | 21.0 |
| Wirt       | 19.8 |
| Harrison   | 18.4 |
| Pendleton  | 16.3 |
| Lincoln    | 14.9 |
| Jackson    | 14.4 |
| Doddridge  | 12.9 |
| Webster    | 12.1 |
| Logan      | 9.4  |
| Berkeley   | 8.7  |
| Hampshire  | 8.6  |
| Wayne      | 7.8  |
| Fayette    | 7.5  |
| Mineral    | 7.4  |
| Roane      | 7.2  |
| Randolph   | 7.2  |
| Wetzel     | 7.1  |
| Taylor     | 6.1  |
| Morgan     | 5.8  |
| McDowell   | 5.4  |
| Jefferson  | 5.1  |
| Boone      | 4.7  |
| Mingo      | 4.3  |
| Upshur     | 4.2  |
| Raleigh    | 4.1  |
| Mason      | 4.0  |
| Monongalia | 3.8  |
| Hancock    | 3.5  |
| Greenbrier | 3.1  |
| Mercer     | 1.7  |
| Barbour    | 0.0  |
| Brooke     | 0.0  |
| Calhoun    | 0.0  |
| Clay       | 0.0  |
| Gilmer     | 0.0  |
| Grant      | 0.0  |
| Hardy      | 0.0  |
| Marshall   | 0.0  |
| Monroe     | 0.0  |
| Ohio       | 0.0  |
| Pocahontas | 0.0  |
| Preston    | 0.0  |
| Summers    | 0.0  |
| Tucker     | 0.0  |
| Tyler      | 0.0  |
| Wyoming    | 0.0  |

**Overview** In 2021, 297 cases of early syphilis were reported in WV.

**By Sex:** Men made up 55.9% (166) of early syphilis cases, and women made up 44.1% (131).

**By Age:** People aged 25-30 accounted for 20.9% of cases (62), which was the most of any age group.

**By Race/Ethnicity:** White non-Hispanic people had 78.5% of cases (233). However, Black people had the highest rate per capita at 48.22 per 100,000.

**By Geography:** People residing in Kanawha County accounted for 26.5% of cases (79), the most total cases of any county. However, Wood 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.