



OCS

OHTN COHORT STUDY

NOVEMBER 2015

## **Syphilis rates among HIV-positive gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men**

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How many HIV-positive men who have sex with men in the OHTN Cohort Study (OCS) have been diagnosed with syphilis?

# Key take-away messages:

Syphilis may go undetected for quite some time. It's important for HIV-positive men who have sex with men to **test for syphilis more often**.

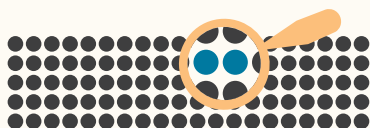
Study authors are now investigating whether including syphilis testing as **part of routine HIV blood work** improves early detection and treatment.



## **Who did we look at?**

2,775 HIV-positive gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) enrolled in the OCS between 2006 and 2010.

## **What did we find?**

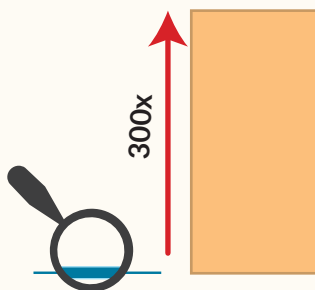


In 2006, **2 out of every 100 MSM** in the study had a new diagnosis of syphilis

By 2010, **4 out of every 100 MSM** in the study had a new diagnosis of syphilis

## **Additional facts:**

These rates are **300 times higher** than rates reported in the general male population in Ontario over the same time period



Men in the study with a **previous syphilis diagnosis** were **3.5 times more likely** to have a new syphilis diagnosis

Burchell et al. "High incidence of diagnosis with syphilis co-infection among men who have sex with men in an HIV cohort in Ontario, Canada," *BMC Infectious Diseases*, (2015) 15: 356.

The Ontario HIV Treatment Network Cohort Study is an ongoing research study that collects clinical, social and behavioural information from close to 4,000 people living with HIV in Ontario.

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