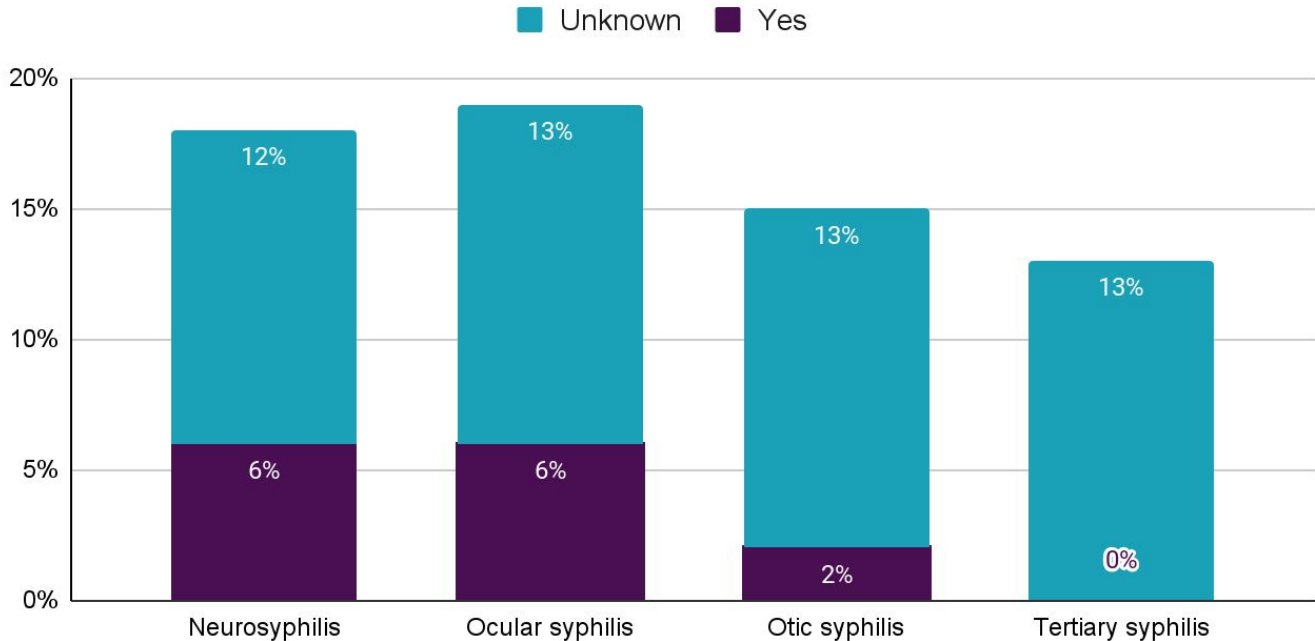


Severe syphilis outcomes

- Syphilis is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can be cured.
- Without treatment, syphilis can spread to the brain and nervous system (neurosyphilis), the eye (ocular syphilis), or the ear (otosyphilis). This can happen at any time a person has syphilis.
- Tertiary syphilis can happen if a person goes 15–30 years without treatment. This type of syphilis is very serious and can damage organs such as the heart and liver, as well as the nervous system.
- This report describes these severe outcomes reported in those diagnosed with syphilis in Utah in 2023.

Percent of syphilis cases with severe outcomes, 2023



- 15% of Utahns diagnosed with syphilis in 2023 had a severe outcome.
- The most commonly reported severe outcome is neurosyphilis.
- There were no reports of tertiary syphilis in 2023.
- People with severe syphilis should be treated with an antibiotic given through an IV for 10–14 days.
- Only 25% of people with severe syphilis in 2023 got the treatment they needed.
- Some people have barriers to getting this treatment, including not being able to pay, mental health problems, substance use disorder, and homelessness.
- The Utah Department of Health and Human Services is working with healthcare providers in Utah to make sure everyone can get the treatment they need. This includes recommending a different, less expensive treatment that doesn't have to be given in an IV for people who can't access IV treatment.