

## Gonorrhoea and syphilis among heterosexuals in Australia

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IUSTI AP Sexual Health Congress 2018 | Auckland | 3 November 2018



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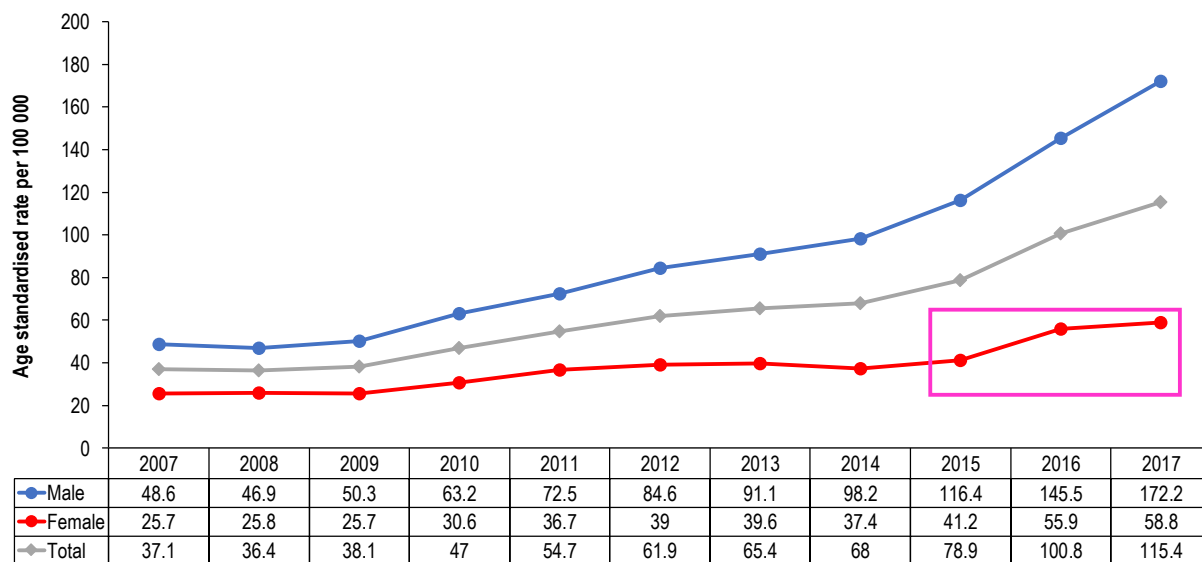
## Gonorrhoea notification rate, by sex



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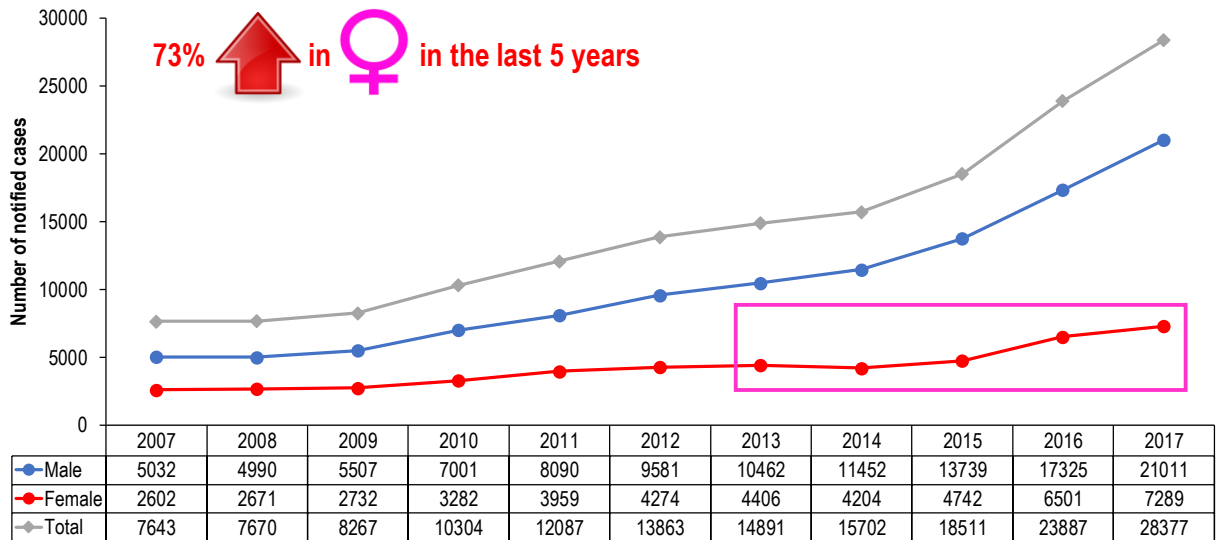
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Source: Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

