



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**

# Syphilis

Presentation Subtitle

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# What is Syphilis?



- Syphilis is a curable sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can cause serious health problems without treatment.
- Syphilis is a bacterial infection that can be treated with antibiotics.
- Infection develops in stages (Primary, Secondary, Latent, and Tertiary). Each stage can have different signs and symptoms.
- Presents as a sore that turns into a rash that goes away.
- Many people aren't aware of the symptoms. The sores are generally painless and internal.

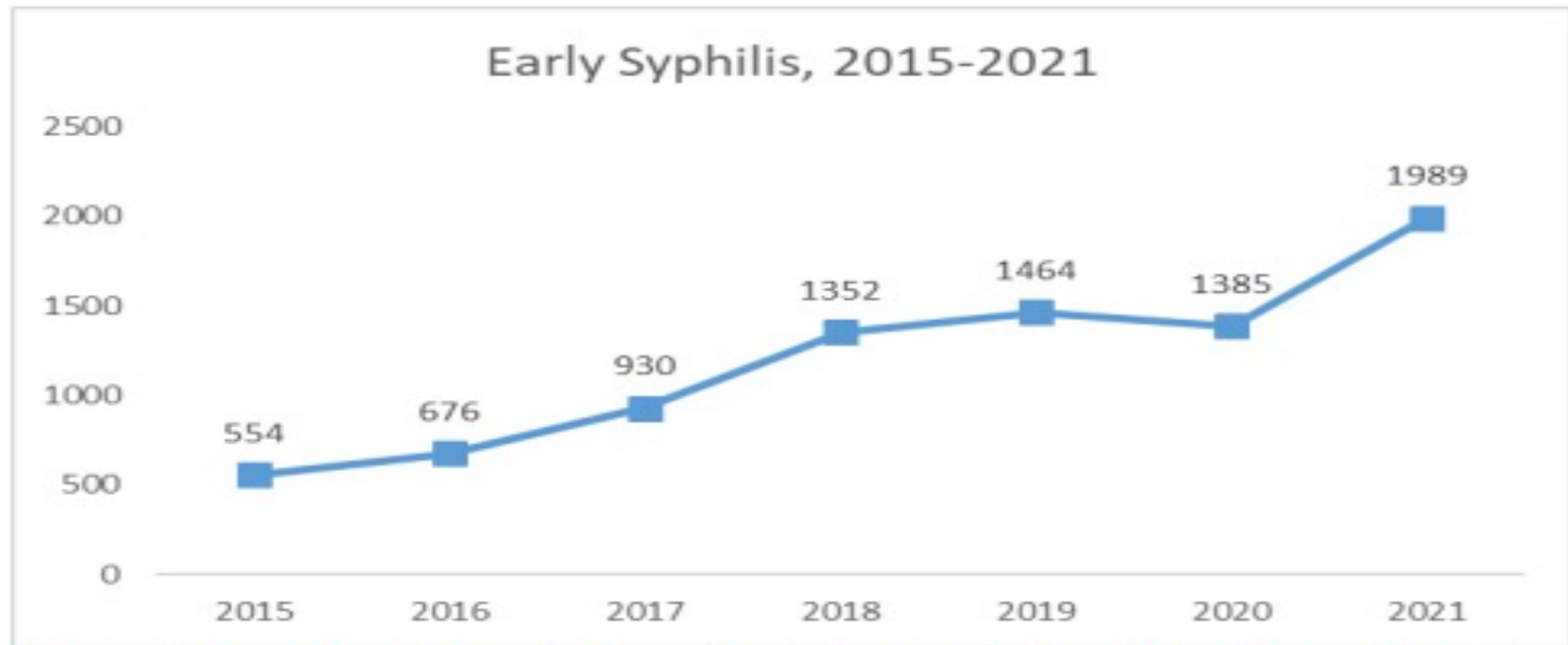
# Syphilis Transmission

- Often direct contact with a syphilis sore during vaginal, anal or oral sex.
- Syphilis can spread from a pregnant person with syphilis to their unborn baby.

