

Syphilis in Wyoming

2017

Syphilis is a bacterial infection spread through unprotected oral, anal, and vaginal sex. People who should be screened for syphilis include men who have sex with men, those with HIV infection, pregnant women, those who have had sexual contact with someone who is infected, and those with symptoms consistent with infection.

Syphilis has multiple stages of infection that are defined by the presence or absence of certain symptoms.

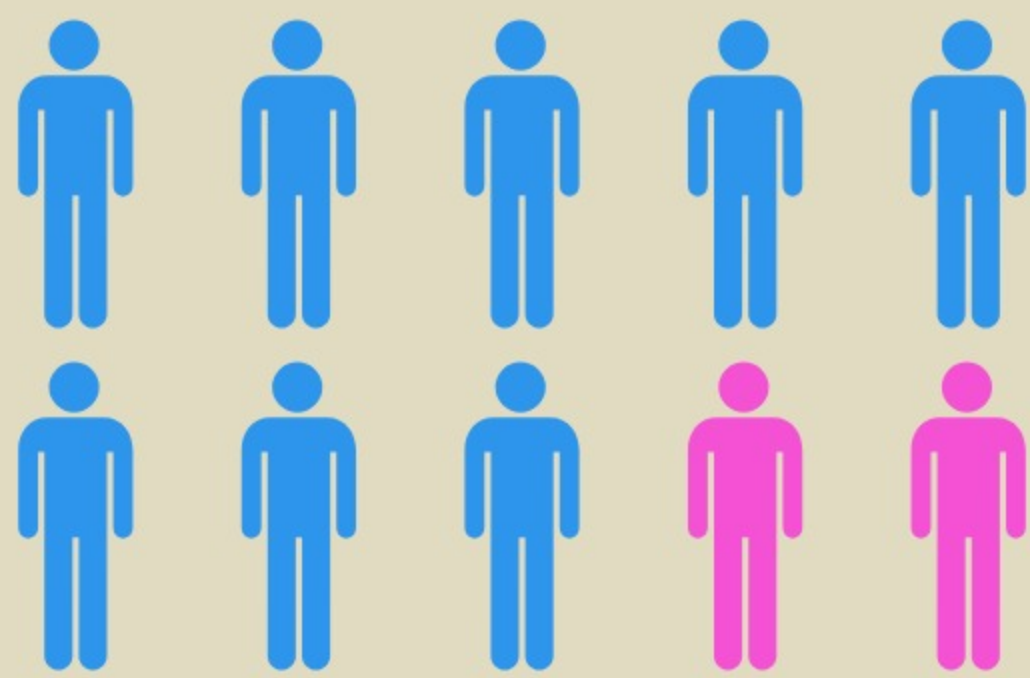
Primary Syphilis: This stage is defined by a painless sore at the area of infection called a chancre. The chancre appears within 90 days of infection and can last up to five weeks. This symptom will resolve on its own but does not mean the infection is cured.

Secondary Syphilis: This stage is defined by a rash - usually on the hands and feet, hair loss, swollen lymph nodes, or mucous patches in the mouth. Secondary symptoms can appear while the chancre is still present up to 10 weeks after infection. These symptoms can last up to six weeks and will also resolve on their own.

Latent Syphilis: During latent syphilis, no symptoms are present but the bacteria are still in your body. Early latent syphilis occurs within the first twelve months of infection. Late latent syphilis occurs after the first twelve months of infection and can last for years.

Tertiary Syphilis: Tertiary syphilis is rare and occurs in those who are not treated. Tertiary syphilis can affect multiple organs such as the heart, eyes, brain, blood vessels, and nerves. Tertiary syphilis can even lead to death.

Neurosyphilis and Ocular Syphilis: Neurosyphilis can occur at any stage of infection and causes a variety of symptoms such as headache, altered behavior, paralysis and other symptoms. Ocular syphilis can also occur at any stage and causes symptoms such as vision changes and blindness.



80% of reported syphilis cases in 2017 were male.

