

## Syphilis Trends Epi Summary, King County 2016-2021\*

Cases among cisgender men who have sex with men (MSM), cisgender men who have sex with women (MSW), cisgender women, pregnant cases, and congenital cases

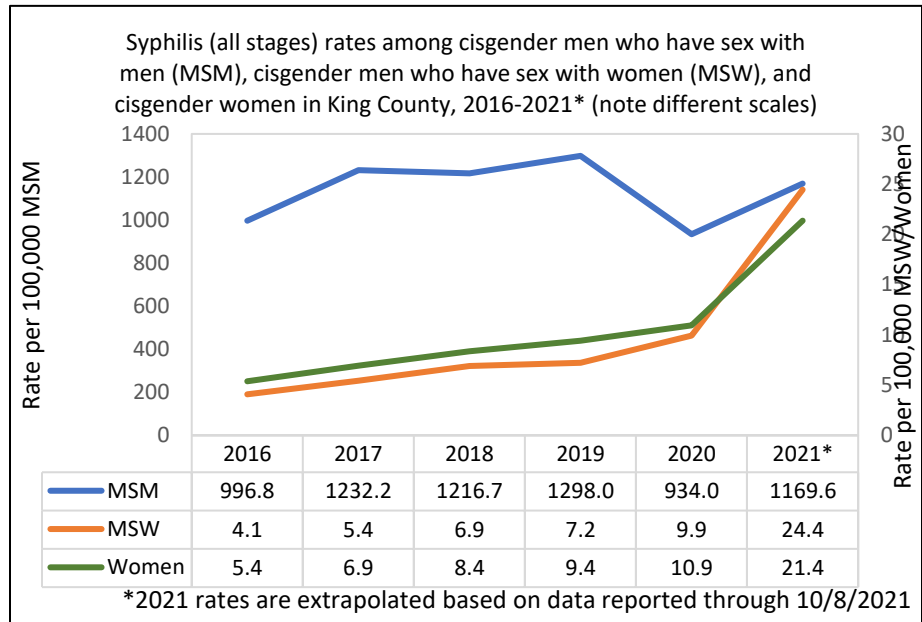
\*2021 data includes data reported through 10/8/2021

### Syphilis (all stages)

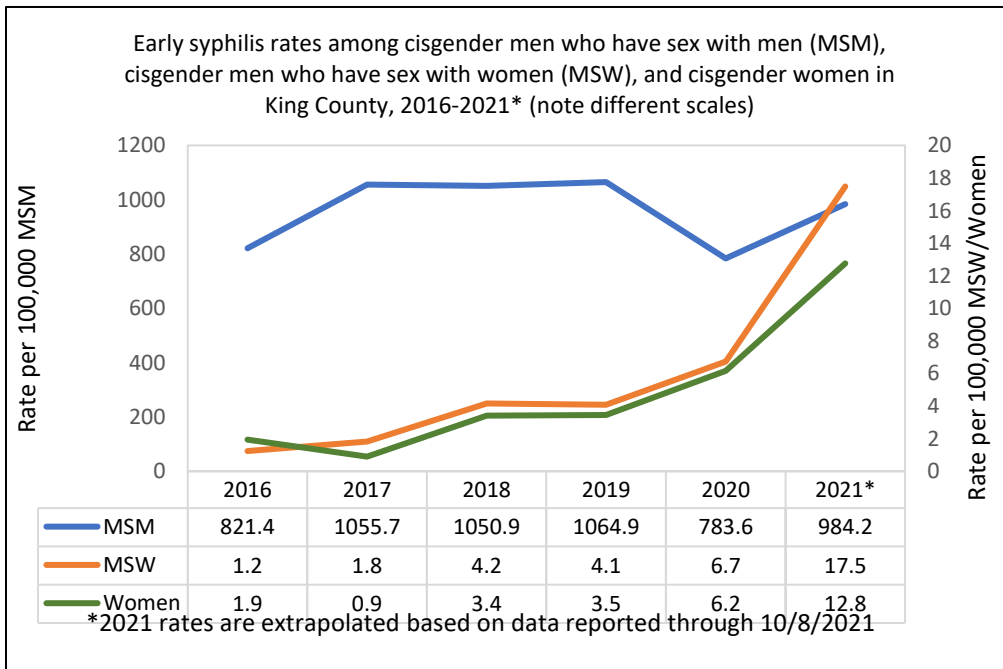
The rate of syphilis among cisgender men who have sex with women (MSW) and cisgender women has been gradually increasing since 2016. Over the last year, that increase has accelerated.