# Gonorrhoea notified cases, by sex



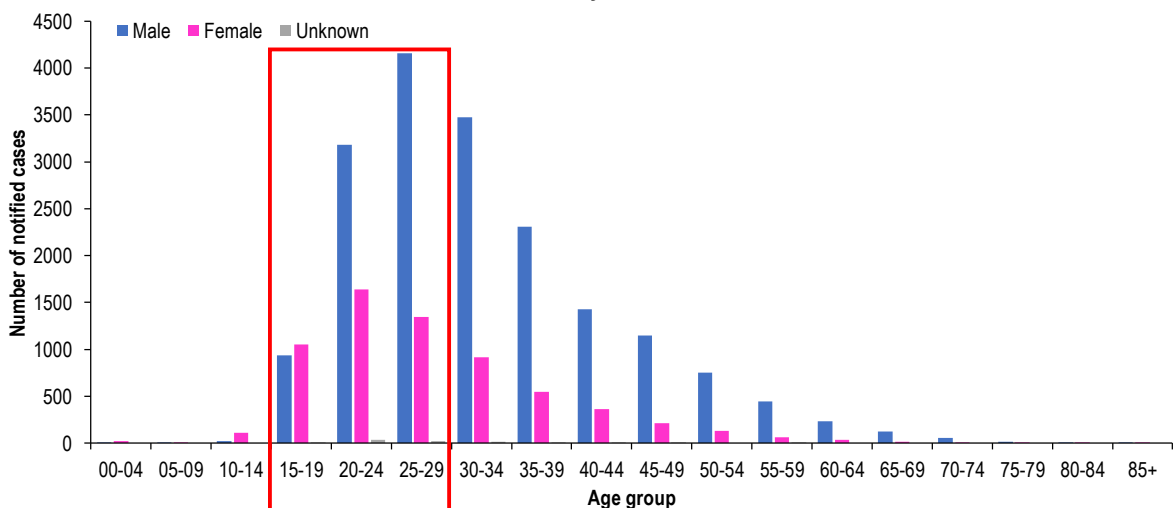
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Source: Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

