

THE FACTS ABOUT  
**SYPHILIS**



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BENEATH THE SHEETS

A [GETSTDTESTED.COM](https://www.getstdtested.com) GUIDE

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## THE FACTS ABOUT SYPHILIS

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### **SYPHILIS IS A COMMON STD IN THE UNITED STATES**

Over 45,000 cases of syphilis were reported to the CDC in 2010. However, the actual number of infected people is likely higher since syphilis can go undiagnosed for years. Men who have sex with other men are the largest population at-risk of contracting syphilis.

### **WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?**

Symptoms of syphilis may not present for years, however, infected people can still spread the disease and are at risk of late-stage complications.

Syphilis symptoms are categorized into three stages: primary, secondary and late-stage. During the primary stage, an infected person may develop a chancre—a sore that can appear at the spot of infection (genitals, anus, and/or mouth). The chancre can heal itself within 3–6 weeks with or without; however, the syphilis infection will enter the secondary stage.

In the secondary stage, skin rashes and mucous membrane lesions may develop on the body. Additionally, symptoms may also include fever, swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, weight loss, headaches or patchy hair loss. Similar to the chancre, the symptoms of secondary syphilis can resolve themselves over time with or without treatment before leading to late-stage syphilis.

### **IT GETS COMPLICATED**

Untreated, primary and secondary syphilis infections can develop into late-stage syphilis. Late-stage syphilis can last for years with no visible symptoms. The infected person remains contagious and is susceptible to permanent damage to the internal organs, and possibly even death. Paralysis, dementia, numbness and gradual blindness are just some of the symptoms associated with late-stage syphilis.

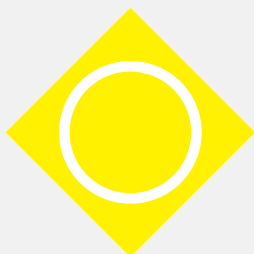
### **HOW DO YOU TREAT IT?**

Get tested regularly! Since symptoms don't always appear, it's important that you get tested regularly—especially if you have a new sexual partner. A syphilis test can be administered by your local health care provider or by a private STD testing service, such as [getSTDtested.com](https://getSTDtested.com). Results from [getSTDtested.com](https://getSTDtested.com) are completely private and hospital-accurate.

Syphilis is curable with a shot of penicillin. If you test with [getSTDtested.com](https://getSTDtested.com), our staff of in-house physicians can direct you to the appropriate treatment options.

## REDUCE YOUR RISK OF CATCHING AND SPREADING SYPHILIS

prevent



test



treat



repeat



### PREVENT

Latex condoms can reduce the risk of syphilis, if the infected area or site of potential exposure is protected. Always use protection, especially with a new partner.

### TEST

If you are sexually active, test regularly. Syphilis can show no symptoms. A syphilis test is available through your local health care provider or through [getSTDtested.com](http://getSTDtested.com).

### TREAT

If you are infected, seek treatment immediately—syphilis can be cured with a shot of penicillin. Tell your partner immediately!

### REPEAT

Make safe sex and STD testing regular habits. Even if you are in a committed relationship, it doesn't hurt to get tested annually—you never know!



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