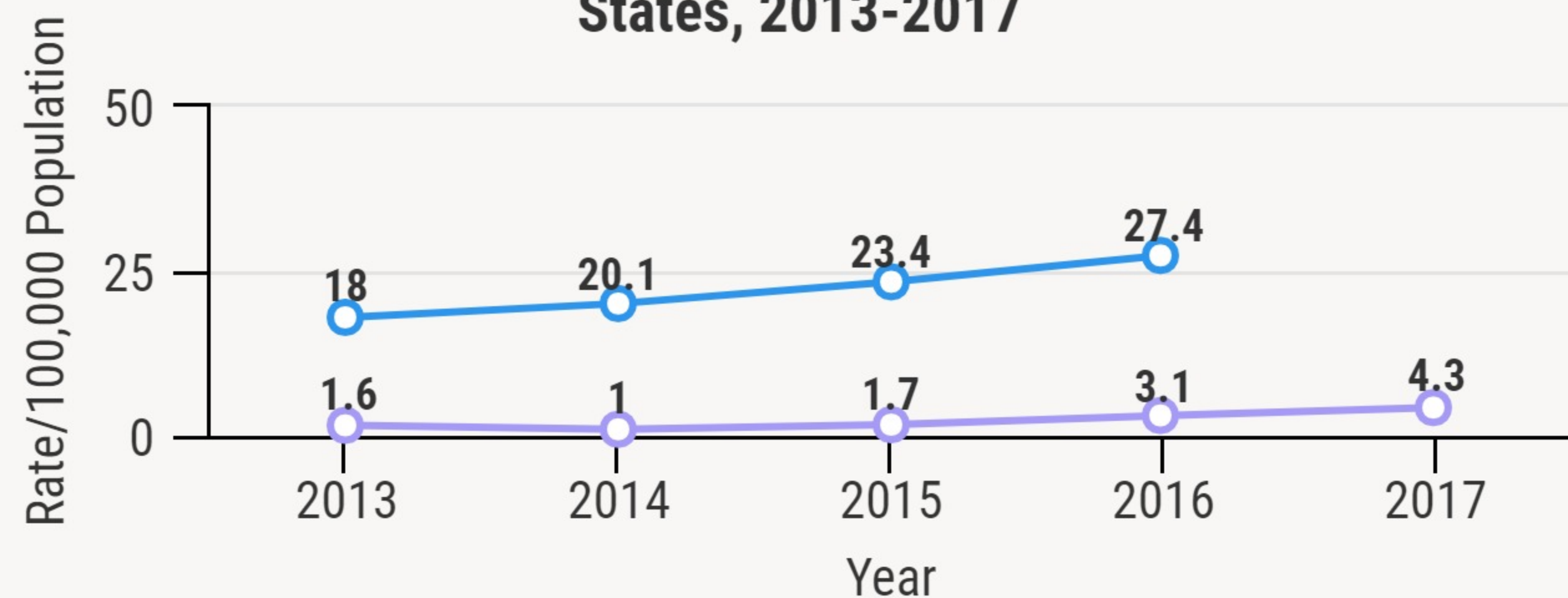
28%

The percentage of people with syphilis reported as primary or secondary syphilis



Men who have sex with men are disproportionately affected by syphilis. Of reported 2017 male cases in Wyoming whose gender of sex partner was known, 50% reported male-to-male sexual contact. In 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 82% of male cases with known sex partner gender were men who had sex with men.

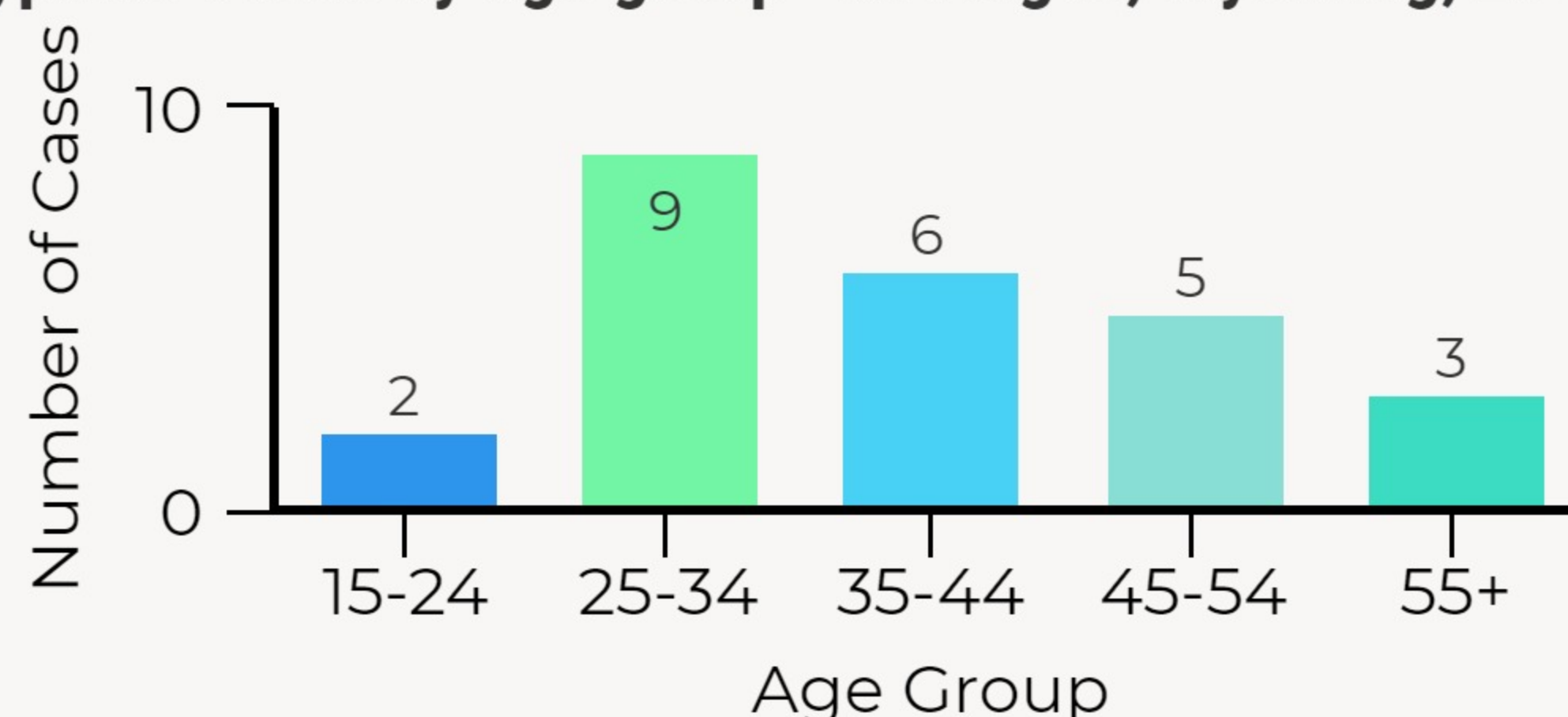
Reported syphilis case rate per 100,000 population - all stages, Wyoming and United States, 2013-2017



○ Wyoming ○ United States

The rate of syphilis in Wyoming increased from 2013 to 2017, mirroring national trends. The rate of syphilis in Wyoming remained lower than the national rate from 2013 to 2016. National data for 2017 are not yet available.

Syphilis cases by age group- all stages, Wyoming, 2017



Most reported syphilis cases were among those aged 25-34 years (36%), followed by those aged 35-44 (24%) and 45-54 (20%).