



SYPHILIS

Syphilis Outbreak WA 2026



SPOTLIGHT

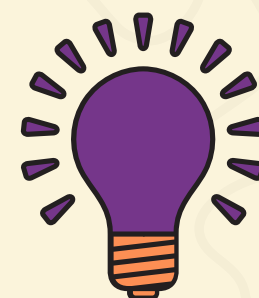


YOUTH
EDUCATING
PEERS

yacwa



DID YOU



Did you know that there is currently a **Syphilis outbreak** in Western Australia?

Our learning doesn't stop just because **Sexual Health Week WA 2026** is over -

Let's give Syphilis the spotlight and find out what the outbreak might mean for **you!**



YOUTH
EDUCATING
PEERS

yacwa



WOW?

Syphilis Spotlight 🔍

WHAT?



Syphilis is a bacterial **sexually transmitted infection (STI)** that is easy to treat and cure with **penicillin**, if found early

If left untreated syphilis can cause a range of **health impacts**, some severe and long-lasting



Rates of infections have been **rapidly increasing** since 2015, with an outbreak declared in Perth in July 2020



YOUTH
EDUCATING
PEERS



Syphilis Spotlight 

HOW?

You can get syphilis if you have **unprotected** skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal, oral sex, or even through deep kissing

If you are **pregnant**, your baby can get *congenital syphilis* through your placenta, which can lead to serious birth implications, including **miscarriage** and **stillbirth**

Occasionally spread by **blood contamination**, needle-stick injury, or sharing injecting equipment



YOUTH
EDUCATING
PEERS



Syphilis Spotlight 🔍

PRIMARY

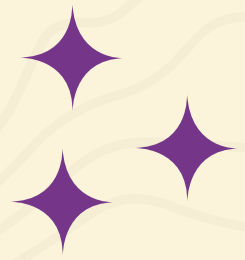
First stage of syphilis infection

Primary syphilis develops between **10** and **90 days** after infection, the average development period is 3 weeks.

Symptoms include a **painless sore/s** on mouth, anus, penis, vagina, or cervix.

Sore/s are often a roundish area of **broken skin**, centre might be weepy or have pus.

Sores often go away after **2** or **6 weeks**, but you can still pass syphilis on after this.



SECONDARY

Second stage of syphilis infection

Secondary syphilis develops after **7 to 10 weeks**.

Symptoms can include a **red rash** on the palms of your hands, bottom of feet, chest, or back.

Rash is slightly **bumpy** but not itchy or painful.

Other symptoms often go **unnoticed** like fever, swollen glands, hair loss, headaches, tiredness.



YOUTH
EDUCATING
PEERS

yacwa

Syphilis Spotlight 

LATENT

Third stage of syphilis infection

✦ ✦ ✦
No obvious symptoms of latent syphilis.

Infection can only be found with a **blood test.**

If syphilis is not treated by this stage, it either remains latent for life or turns into **tertiary syphilis.**

TERTIARY

Fourth stage of syphilis infection

Tertiary syphilis develops in **1 in 3 people** with untreated latent syphilis.

The bacteria can cause **damage** to the heart, brain, spinal cord, eyes, and bones, which can be life-threatening, even fatal, **without treatment**.

This can happen **many years** after being first infected.

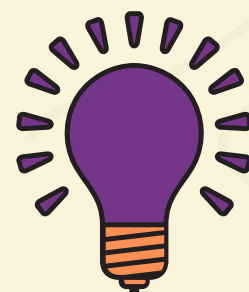


YOUTH
EDUCATING
PEERS

yacwa

Syphilis Spotlight 🔍

NOTE



Many people with syphilis have **no symptoms**.

This is why getting **regular** STI tests is important.



YOUTH
EDUCATING
PEERS



Syphilis Spotlight 🔍

TESTING

STI screening services in Boorloo:

Sexual

Health

Quarters



**DERBARL
YERRIGAN**
HEALTH SERVICE

hepatitis *wa*




CLINIC



South Terrace Clinic

Sexual health clinic


Open now • Closes 4pm

 Fremantle Hospital (A Block), South Terrace, FREMANTLE, WA 6160

Sexual Health Clinic RPH

Sexual health clinic

Open now • Closes 4pm

 Ainslie House, Level 4, 48 Murray Street, PERTH, WA 6000

Syphilis Spotlight 