# Gonorrhoea cases, by age



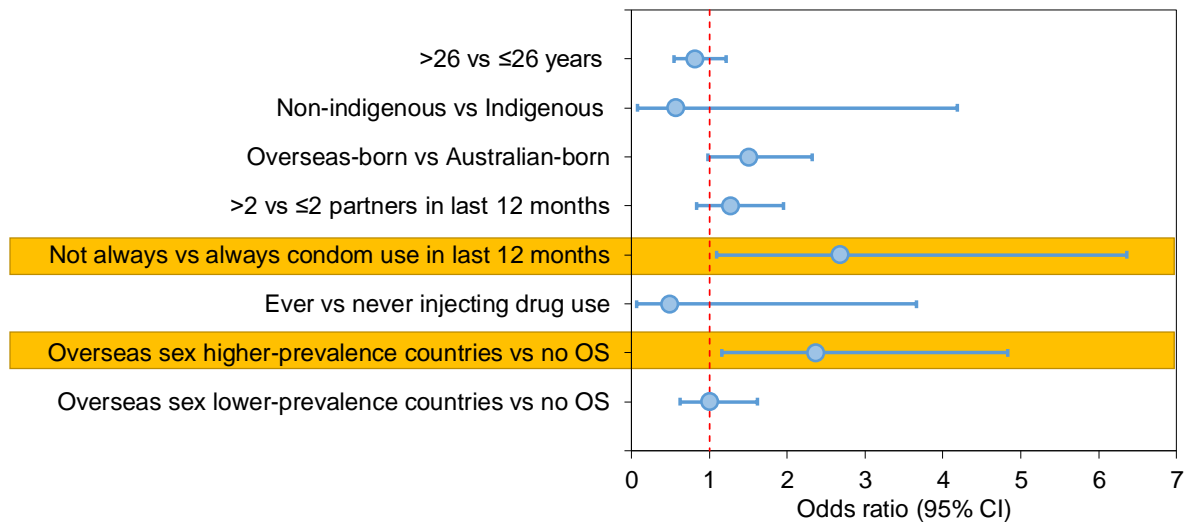
2018 January – October



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Source: Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

# Risk factors?

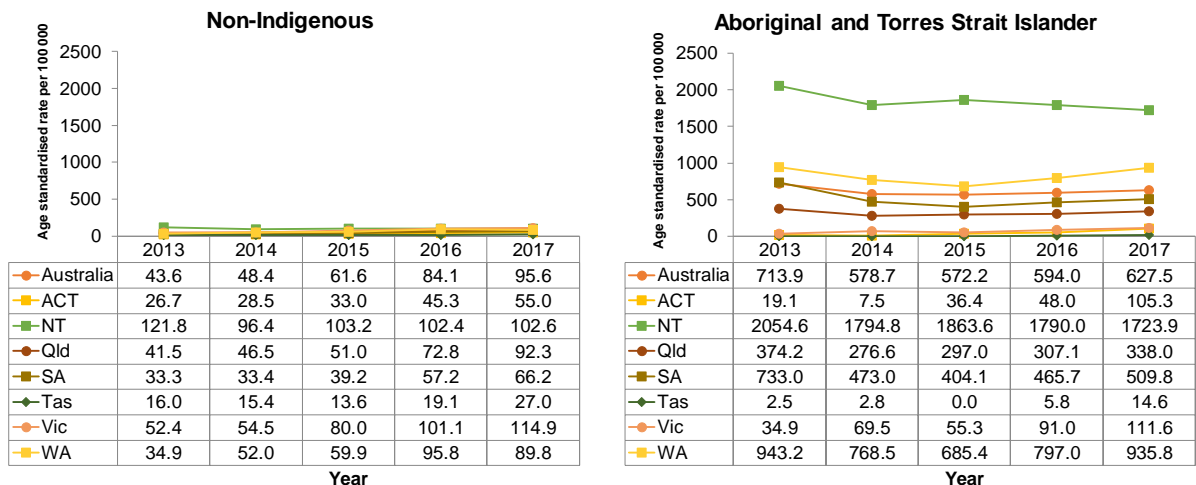


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Source: MSHC unpublished data. Misson (Under Review)

