Syphilis and HIV Co-infection, 1998-2014

What is Co-Infection?
A co-infection of syphilis and HIV is defined as having an HIV diagnosis before or within 30 days of the syphilis diagnosis.

Most co-infection is among young men; co-infection among women is still rare.

Co-infection is most commonly seen among Black/African American men.

Health disparities are complex.
Race and ethnic disparities are caused by many factors, including unequal distribution of social, political, economic, and environmental resources (CDC 2015).
What is being done to decrease syphilis and HIV co-infection?

Decreasing the time to treatment for syphilis

State and local public health agencies are working with medical care providers to make sure people with suspected syphilis are treated as quickly as possible. Current data suggests that there is room for improvement.

People with syphilis symptoms (people with suspected primary or secondary syphilis) should be treated on the same day, without waiting for diagnosis.

Days between doctor visit and treatment for syphilis by syphilis stage in six counties with high incidence rates, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syphilis Stage</th>
<th>Treated within one week</th>
<th>Treated more than one week after testing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Syphilis</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Syphilis</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Latent Syphilis</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What CLINICIANS can do

If you suspect you have syphilis, see a doctor right away. Request appropriate treatment as soon as possible.

Increasing syphilis screening in HIV care settings

In HIV care settings, patients should be screened for syphilis every 3 to 4 months if sexually active and every year at a minimum.

North Carolina care providers and public health agencies have been working to increase syphilis screening in care settings.

What YOU can do

Make sure your HIV care provider is offering you regular screening for all sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including syphilis.