

# Development of a pilot register for syphilis testing and treatment in Victoria

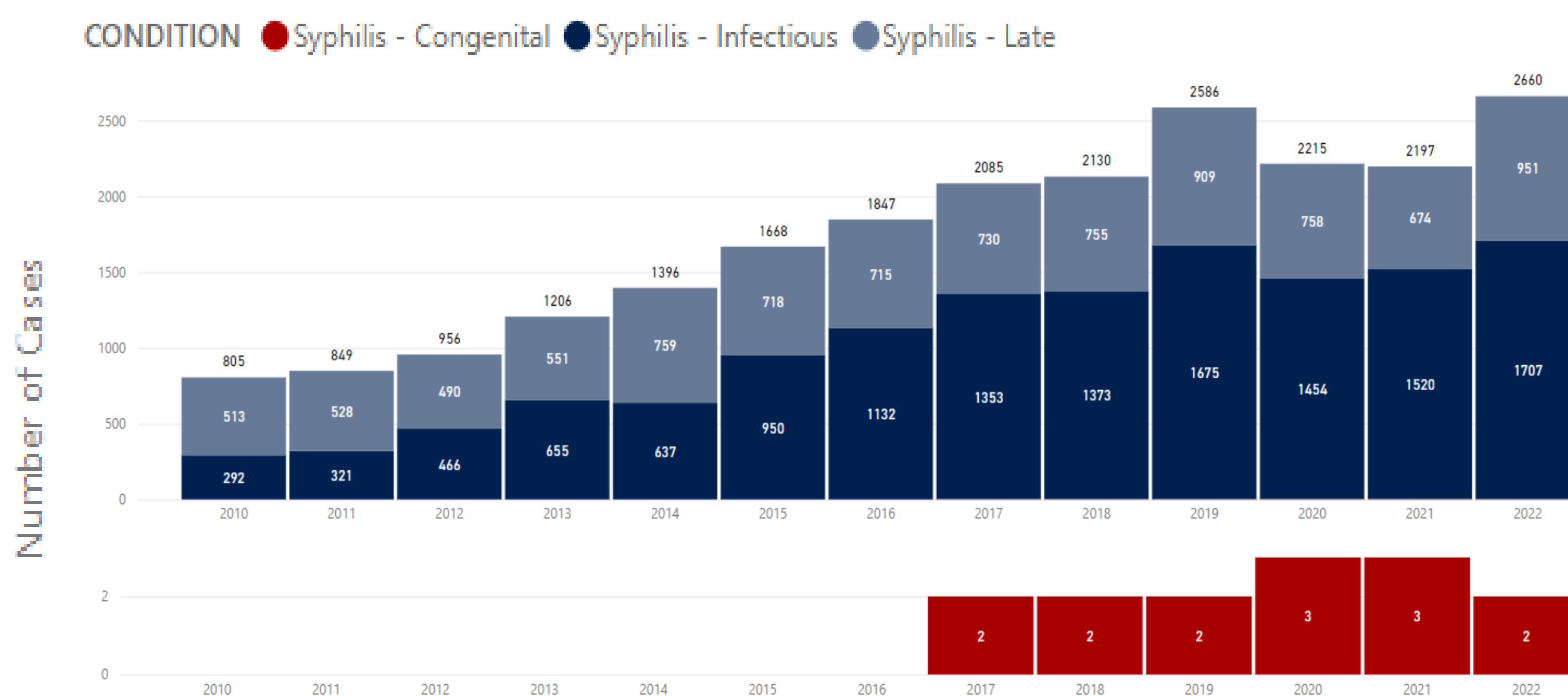
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– Department of Health, Victoria



## BACKGROUND

Victoria has seen a significant rise in the number of cases of both infectious and late syphilis reported to the state's Department of Health (DH) in the past decade.

While males, particularly those who identify as MSM (men who have sex with men), continue to represent most reported cases, shifts in syphilis transmission networks have resulted in increased infections among heterosexual men and women. Consequently, in 2017, congenital syphilis re-emerged in the state.



