



## Department of Public Health

Monroe County, New York

Cheryl Dinolfo  
County Executive

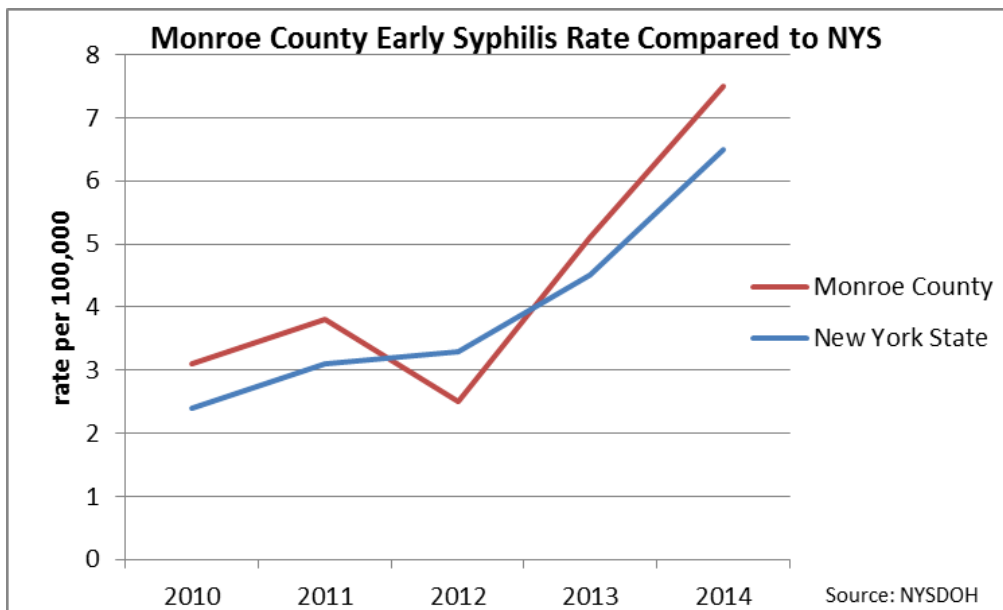
Michael D. Mendoza, MD, MPH, MS  
Interim Commissioner of Public Health

### Infectious Syphilis Cases Continue to Rise in Monroe County

June 28, 2016

- Since January 2016, 41 new cases of early syphilis have been confirmed in Monroe County. Rates of Early syphilis continue to rise across New York State (Table 1)
- In April, the FDA reported a national shortage of Pfizer's Bicilin L-A (Penicillin G benzathine), the only recommended treatment for pregnant women infected or exposed to syphilis.  
[www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/drugnotices/bicilinshortage.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/drugnotices/bicilinshortage.htm)
- Report all suspect and confirmed syphilis cases promptly to the Monroe County Department of Health at 585-753-5391. The Department can also assist providers with Clinical consultations, Securing treatment including Long Acting Benzathine penicillin G , Provide further confidential STD testing and treatment, and Provide partner notification services

Table 1



#### Recommendations (See attached tool):

- Conduct a sexual history and risk assessment.
- **Screen and test** individuals for **syphilis** (reverse sequencing testing if available), **HIV, and other STDs.**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/Syphilis-Webinar-Slides.pdf>
- Examination of the mouth, skin(including the torso, palms of hands and soles of feet, lymph nodes), genitourinary, and rectal
- **Treat promptly if syphilis is suspected**, especially in high risk populations such as **Bi-Sexual, MSM** and **sexual partners of bisexual men and Men who have sex with men(MSM)**
- Encourage patients with syphilis to work with the Health Department to refer their partners for testing and prophylaxis.
- Immediately report cases to the **Monroe County Department of Health at 585-753-5391.**