

**TITLE:** Syphilis among American Indian and Alaska Native Persons — Oregon, 2015–2020

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**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Sexually transmitted infections; Tribal Epidemiology

**ABSTRACT:** Syphilis is increasing in Oregon. Disease burden among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) persons is frequently underestimated because of racial misclassification. The Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center linked Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) sexually transmitted infection (STI) data to more accurately characterize AI/AN and non-AI/AN syphilis cases in Oregon. Using probabilistic record linkage between the Northwest Tribal Registry and state STI surveillance, we corrected racially misclassified records of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis, the most infectious stages, during 2015-2020. We examined P&S syphilis rates by race, age, and sex. US Census bridged race population estimates were used as denominators to calculate AI/AN- and non-AI/AN-specific rates. AI/AN P&S syphilis incidence increased from 12.2/100,000 to 25.9/100,000 compared with 8.6/100,000 to 11.5/100,000 among non-AI/AN during the observed period. AI/AN females had a 3.5-fold higher incidence than non-AI/AN females (18.4/100,000 vs 5.2/100,000). The highest incidences were AI/AN aged 25-34 years (58.5/100,000) and aged 35-44 years (48.9/100,000). We demonstrated disparities in race-corrected incidence of P&S syphilis diagnoses among AI/AN females of child-bearing age. To prevent potential cases of congenital syphilis, increased syphilis screening, diagnosis, treatment and culturally informed prevention efforts are needed in Oregon AI/AN communities.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Describe rates of syphilis among AI/AN persons in Oregon. Formulate prevention, screening and treatment efforts.

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