

06 August 2014

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Pima County is experiencing an increase in the number of syphilis cases. The majority of cases are occurring among men who have sex with men, and more than half are HIV+. In general, cases are White and Hispanic, under age 40, and many use online web sites/mobile applications to meet partners for anonymous sex.

Pima County Health Department is encouraging health care providers to:

Think SYPHILIS! Recognition requires a heightened index of suspicion.

- **Primary syphilis** occurs typically 10-90 days post exposure. Lesions are single, painless ulcers, BUT may present as multiple lesions, painful, with secondary infection. Lesions may be oral, genital, anal, or digital, and may not always be visible to the patient. Look carefully.
- **Secondary syphilis** is usually identified 3-6 weeks post chancre. Rash may present on palms and soles or elsewhere on the body. Generalized lymphadenopathy, fevers, body aches, and sore throat may also be identified.
- **Latent syphilis** can be identified by careful history and through screening serology. Please refer any patients you suspect may have latent disease to the Health Department or an infectious disease specialist.

Screen Aggressively: Diagnosis is essential for appropriate and timely treatment.

- **No prior diagnosis of syphilis?**
 - Draw **RPR** or **VDRL** serology
 - Follow-up all positives with a Treponemal specific antibody test
- **Prior syphilis diagnosis?**
 - Re--draw the serology (**RPR** or **VDRL**) that was the basis for the original diagnosis

Treat Presumptively and Report promptly:

- Patients with lesions or rashes suggestive of syphilis
- Patients with no symptoms who report recent sexual contact with infected partners
- Use benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM once
- For PCN allergic individuals, follow CDC recommendations
- Refer patient to the Health Department for partner services
- Fax a communicable disease report to (520) 770-4242. Downloadable form available at www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/investigations/forms.htm

Stay Informed

- Current evidence-based screening, treatment strategies, and recommendations are available through the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/default.htm.

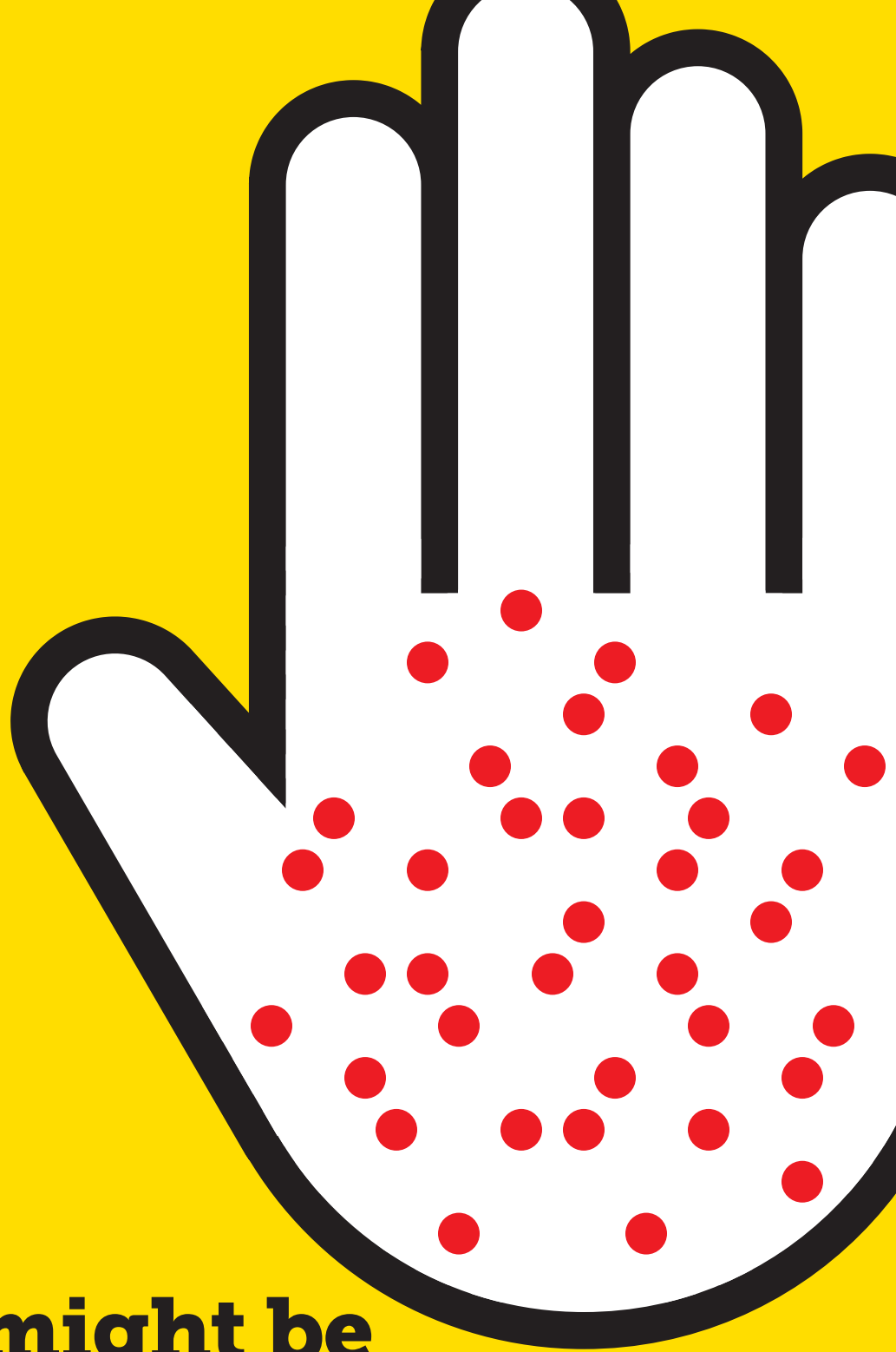
The health department is available to assist you in the care and follow up of infected individuals. We are able to contact patients for follow-up staging and treatment, notify partners for testing and treatment, and provide clinical support to you. As a community clinician you represent the front line in the identification and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. Your partnership is essential to decrease syphilis in Pima County.