Extrapolating from cases reported as of 10/8/21, the estimated syphilis rate among cisgender MSW in 2021 will be six times higher than it was in 2016 and 2.5 times higher than it was in 2020. To date, 161 cases have been reported among MSW in 2021 compared to 33 in 2016 and 87 in 2020. Among cisgender women, the extrapolated 2021 rate is four times higher than the rate in 2016 and two

times higher than in 2020. As of October 2021, 151 cases have been reported in women compared to 47 cases in all of 2016 and 103 in 2020. The rate among cisgender MSM is close to 50 times higher than the rate among cisgender MSW or cisgender women and is at or near an historic high, though it has decreased somewhat since 2019.



### Early Syphilis (includes primary, secondary, and early non-primary, non-secondary stages)



Early syphilis refers to cases in which infected persons have symptoms or recent negative laboratory tests that establish that they acquired their infection within the prior year. In some instances, monitoring early cases gives Public Health a more accurate sense of recent trends in infection. Early syphilis rates among cisgender MSW and cisgender women have increased substantially since 2016. Among cisgender MSW, the extrapolated 2021 rate is over 14 times higher than the 2016 rate. The number of early syphilis cases increased from 10 in 2016 to 115 reported to date in 2021. Among cisgender women, the extrapolated 2021 rate is 6.6 times higher than

the 2016 rate. Cases increased from 17 in 2016 to 90 in 2021 reported as of October 14, 2021. The rate of early syphilis among cisgender MSM is over 50 times higher than among MSW or women, though like all stage syphilis, it has declined somewhat since 2019.

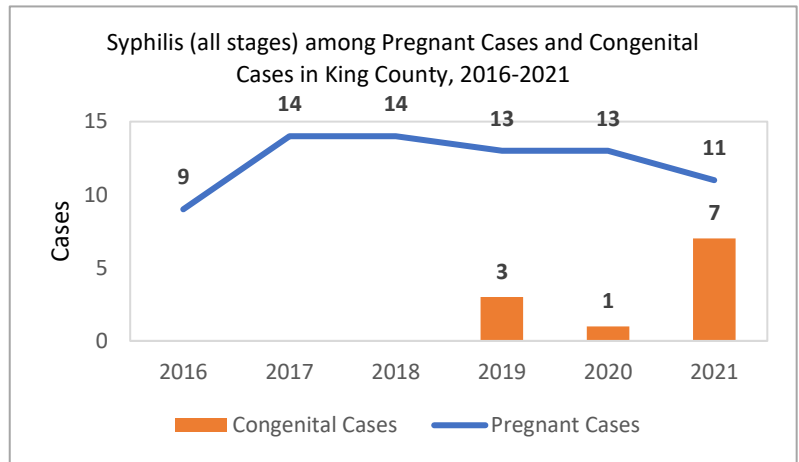
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#### Congenital Syphilis and Pregnant Syphilis Cases

Although overall syphilis cases have increased, the number of syphilis cases among pregnant persons was relatively stable from 2016 to 2021. However, the congenital syphilis cases have increased over this period. No cases of congenital syphilis were reported in King County from 2016 to 2018, three cases were reported in 2019, and one was reported in 2020. So far in 2021, seven congenital cases have been reported. Among the 11 cases of syphilis occurring in pregnant persons in 2021, 6 occurred in persons who were living unhoused, used methamphetamine and/or opiates, and/or engaged in exchanged sex.



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#### Cases Interviewed for Partner Services

Syphilis (all stages) cases interviewed for partner services among cisgender men who have sex with men (MSM), cisgender men who have sex with women (MSW), and cisgender women, King County 2020-2021						
Characteristics	Population					
	MSM		MSW		Women	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total Interviewed	318	100%	126	100%	134	100%
Unhoused	16	5%	29	23%	36	27%
Injection Drug Use	11	3%	6	5%	16	12%
Methamphetamine Use	48	15%	24	19%	39	29%
Region of Patient Residence						
East	27	8%	8	6%	13	10%
North	14	4%	5	4%	5	4%
Seattle	190	60%	48	38%	45	34%
South	83	26%	58	46%	65	49%
Missing	4	1%	7	6%	6	4%
Race/ethnicity						
White	147	46%	34	27%	54	40%
Black	36	11%	50	40%	25	19%
Native American/Alaska Native	3	1%	2	2%	3	2%
Asian	25	8%	10	8%	10	7%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	1%	1	1%	2	1%
Multiracial	9	3%	5	4%	9	7%
Other/Unknown	16	5%	12	10%	8	6%
Hispanic	78	25%	12	10%	23	17%
Age						
15-19	8	3%	0	0%	9	7%
20-24	43	14%	12	10%	21	16%
25-29	65	20%	18	14%	19	14%
30-34	68	21%	24	19%	32	24%
35-44	65	20%	34	27%	36	27%
45-54	41	13%	20	16%	15	11%
>=55	28	9%	18	14%	2	1%