

National Syphilis Action Plan

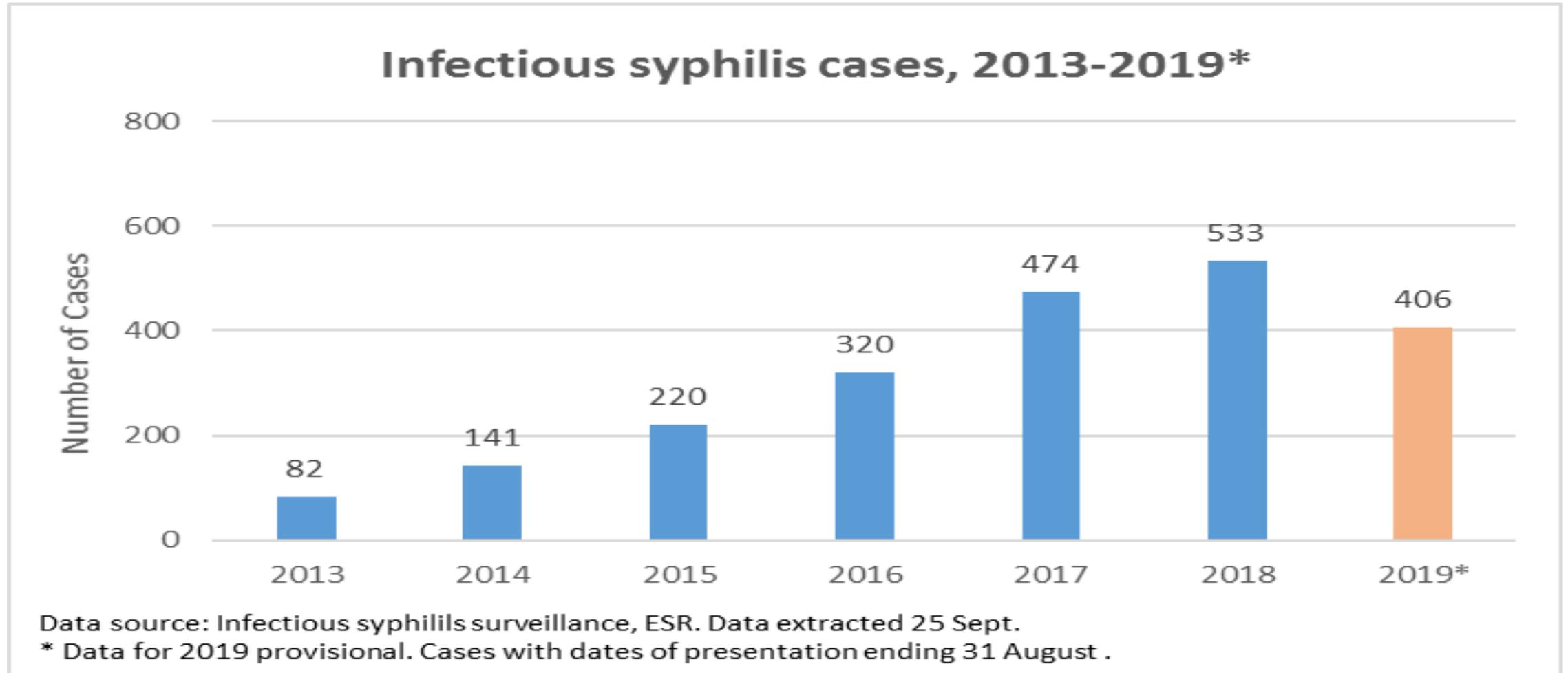
***An update
NZSHS Conference
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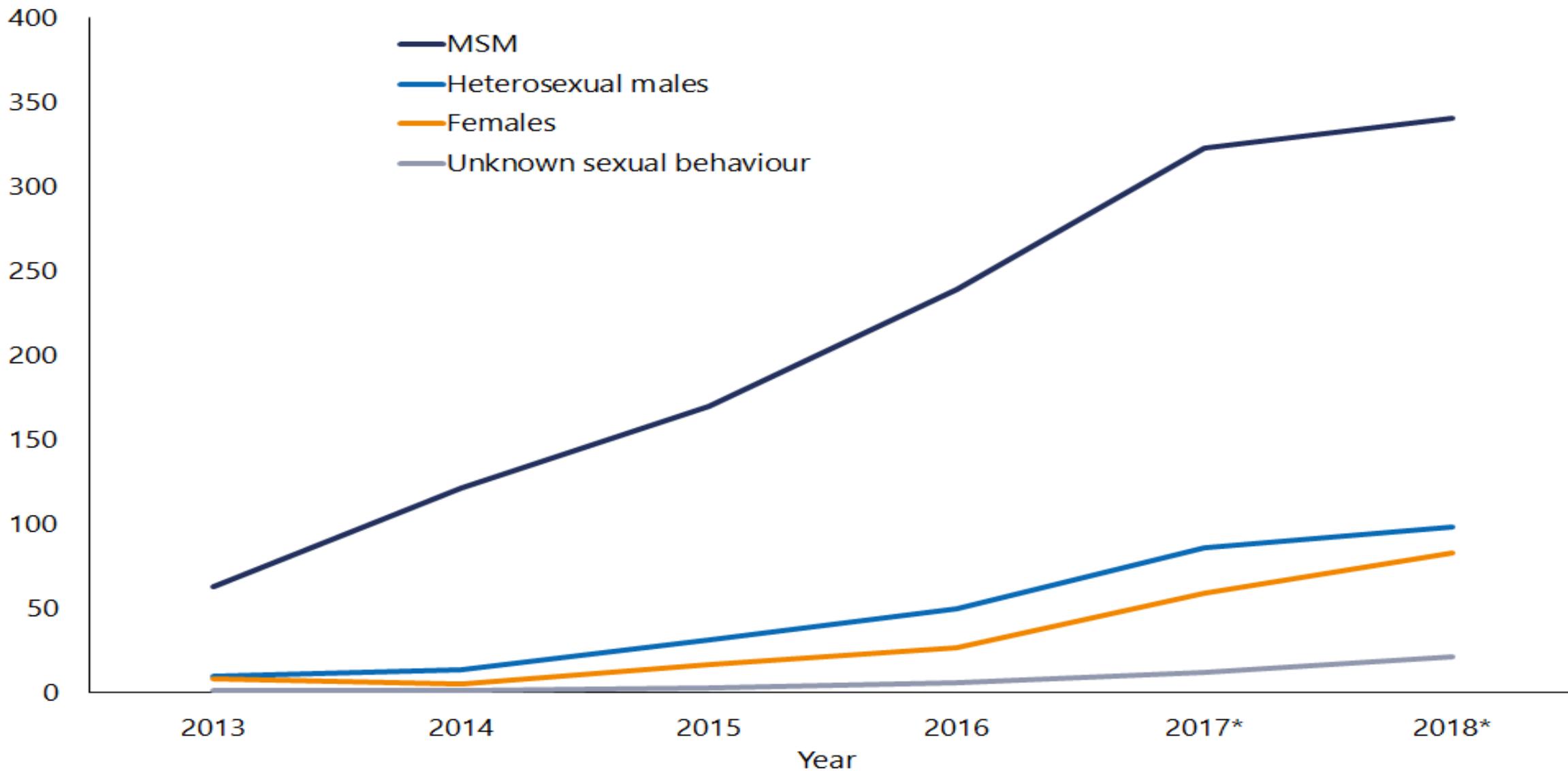
Ministry of Health