Clinicians who need further assistance can call us at (520) 724-3916. If you would like to continue to receive alerts about public health issues in Pima County please send an email to HDDCommunicate@Pima.gov.

Respectfully,



Francisco García, MD, MPH
Director & Chief Medical Officer



That rash might be **SYPHILIS**

Syphilis is on the rise in Pima County

GET FACTS. GET TESTED. GET CURED.

Free & confidential testing & information: 520-724-7800 • www.pima.gov/health

Syphilis in Pima County

8 August 2014

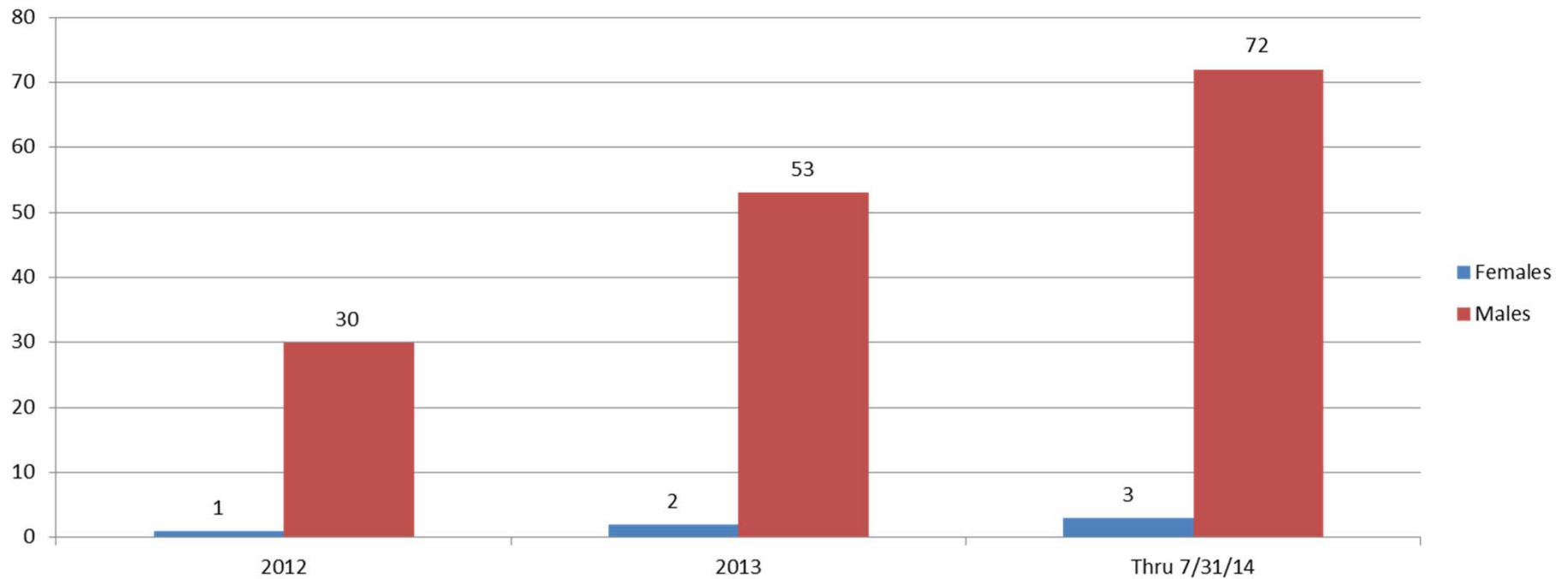


A Healthy Pima County
Every **one**. Every **where**. Every **day**.

