



Trends in Syphilis in Montana

Key Findings:

- The total number of reported syphilis cases in Montana began increasing in 2017 (Figure 1). In 2022, 617 total cases of syphilis were reported. The last year Montana had greater than 600 total reported cases of syphilis was 1948.

- The rate of total syphilis cases per 100,000 population in Montana increased from 8.5 per 100,000 population in 2017 to 56.9 cases per 100,000 population in 2022 (Figure 2). The last year that Montana had >55.0 total syphilis cases per 100,000 was 1959 (76.0 cases per 100,000).

Figure 1. Reported number of syphilis cases (All stages), Montana, 1919-2022.

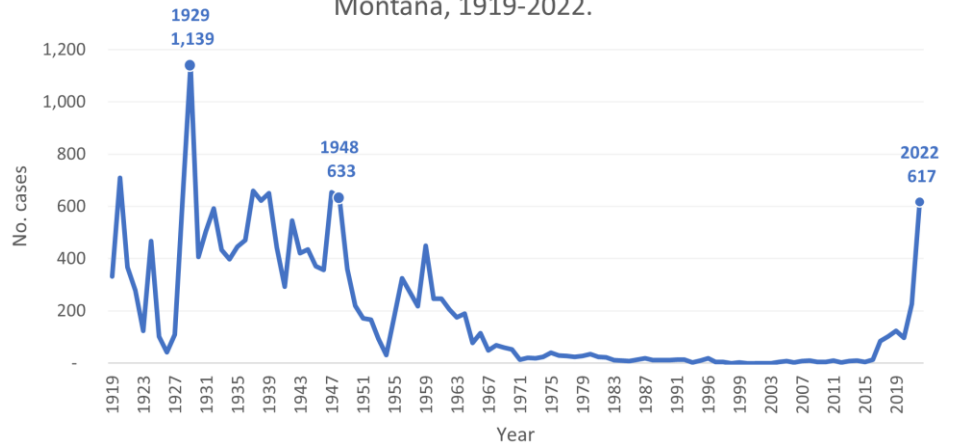
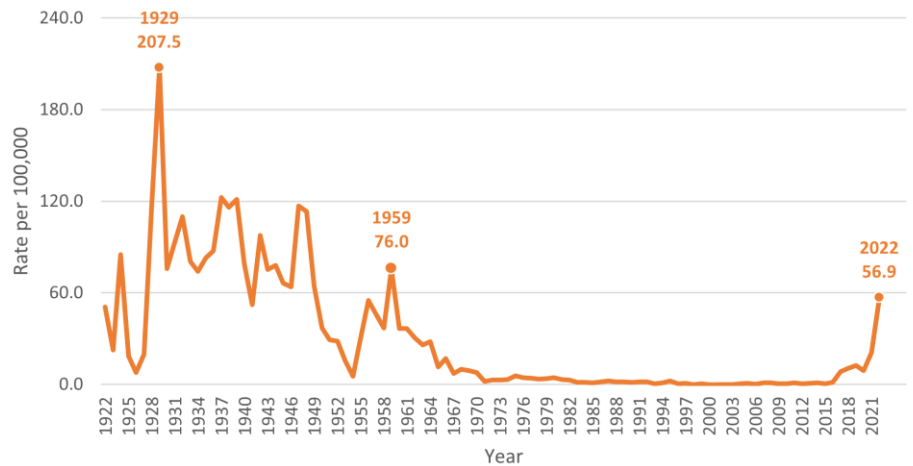


Figure 2. Rate of reported syphilis cases (all stages) per 100,000 population, Montana, 1919-2022.



CONTACT

Todd Harwell, MPH
Public Health and Safety Division
tharwell@mt.gov



Data Sources:

1. Reported cases from 1919 and 1960 are from a Montana State Board of Health table entitled "Selected communicable disease case rates: Montana, 1917 - 60." The table provides the number of cases and rates per year. Information for the reported cases for that time period was also collected from the State of Montana Board of Health Biennial Reports located in the archives of the Montana Historical Society.
2. Reported cases from 1961 and 1980 are from a compilation of tables and notes from Montana State Board of Health statistical reports.
3. Reported cases from 1981 and 2006 are from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) communicable disease summary reports.
4. Total number of syphilis cases reported in Montana from 1984 and 2014 was also compiled from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Wonder online database. Citation: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention (NCHSTP), Division of STD/HIV Prevention, Sexually Transmitted Disease Morbidity 1984-2014, CDC WONDER Online Database. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/std-sex.html>.
5. Reported cases from 2015 and 2022 are from the Montana DPHHS Communicable Disease Control Bureau data systems.
6. Denominator data to calculate the rates per 100,000 population were from the United States Census Bureau. Historical population change data (1910-2020). <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/dec/popchange-data-text.html>. Last updated August 5, 2022.