## Gonorrhoea, by ATSI status

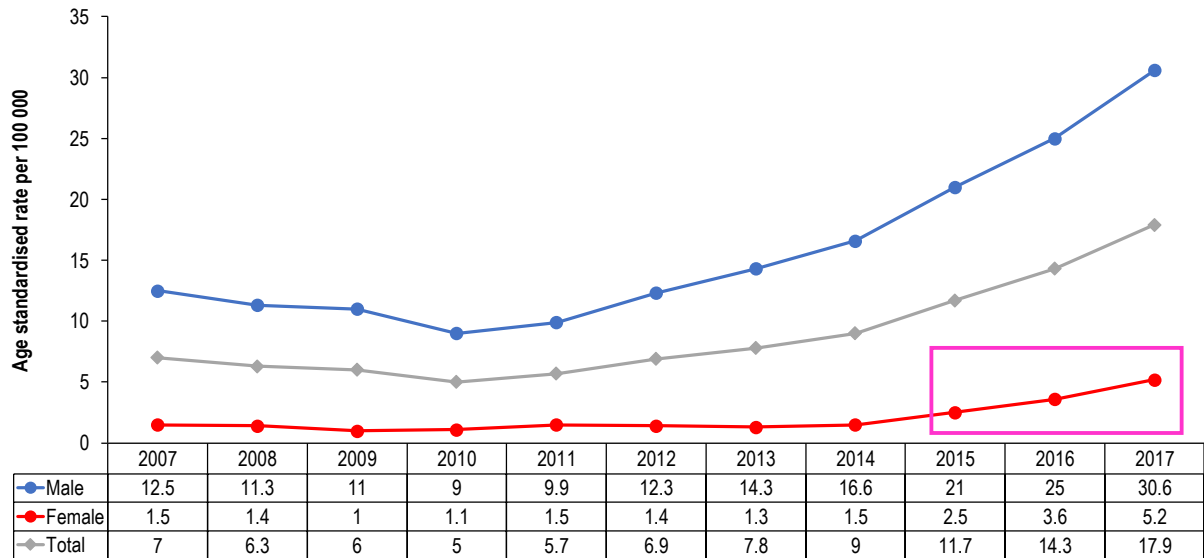
Gonorrhoea notification rate per 1000 000 population, 2013–2017, by state/ territory and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status



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Source: Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

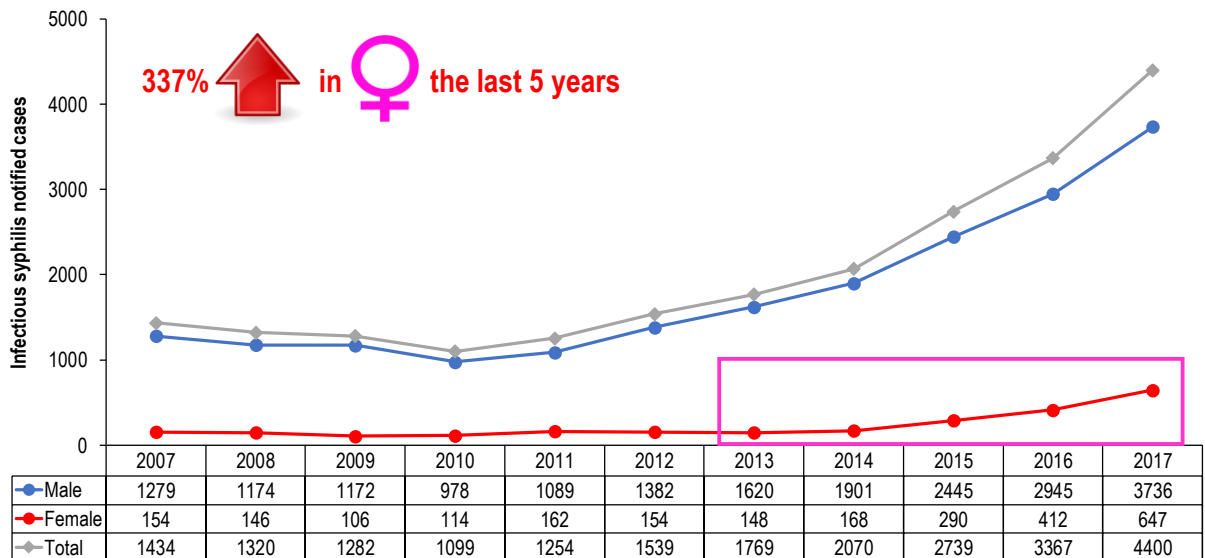
# Infectious syphilis rate, by sex



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Source: Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