Background

- Pima County has seen an increase in the number of reported primary and secondary syphilis cases.
 - 2012, Pima County counted 31 cases
 - As of **July 2014, 78 cases.**
- Sex distribution: 75 male cases & 3 female cases

Pima County Primary & Secondary Syphilis, by Sex (2012 to 7/31/14)



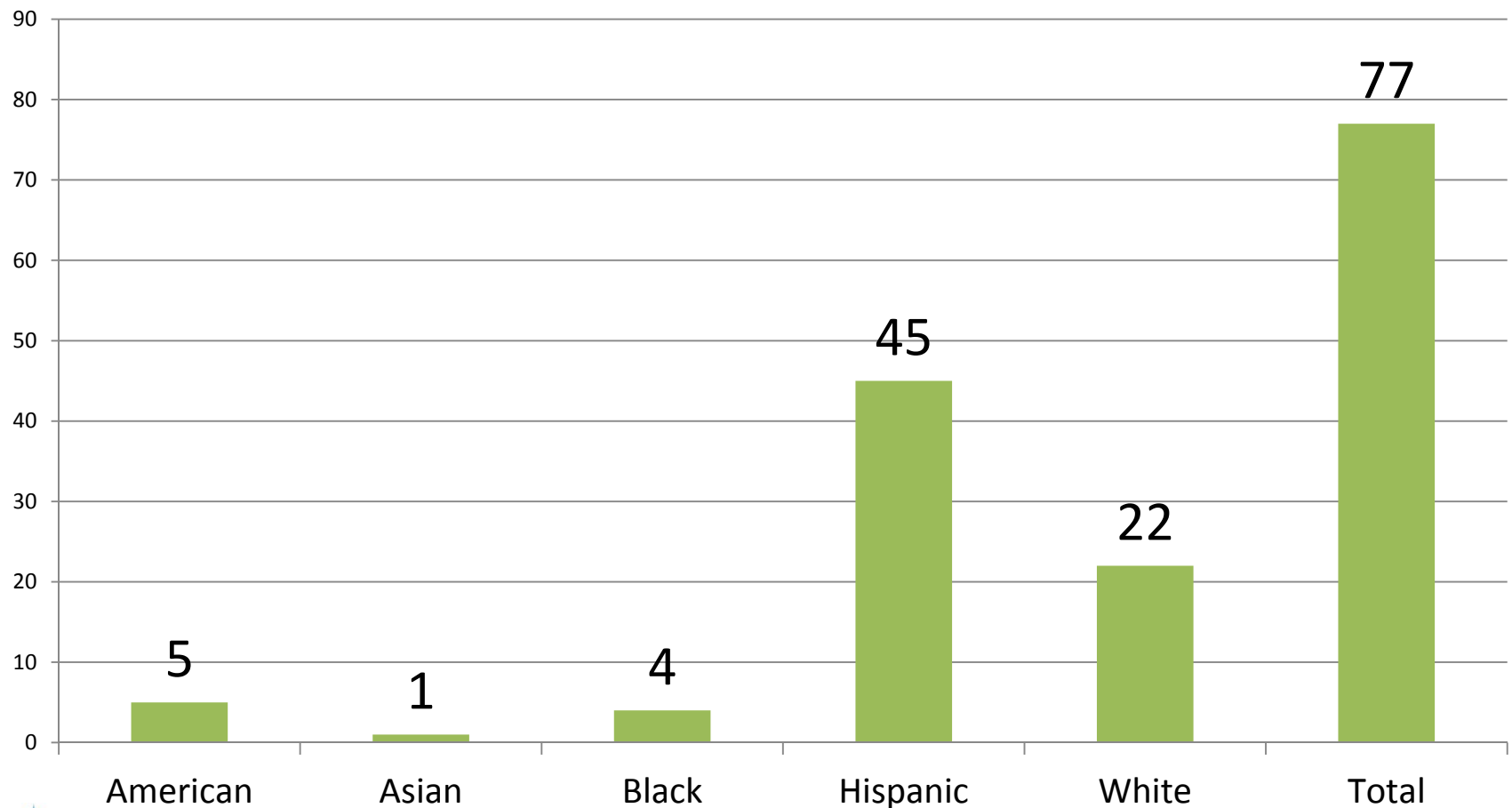
Syphilis Cases by Stage at Diagnosis, Pima County 2012– 7/31/14