## Cannot transmit Syphilis through:

- Toilet seats
- Hot tubs
- Bath tubs
- Sharing clothing or eating utensils

# Missouri Syphilis trends 2015-2021



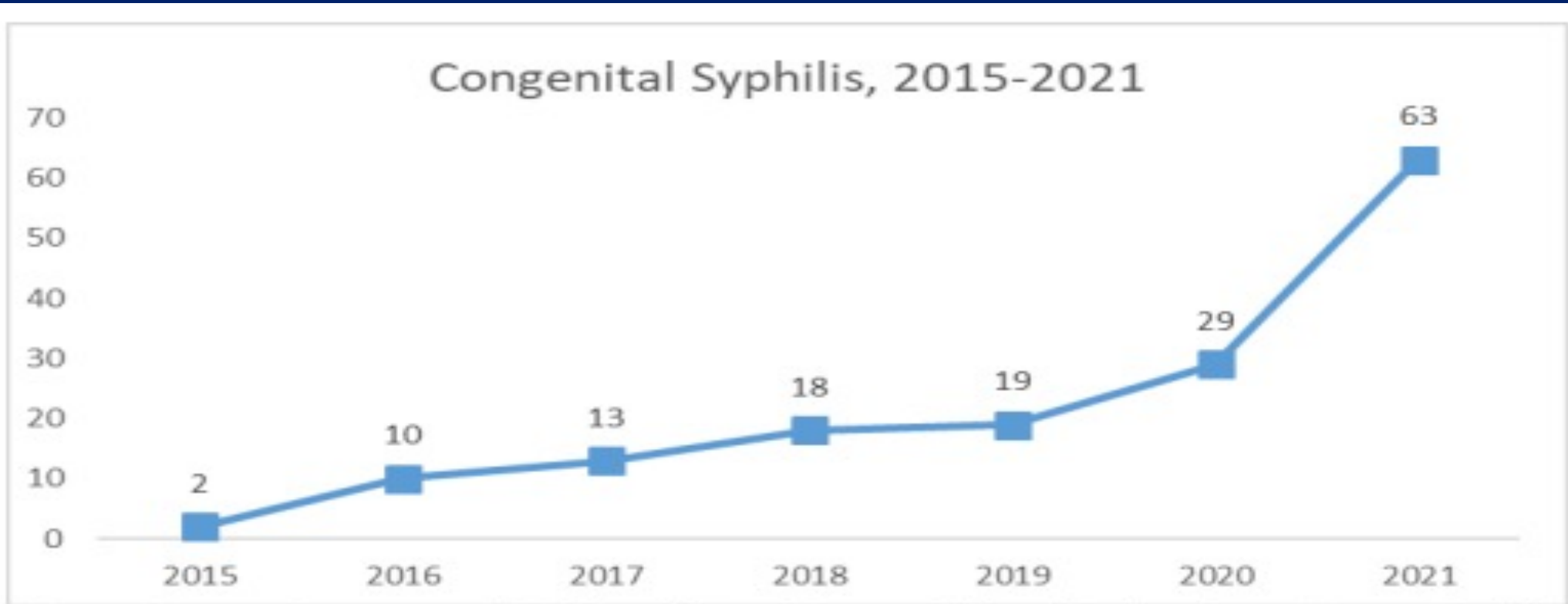
*Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Epidemiology, Missouri Health Surveillance Information System (WebSurv). Based on data as of May 24, 2022.*

# Congenital Syphilis

- A pregnant person can give syphilis to their unborn baby.
- Leads to a low-birth weight baby, early delivery or stillborn birth.
- At birth, the baby may not have symptoms. Without treatment the baby can have health problems such as cataracts, deafness, or seizures, and can die.



# Missouri Congenital Syphilis Trends 2015-2021



*Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Epidemiology, Missouri Health Surveillance Information System (WebSurv). Based on data as of May 24, 2022.*

# What is DIS?

DIS: Disease Intervention Specialist

- Key to sexually transmitted disease prevention and control

Two key parts to DIS

- Rapidly identifies people who don't know they may be infected.
- Helps people receive treatment faster.



# Partner Services

- Interview priority STD infected patients to locate partners who have been exposed to a priority STD
- Refer partners and others suspected of an exposure for examination and/or treatment
- Provide prevention counseling (risk reduction) to reduce future incidence of STD infection
- Assure Post Test Counseling for (+) HIV clients, which includes discussion of Missouri laws & referral to case management services



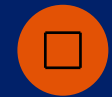


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# QUESTIONS?



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