Syphilis has been increasing in New Zealand every year since 2012



Number of cases



A national syphilis action plan was published in June 2019

The aim of this action plan is to guide a coordinated and systematic response to interrupt ongoing transmission of infectious syphilis and to prevent congenital syphilis.

The overall goals are to:

- stop the increase in syphilis
- eliminate ethnic inequities in syphilis
- eliminate congenital syphilis
- reduce morbidity associated with syphilis by improving testing and treatment
- ensure New Zealand has high-quality syphilis surveillance.

The plan focuses on four priority action areas

Action Area 1: Primary Prevention and Health Promotion

Increasing public awareness

Action Area 2: Testing and Management

Increasing availability of and ensuring equitable access to testing

Syphilis education for health professionals

Contact tracing

Availability of specialist sexual health advice and care

Action Area 3: Preventing Congenital Syphilis

Antenatal care

Action Area 4: Surveillance

High-quality surveillance data available

What have we achieved so far

- Letter to DHB CEOs including expectations on contact tracing
- Syphilis information pamphlet for patients
- Ministry of Health website updates
- Communicable Disease Control Manual updates
- Podcasts produced in collaboration with Goodfellow Unit (one for primary care, one for midwives)
- Sexually transmitted infection reporting dashboard for accessible information

Syphilis Workshop – 27 September 2019 – identified key priorities to focus on in the next 1-2 years for each action area

Action Area 1: Primary Prevention

Creation of a centralised set of resources for health promotion

Action Area 2: Management and Testing

Perform a stocktake and review of the sexual health services in New Zealand

Action Area 3: Preventing Congenital Syphilis

Review third trimester syphilis screening during pregnancy

Action Area 4: Surveillance

Amending the case definition to include late latent syphilis in pregnant women

What we are currently working on

- ★ Development of a set of national resources for patients and primary care including an “A-Z of Syphilis” for primary care
 - National Maternal Syphilis Guidelines - in draft (NZSHS)
- ★ Investigating the introduction of third trimester testing for syphilis in pregnant people
 - Working with Department of Corrections to include syphilis in initial prison health checks as an ‘opt off’ option
 - Broad review of STI surveillance system
 - STI awareness and access campaign (Health Promotion Agency and Ministry of Health)
- ★ Amending case definition of notifiable syphilis to include late latent syphilis in pregnancy

STI awareness and access campaign



- Social marketing campaign
- Aim to increase awareness of syphilis and gonorrhoea
- Ultimate aim: Increase testing
- Priority population is young Māori men
- Advisory group established to guide development of campaign

- Aim to go to market in early-mid 2020

Where to from here

- Addressing the increase in syphilis continues to be a priority for the Ministry of Health and the Government
- Committed to implementation of the Plan
- Yearly reviews of the Plan and workshops with sector
- The Plan will form part of a national STI and blood-borne infections strategy