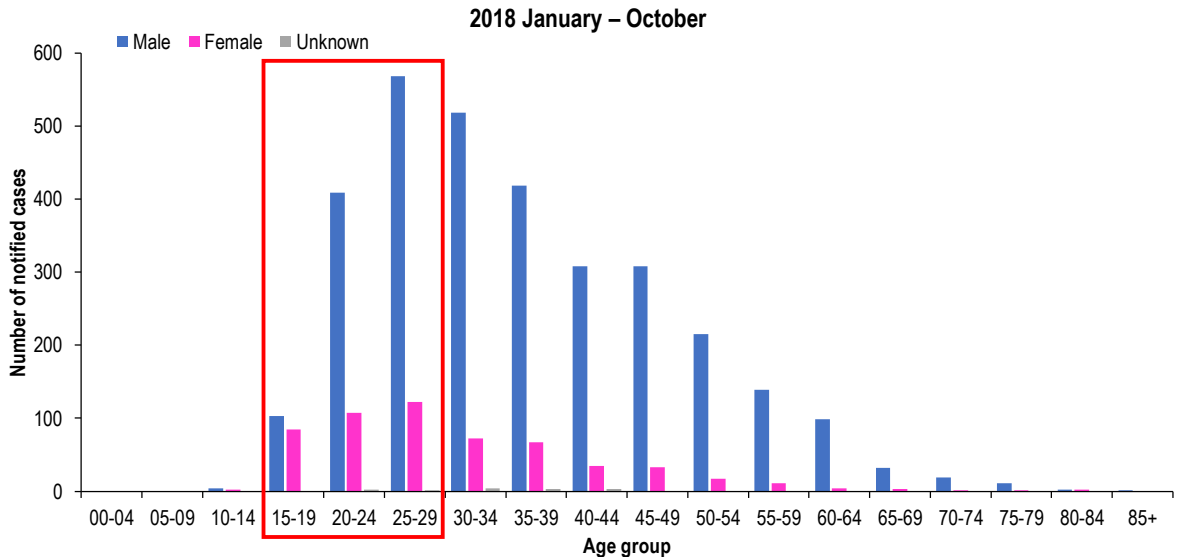
# Infectious syphilis cases, by sex



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Source: Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

# Infectious syphilis cases, by age



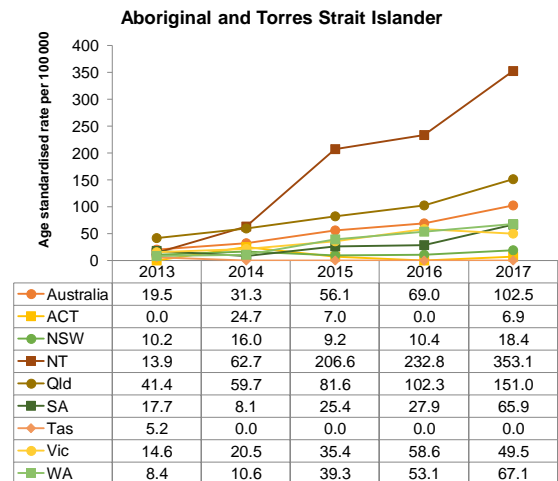
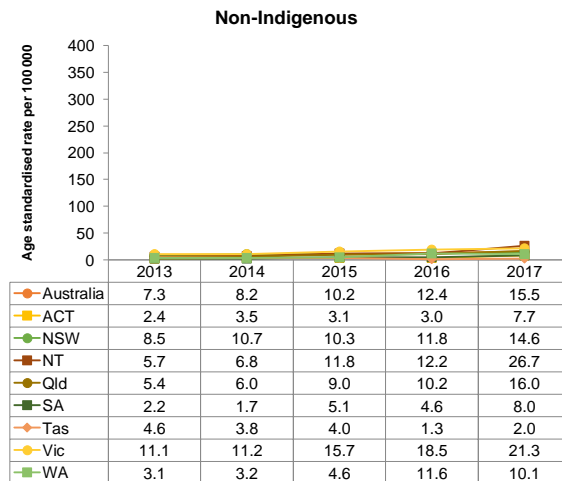
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Source: Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

# Infectious syphilis, by ATSI status



Infectious syphilis notifications per 100 000 population, 2013–2017, state /territory and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status



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Source: Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