	Primary	Secondary	Early Latent	Latent Unk Duration	Late Latent	Total
2012	11	20	17	5	50	103
2013	21	34	38	6	68	167
2014 (7/31)	27	48	23	0	49	147

As of July 31st 2014

- Primary & Secondary cases in 2014 (75) surpassed the total cases for all of 2013 (55)

Race/Ethnicity of Syphilis Cases YTD 2014

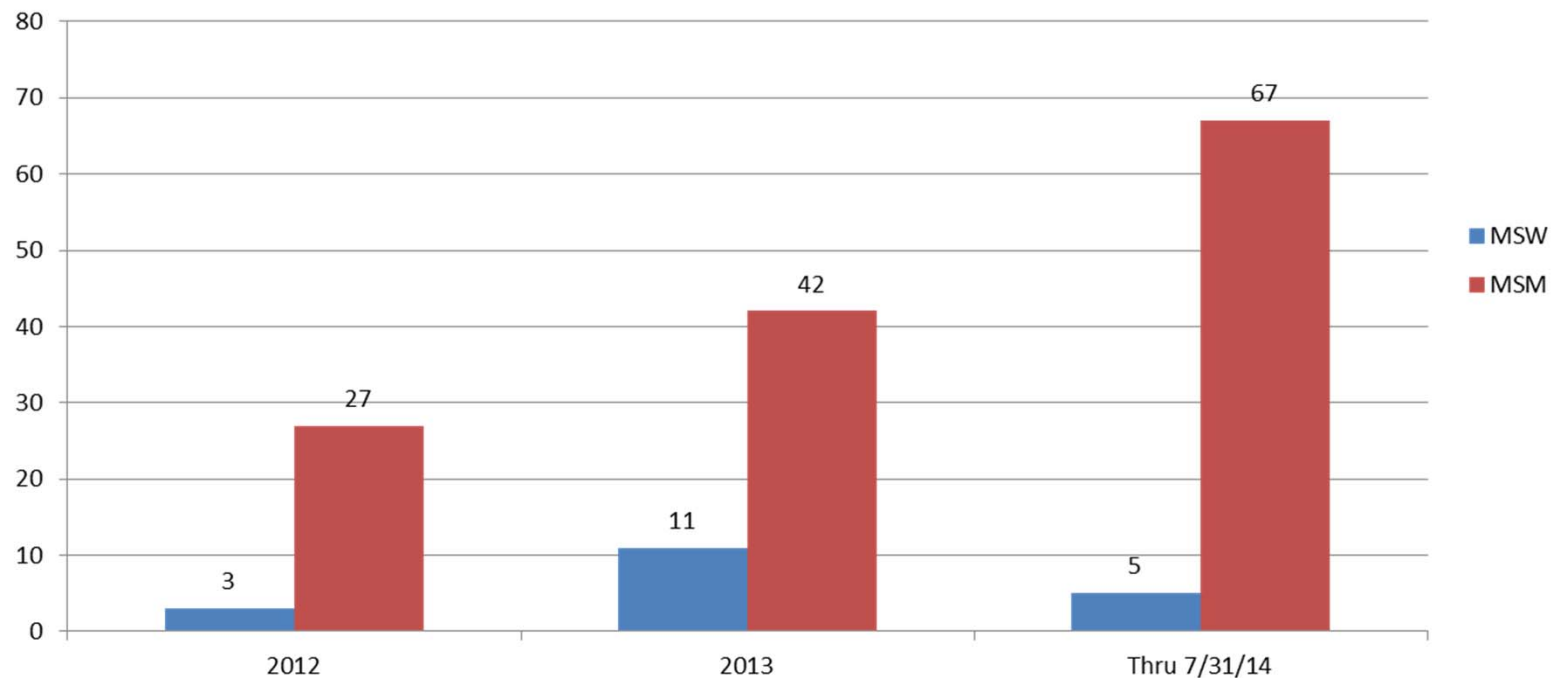


Syphilis cases in men

- 90% males report having sex with a male partner
- 84% of MSM cases are White or Hispanic
- 72% of MSM cases are under 40 years of age
- 1/3 of MSM cases are co-infected with HIV
- 63% of MSM cases use websites/mobile apps to meet partners

