

Communicable Diseases and Infection Control Updates

What's New

[New infographic: Tuberculosis Disease in Canada, 2023](#)

A summary of national tuberculosis (TB) surveillance data for 2023 is presented in this infographic. In 2023, there were 2,217 cases of TB reported in Canada. This corresponds to an incidence of 5.5 cases per 100,000. The incidence and distribution of TB among priority populations is presented, including Inuit, First Nations, and persons born outside of Canada. TB drug resistance patterns in Canada are also highlighted. In 2023, TB drug resistance was low and consistent with trends observed in the past decade.

[New infographic: Infectious syphilis and congenital syphilis in Canada, 2023](#)

The 2023 syphilis infographic provides an update to syphilis epidemiology in Canada. In particular, it presents the number of reported cases and rates of infectious syphilis by sex, age, and province and territory. It also presents the number of reported cases and rates of congenital syphilis in comparison to infectious syphilis rates among females aged 15-39 years and the number of reported cases and rates of confirmed early congenital syphilis by province and territory. It is accompanied by a text-based description that provides more details on epidemiological trends.

Recent publications on [syphilis epidemiology](#) and [risk factors](#)

Two articles on congenital syphilis were published by the journal *Frontiers in Public Health* in January 2025.

[Rising congenital syphilis rates in Canada, 1993-2022](#), by Ashorkor Tetteh, Nadifa Abdi, Victoria Moore, and Geneviève Gravel, focuses on surveillance trends in early congenital syphilis in Canada from 1993 to 2022.

[The rise of congenital syphilis in Canada: threats and opportunities](#), by Ashorkor Tetteh and Victoria Moore, focuses on a literature review of factors explaining the rising congenital syphilis rates in Canada over the past 7 years as well as an environmental scan of promising programs and initiatives responding to the rising rates.

Both articles use the most recent data and literature on syphilis and represent the most recent epidemiological portrait of syphilis nationally and across provinces and territories.

[Recent statement on syphilis from the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health](#)

The Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health (CCMOH) has issued a statement during Sexual Health Week highlighting the rise in Syphilis and other STBBI in Canada. They call on health professionals and public health partners to enhance prevention efforts, ensure timely testing and treatment for syphilis, and improve access to culturally safe care, while also addressing the social and structural factors driving the increase in STBBI rates.

[Explore our syphilis and sexual health toolkit](#)

PHAC has developed a range of syphilis and sexual health resources aimed at supporting community groups, Indigenous communities, post-secondary schools, and health professionals. Digital versions of these resources can be accessed through our syphilis and sexual health toolkit.

More information on these campaigns, including how to take charge of your sexual health, can be found at Canada.ca/STI and Canada.ca/syphilis. These webpages serve as a centralized resource with information to promote sexual health and raise awareness about syphilis.

[Recording available: Condoms and beyond: Comprehensive STBBI prevention strategies for all](#)

View the recording of the most recent CDIC webinar. Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights, Native Youth Sexual Health Network, and the Public Health Agency of Canada explore the current range of sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) prevention methods, including condoms, while examining how the conversation around their use are evolving.

[National treatment recommendations for uncomplicated gonorrhoea infections in adults and adolescents](#)

Over time, treatment of gonorrhoea has been complicated by the ability of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to develop antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Optimal treatment is important to prevent long-term complications, decrease transmission, and slow the emergence and spread of AMR. In light of this, the National Advisory Committee on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (NAC-STBBI) has developed interim treatment recommendations for uncomplicated gonorrhoea infections. Final recommendations will be available after the completion of a review currently underway. Check out the

updates within the [Gonorrhea Guide: Treatment and follow-up](#) to learn more! The updates will also be integrated into the CDN STBBI Guidelines mobile application (available on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#)), which puts the Guides at health professionals' fingertips to readily refer to and implement in clinical care.

[National screening recommendations for chlamydia and gonorrhea for non-pregnant adults and adolescents](#)

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are two of the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted infections in Canada, with rates increasing steadily over the last decade. Given the high rates of asymptomatic infection, the increasing rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea infections are more difficult to control. In light of this, the National Advisory Committee on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (NAC-STBBI) has updated screening recommendations for chlamydia and gonorrhea for non-pregnant adults and adolescents. Check out the updates within the [Chlamydia and LGV Guide: Screening and diagnostic testing](#) and the [Gonorrhea Guide: Screening and diagnostic testing](#) to learn more! The updates will also be integrated into the CDN STBBI Guidelines mobile application (available on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#)), which puts the Guides at health professionals' fingertips to readily refer to and implement in clinical care.

[New Infographic: Viral hepatitis estimates among key populations in Canada, 2021](#)

Hepatitis B and C disproportionately affect certain populations and communities. Check out our newly published infographic for a breakdown of Canada's estimated prevalence among key populations.

[Pan-Canadian Hepatitis C Elimination Meeting Report](#)

This report highlights key themes and recommendations for policy, practice and programs that emerged from a pan-Canadian meeting on hepatitis C elimination. It identifies opportunities at the health system and policy levels, as well as programming and implementation levels, to ensure making meaningful progress toward eliminating hepatitis C as a public health threat by 2030.

What's Coming

[Register now: Addressing rising syphilis rates among women in Canada](#)

Presented in partnership with CATIE, we invite you to attend a webinar on *Addressing rising syphilis rates among women in Canada* on March 3rd at 1pm ET. The session will examine the social determinants of health, systemic barriers to care, and intersecting

forms of discrimination that drive the epidemic. The speakers will discuss current and historic trends across national and regional contexts, including the similarly steep increase in congenital syphilis, which occurs when the infection is passed to a fetus during pregnancy.

[Register now for the upcoming World Tuberculosis \(TB\) Day webinar, Advancing early TB detection & care: Public health & clinical insights!](#)

Join the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) in commemorating the upcoming World Tuberculosis (TB) Day at our webinar on March 18th from 1-2pm ET.

During this webinar, you'll have the opportunity to learn about the latest public health approaches to screening and detecting TB disease and infection at the community-level, and gain a better understanding of the clinical diagnosis, treatment, and management of TB infection.

The presenters will include Dr. Tiffany Locke, Medical Advisor in the Infection Prevention and Surveillance Division at PHAC, and Dr. Ryan Cooper, Infectious Disease Physician with Alberta Health Services.

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