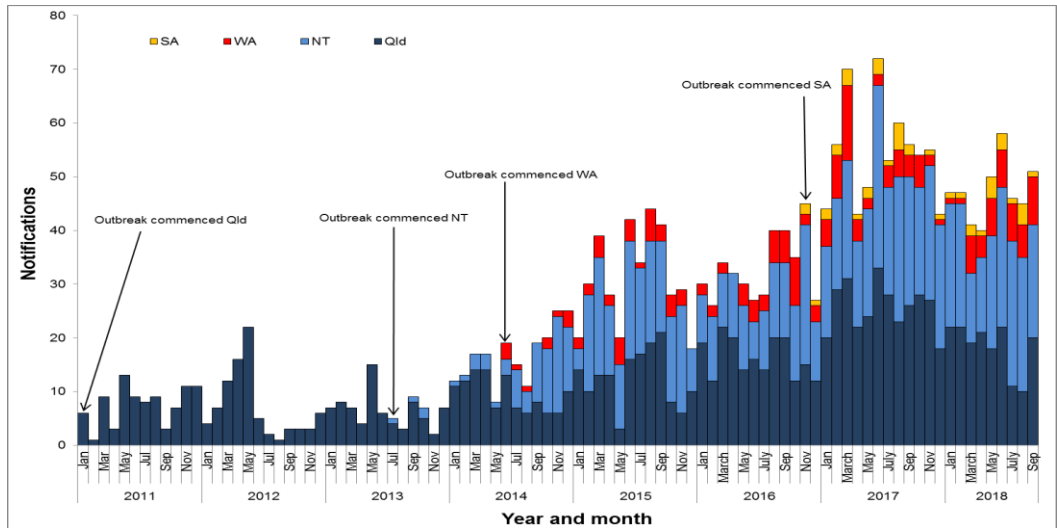
# Syphilis outbreak: Indigenous population

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- Females
- 15-29 yrs

**Figure 1.** Epidemic curve showing category 1 infectious syphilis<sup>a</sup> outbreak cases notified in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing in affected regions<sup>b</sup> of Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia from commencement of the outbreak in each jurisdiction to 30 September 2018<sup>c</sup>



Source: Department of Health Surveillance Report October 2018

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## Congenital syphilis

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### Sixth infant dies from congenital syphilis amid outbreak in northern Queensland

By political reporter Dan Conifer  
Updated 3 Mar 2018, 12:24pm

**A sixth infant has died from congenital syphilis amid a devastating outbreak of the disease in parts of remote Australia.**

The young children have all died in Queensland, where the spate of cases emerged in 2011.

Department of Health official Sharon Appleyard told Senate Estimates that six of 13 infants with reported cases of congenital syphilis had died.

The latest death occurred in northern Queensland in January.

The sexually transmitted infection can be passed from a mother to her baby during pregnancy.



**PHOTO:** *Treponema pallidum*, the bacteria that cause syphilis, can cause miscarriages and stillbirths. (Flickr: NIAID)

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# Congenital syphilis



## South Australian baby born with syphilis for first time in 18 years

Madeline Cox | October 29, 2018



Although easily treatable - many pregnant women could be unknowingly passing the deadly infection onto their unborn babies.



It has been revealed that a newborn fell victim to the terrifying syphilis outbreak sweeping the nation.

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## Pregnant women syphilis screening call as first Victorian congenital cases for 14 years emerge

PREGNANT women are spreading syphilis to their children with the first reported cases in Victoria 14 years, as incidents of the sexually transmitted infection increase across the state.