*MSM=Men who have sex with men

Primary & Secondary Syphilis Among MSW & MSM, Pima County (2012 -7/31/14)



- 2013 79% identified as MSM
- July 31st 2014 92% identify as MSM

* MSW= men who have sex with women

Primary & Secondary Syphilis among MSM by Age Group, Pima County (2013–7/31/14)

Age Group	2013	1- 7/31/14
15-19	3	6
20-24	13	15
25-29	9	15
30-39	6	12
40-49	7	12
50-59	3	7
60+	1	0
Total	42	67
% < 25	38.1	31.3
% < 30	59.5	53.7
% < 40	73.8	71.6

Think SYPHILIS!

- **Primary syphilis** occurs typically **10-90 days post exposure**. Lesions are single, painless ulcers, BUT may present as multiple lesions, painful, with secondary infection. Lesions may be oral, genital, anal, or digital, and may not always be visible to the patient.
- **Secondary syphilis** usually identified 3-6 weeks post chancre. Rash may present on palms and soles or elsewhere on the body. Generalized lymphadenopathy, fevers, body aches, and sore throat may also be identified.
- **Latent syphilis** identified by careful history and through screening serology. Refer patients you suspect may have latent disease to the Health Department or infectious disease specialist.

Screen Aggressively

Diagnosis is essential for appropriate and timely treatment.

- No prior diagnosis of syphilis?
 - Draw **RPR** or **VDRL** serology
 - Follow-up all positives with a Treponemal specific antibody test
- Prior syphilis diagnosis?
 - Re-draw the serology (**RPR** or **VDRL**) that was the basis for the original diagnosis

Treat Presumptively

- Patients with lesions or rashes suggestive of syphilis
- Patients with no symptoms who report recent sexual contact with infected partners
- Use benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM once
- For PCN allergic individuals, follow CDC recommendations <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/>
- Refer patient to the Health Department for partner services

Report Promptly

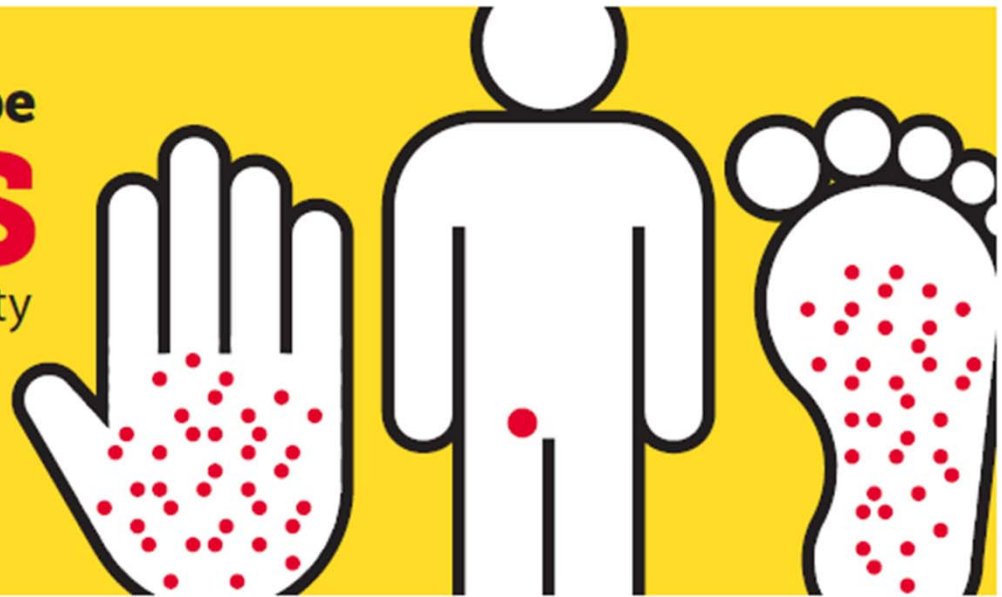
- Upon presumptive diagnosis or positive test result complete a communicable disease report form (at www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/investigations/forms.htm) and **fax to (520) 770-4242.**
- For assistance with partner services call **(520) 724-3947**

That rash or sore might be

SYPHILIS

Syphilis is on the rise in Pima County

**GET
FACTS.
GET
TESTED.
GET
CURED.**



Francisco García, MD, MPH
Director & Chief Medical Officer
