

STBBIs NEWSLETTER

Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne
Infections (STBBIs) and Reproductive Health

saskatchewan
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our goal is **healthy** children

SPRING 2023 ISSUE

SYPHILIS IS EVERYWHERE.

Get tested. Get treated. Get cured.



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talksyphilis.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Let's Talk About Syphilis Campaign	2
Featured Resources	2 & 3
National Resources	3 & 4
Learning Opportunity	4

Welcome to the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute's Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (STBBIs) and Reproductive Health Newsletter. The Prevention Institute is a provincial, non-profit organization with the mandate of helping all children thrive through primary prevention and the promotion of well-being. Our goal is healthy children.

This edition of the newsletter highlights *Let's Talk About Syphilis*, a public awareness and education campaign, resources from the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute and other national organizations, and upcoming learning opportunities.

Let's Talk About Syphilis

Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Awareness Campaign

In February 2023, the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute launched a syphilis and congenital syphilis campaign - *Let's Talk About Syphilis*. The aim of the campaign is to increase knowledge and awareness about syphilis while encouraging testing and treatment. *Let's Talk About Syphilis* includes province-wide messaging shared through online and traditional media including billboards, radio, bathroom advertising, and more. As part of the campaign, the microsite <https://talksyphilis.ca/> was launched which outlines information on syphilis and congenital syphilis, Saskatchewan resources, and Saskatchewan-specific information on testing and treatment. The campaign has received positive feedback from healthcare professionals, community-based organizations, and the general public.

Request for Community Partners: The Saskatchewan Prevention Institute is seeking community partners to support expansion of the *Let's Talk About Syphilis* campaign. Please contact jogren@skprevention.ca for more information.



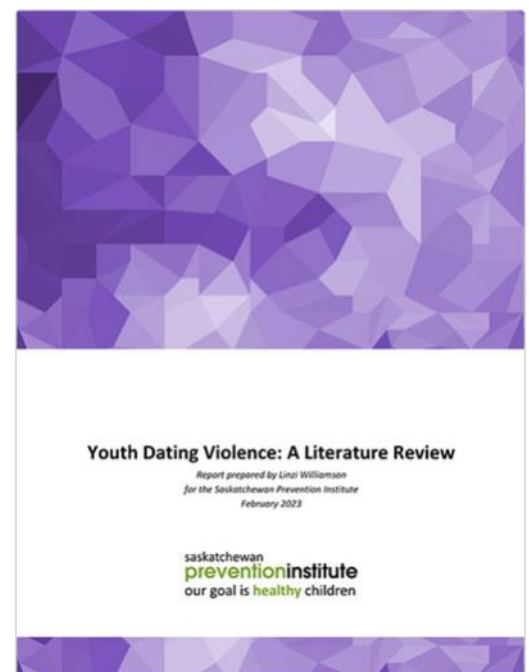
Featured Resources

Youth Dating Violence: A Literature Review

Saskatchewan Prevention Institute

Dating in adolescence and young adulthood is considered healthy and an important aspect of youth development. Unfortunately, romantic youth relationships can sometimes include abuse. Reported outcomes of youth dating violence include engagement in risky sexual behaviors, such as lack of condom use, increased likelihood of receiving a STI diagnosis, and unintended pregnancies. Understanding youth dating violence is necessary for targeted health promotion and prevention to mitigate youth dating violence and associated harms. The purpose of this report is to examine the concept of youth dating violence more fully, including varying definitions, prevalence, signs of youth dating violence, and risk factors for victimization, as well as strategies for prevention and intervention.

To download a copy of this report, visit: <https://skprevention.ca/resource-catalogue/sexual-health/youth-dating-violence-a-literature-review/>.



Featured Resources – Smartphone Apps

The Saskatchewan Prevention Institute has two smartphone apps available for download on Google Play and the App Store.

Keep It Safe Saskatchewan (KIS-SK)

The KIS-SK app provides information on contraceptives and STIs, a reminder calendar, frequently asked questions, and an interactive map to find free contraceptives and STI testing.

For more information, visit <https://skprevention.ca/kis-sk/>.

My Saskatchewan Pregnancy

Designed for use by pregnant people in Saskatchewan, the My Saskatchewan Pregnancy app has numerous helpful features including:

- Daily Tips: pregnancy-related health tips
- Monthly Summary: summaries of baby's growth
- My Health: includes a variety of functions to help track and maintain health during pregnancy including mental health, weight gain, blood pressure, and a kick counter
- My Resources: maps with GPS capability providing location and other information on local resources, programs, and services

For more information, visit <https://skprevention.ca/my-saskatchewan-pregnancy/>.



National Resources

Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Infectious Syphilis in Canada, 2020 – Public Health Agency of Canada

This infographic outlines reported rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and infectious syphilis in Canada.

- Between 2011 and 2019, national rates have increased by 26% for chlamydia, 171% for gonorrhea, and 389% for infectious syphilis.
- In Saskatchewan for 2020, reported rates of chlamydia were 392 per 100,000 (national rate was 279 per 100,000), 188 per 100,000 for gonorrhea (national rate was 81 per 100,000), and 78 per 100,000 for infectious syphilis (national rate was 25 per 100,000).

To view or download, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/chlamydia-gonorrhea-infectious-syphilis-canada-2020-infographic.html>.

Infectious Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis in Canada, 2021 – Public Health Agency of Canada

- Saskatchewan reported a 1,346% increase in infectious syphilis rates between 2017 and 2021. Nationally, there was a 166% increase in infectious syphilis rates in the same time period.
- Nationally, there were 96 cases of confirmed early congenital syphilis in 2021 compared to only 7 cases in 2017. This is a 1,271% increase.

To view or download this report, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/canada-communicable-disease-report-ccdr/monthly-issue/2022-48/issue-11-12-november-december-2022/infectious-congenital-syphilis-canada-2021.html>.

Syphilis Resources – CATIE

CATIE has a webpage with a list of resources to help frontline service providers learn more about syphilis. This webpage will continue to be updated as new evidence emerges and new resources become available: <https://www.catie.ca/syphilis-resources>.

CATIE also recently released a brochure, *Syphilis: What You Need to Know*, highlighting essential facts about syphilis transmission, prevention, treatment, and congenital syphilis.

To order or download this brochure, visit:

<https://orders.catie.ca/book/syphilis-what-you-need-to-know/>.



Quick Tips for Quality Care – Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights

This resource is intended as a guide for healthcare providers to provide non-judgmental care, particularly for individuals from diverse communities who have had prior experiences of being stigmatized within the health care system. This guide includes dialogue prompts and a resource list related to care for specific communities.

To view or download this guide, visit:

<https://www.actioncanadashr.org/resources/factsheets-guidelines/2023-04-21-quick-tips-quality-care>.

Learning Opportunity

Motivational Interviewing on the Phone – Saskatchewan Prevention Institute

June 22, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This training will provide participants with an understanding of motivational interviewing (MI), an opportunity to learn and practice MI communication skills and strategies to support clients to make changes, and strategies to raise important health and lifestyle matters with your clients.

Registration: <https://skprevention.ca/event/motivational-interviewing-on-the-phone-3/>

Feel free to distribute this newsletter to others. If someone you know is interested in receiving future editions of the newsletter, or if you have a contribution for a future newsletter, contact Jasmin at jogren@skprevention.ca.

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