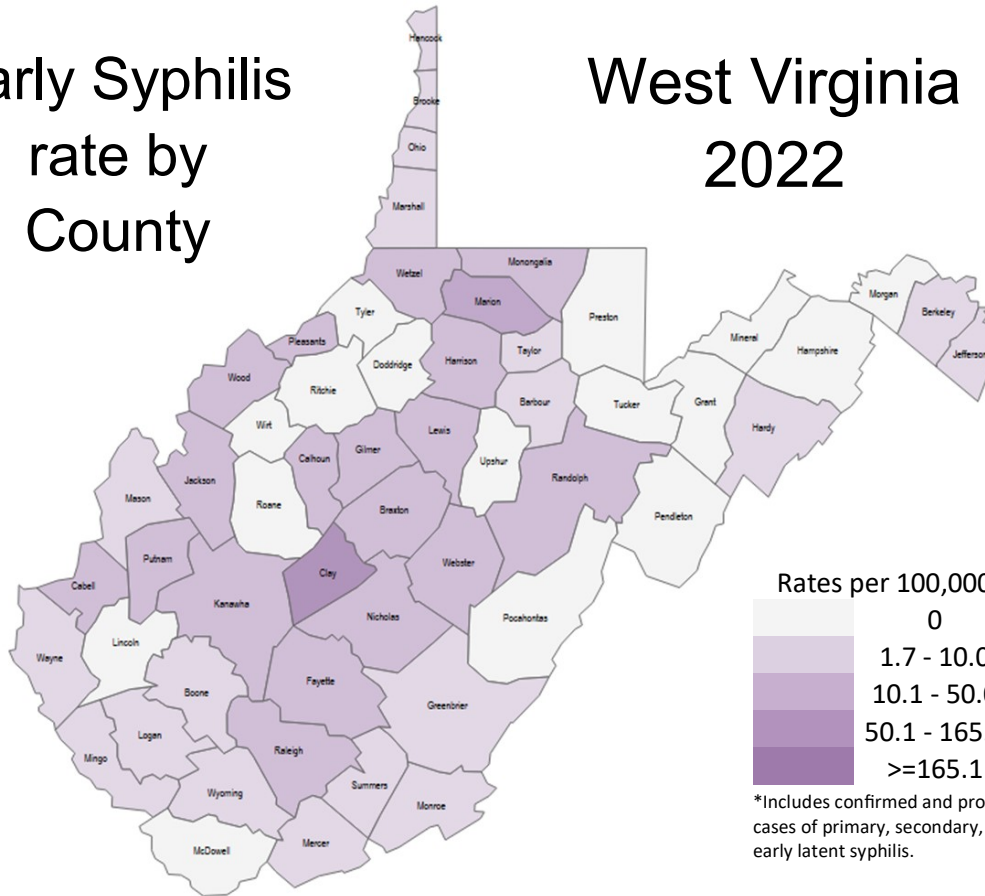


**Syphilis** is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. The infection develops in stages (primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary). Early syphilis (ES) is defined as an infection that was contracted within the last year, when the patient is most infectious. Syphilis is spread through direct contact with a syphilis sore during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Pregnant people 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 2022



Rates per 100,000

- 0
- 1.7 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 50.0
- 50.1 - 165.0
- >=165.1

\*Includes confirmed and probable cases of primary, secondary, and early latent syphilis.

Clay	166.4
Marion	57.2
Wood	48.0
Kanawha	41.6
Braxton	41.0
Cabell	31.3
Fayette	27.9
Raleigh	20.6
Putnam	19.3
Lewis	17.9
Calhoun	16.5
Nicholas	16.4
Jackson	14.4
Wetzel	14.3
Harrison	13.9
Gilmer	13.7
Pleasants	13.2
Webster	12.2
Randolph	10.9
Monongalia	10.3
Marshall	10.1
Brooke	9.2
Summers	8.5
Monroe	8.1
Berkeley	7.7
Hancock	7.1
Hardy	7.0
Jefferson	6.8
Barbour	6.5
Taylor	6.1
Wyoming	4.9
Boone	4.8
Mingo	4.4
Mason	4.0
Logan	3.2
Greenbrier	3.1
Wayne	2.6
Ohio	2.4
Mercer	1.7
Doddridge	0.0
Grant	0.0
Hampshire	0.0
Lincoln	0.0
McDowell	0.0
Mineral	0.0
Morgan	0.0
Pendleton	0.0
Pocahontas	0.0
Preston	0.0
Ritchie	0.0
Roane	0.0
Tucker	0.0
Tyler	0.0
Upshur	0.0
Wirt	0.0

**Overview** In 2022, 290 cases of early syphilis were reported in WV.

**By Sex:** Men made up 56.0% (162) of early syphilis cases, and women made up 44.1% (128).

**By Age:** People aged 31-35 accounted for 20.3% of cases (59), which was the most among any age group.

**By Race/Ethnicity:** White non-Hispanic people had the most cases at 78.6% (228). However, Black people had the highest rate at 48.2 cases per 100,000 (32).

**By Geography:** People residing in Kanawha County accounted for 25.1% of cases (73), the most total cases of any county. However, Clay 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.