Byrigid O'Connell

Herald Sun AUGUST 9, 2018 6:06PM



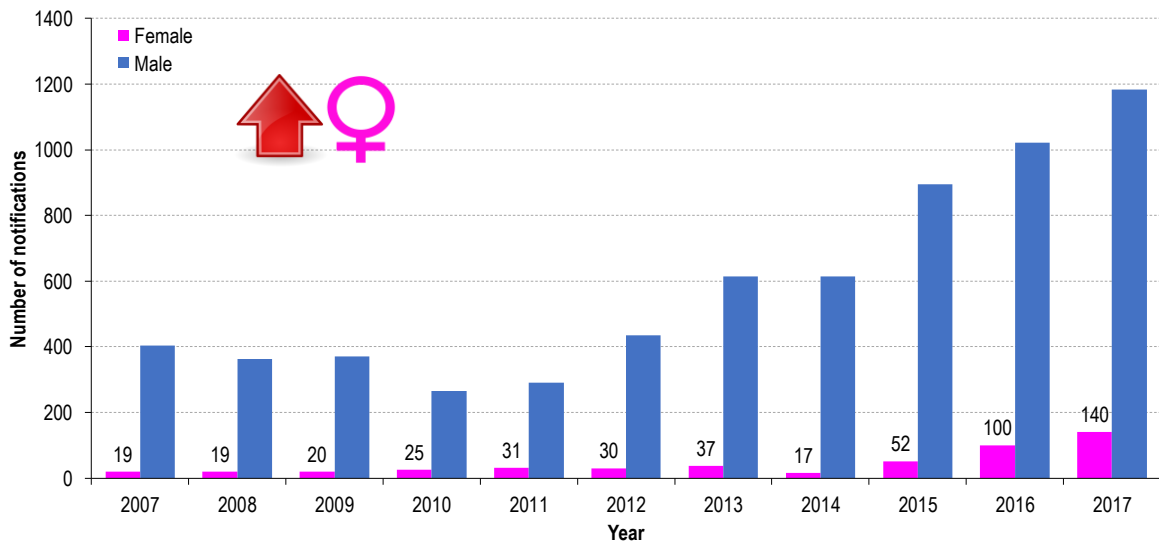
Pregnant women are spreading syphilis to their children. Genetic picture. Source Getty Images

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# Infectious syphilis cases in Victoria



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## Victoria's responses



- Doctors were issued a health advisory warning from the Department of Health in early August 2018, urging them to screen all risk groups — including women of reproductive age and pregnant women.

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### Unborn baby's death from syphilis prompts call for Victorian women to be tested

By Danny Tran  
Updated 9 Aug 2018, 6:53pm

The death of an unborn baby in-utero from syphilis has prompted Victorian health authorities to call for all women of childbearing age, including those who are pregnant, to be urgently tested for syphilis.

Gay and bisexual Victorians, as well as straight people with multiple sexual partners, are also being told to get screened.

It comes as the state's chief health officer revealed that the number of Victorians diagnosed with syphilis reached record highs last year, with 1,337 people contracting the infectious sexual disease.

**PHOTO:** Women who are pregnant or of childbearing age are being told to get screened for syphilis. (AAP)

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## Acknowledgment



### Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

### The Kirby Institute



Kit Fairley



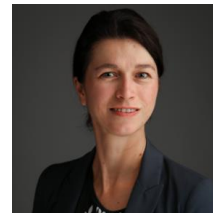
Marcus Chen



Ian Denham



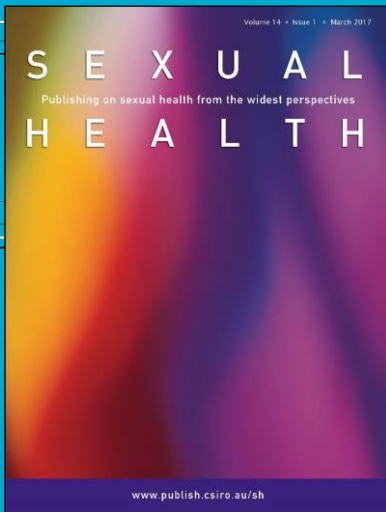
Jennifer Misson



Rebecca Guy

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# Call for Papers

*Gonorrhoea: tackling the global epidemic in the era of rising antimicrobial resistance*

Guest Editors: Eric Chow (Australia), Jason Ong (UK), Deborah Williamson (Australia), Philippe Mayaud (UK), Gwenda Hughes (UK), Teodora Wi (Switzerland)

A CSIRO PUBLISHING JOURNAL  
[www.publish.csiro.au/sh](http://www.publish.csiro.au/sh)

Submission deadline: 1 December 2018

Contact Jason Ong: [jong@mshc.org.au](mailto:jong@mshc.org.au)

