

## Sexual health warning as syphilis cases surge

The number of cases of syphilis has reached its highest level since 1949. There were 5,920 diagnoses last year, a rise of 12 per cent on the previous year and almost double the 3,001 cases in 2012. Public Health England said that the cases were mostly associated with transmission by men who have gay sex. The infection can usually be treated with antibiotics, but can cause serious long-term problems without medical care.

The number of cases of all sexually transmitted diseases fell by 4 per cent last year to 420,000. Michael Brady, medical director at Terrence Higgins Trust, a sexual health charity, said that there was still a need to address the "unacceptably" high level and expressed concern at government cuts to chlamydia testing.

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