Syphilis notifications in Victoria 2010–2022

## OUTCOME

As part of a multipronged response to syphilis in Victoria, DH developed a pilot syphilis register, the *Syphilis Enhanced Case Management Database* (the Database).

The Database was built as a Microsoft Azure Databricks Dashboard (shown: left).

Data is sourced from Victoria's notification surveillance system (PHESS) and provides a summary list of testing and treatment history report for all positive syphilis cases statewide.

It is currently being trialled internally (DH) by public health and partner notification officers.

Person ID First name Last name DOB

(All) Ab Cd (All)

**Person details**

First name:	Ab
Middle name:	
Last name:	Cd
Birth date:	01/01/1990
Postcode:	3999
Death date:	null
Person ID:	123567890
Sex:	Male

**Syphilis events**

Event date	PHESS ID	Person ID	Condition	Classification	Identified gender	Aboriginal and Torres Strai
13-01-2023	320231111111	123567890	Syphilis - Infectious	Confirmed	NULL	Not Aboriginal or Torres Str
15-02-2021	320212222222	123567890	Syphilis - Infectious	Confirmed	NULL	Not Aboriginal or Torres Str
26-04-2013	320133333333	123567890	Syphilis - Infectious	Confirmed	NULL	Not Aboriginal or Torres Str
09-08-2011	320114444444	123567890	Syphilis - Infectious	Confirmed	NULL	Not Aboriginal or Torres Str

**Laboratory testing history**

PHESS ID	Collection date	Test date	Lab number	Specimen	Test type	Result	Value	Laboratory
320231111111	12-01-2023	13-01-2023		Blood - venous	Rapid Plasma Reagin test (RPR)	Reactive	R128	Victorian Infectious Diseases Refer
320231111111	12-01-2023	13-01-2023		Blood - venous	Treponema pallidum Ab [Presence] in Serum by Immunoassay	Reactive		Victorian Infectious Diseases Refer
320231111111	12-01-2023	13-01-2023		Blood - venous	Treponema Pallidum Particle Agglutination (TPPA)	Reactive		Victorian Infectious Diseases Refer
320212222222	08-05-2021	10-05-2021		Blood - venous	Treponema Pallidum Particle Agglutination (TPPA)	Reactive		Victorian Infectious Diseases Refer
320212222222	08-05-2021	10-05-2021		Blood - venous	Treponema pallidum Ab [Presence] in Serum by Immunoassay	Reactive		Victorian Infectious Diseases Refer
320212222222	08-05-2021	10-05-2021		Blood - venous	Rapid Plasma Reagin test (RPR)	Reactive	64	Victorian Infectious Diseases Refer
320212222222	08-02-2021	10-02-2021		Blood - venous	Rapid Plasma Reagin test (RPR)	Reactive	128	Dorevitch Pathology
320133333333	28-11-2020	28-11-2020		Blood - venous	Rapid Plasma Reagin test (RPR)	Non-reactive		Victorian Infectious Diseases Refer

**Treatment history**

PHESS ID	source_event_ids	Adequately treated?	Treated with	Treatment date	Dose 1 date	Dose 2 date	Dose 3 date
320231111111		Yes	Benzathine penicillin G 1.8g IM single dose	17-01-2023			
320212222222		Yes	Benzathine penicillin G 1.8g IM single dose	20-20-2021			
320133333333		Yes	Benzathine penicillin G 1.8g IM single dose	01-05-2013			
320114444444		Yes	Doxycycline 100mg twice daily for 14 days	12-08-2011			

## NEXT STEPS

The Database will be rolled out to Victorian Local Public Health Units in 2023 to support public health follow-up of syphilis cases.

Following further consideration of regulatory and legal requirements, access options and future resourcing, the Database will subsequently be made available to clinicians to optimise care and assist in correct staging and treatment of syphilis patients across Victoria.

## CONTACTS

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