

Increasing Cases of Syphilis Among Those Who Use Methamphetamines and Heroin

Health Care Provider Advisory | March 4, 2019



Public Health
MADISON & DANE COUNTY

Healthy people. Healthy places.

Rising rates of syphilis are linked to opioid and methamphetamine use.

[New research](#) shows that between 2013 and 2017, rates of syphilis increased 75% overall and 156% among women.

As a result, the CDC recommends syphilis screening for those seeking substance use disorder services.

- We are asking our partners in the AODA community to offer syphilis and other sexually transmitted infection screening to persons seeking treatment, on admission.
- PHMDC has a sexual health clinic, which is able to assist in testing and treatment of syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections, at low or no cost, to individuals in Dane County.

<http://publichealthmdc.com/health-services/sexual-health>

For questions on our clinic services please contact us at:

608-243-0411

8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday -Friday

What is syphilis?

Syphilis is a bacterial infection transmitted through oral, anal or vaginal sex.

Symptoms are transient and often mild or unnoticeable.

It is curable in its early stages, but left untreated, can cause irreversible organ damage.

Pregnant women who develop syphilis pass the infection to the fetus, causing stillbirths or birth defects.

More Information

- MMWR Report, February 15, 2019/ 68(6); 144-148: Increased Methamphetamine, Injection Drug, and Heroin Use Among Women and Heterosexual Men with Primary and Secondary Syphilis-United States, 2013-2017
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6806a4.htm?s_cid=mm6806a4_e
- CDC fact sheet about syphilis
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/stdfact-syphilis.htm>