In 2014, 24,541 syphilis cases were reported in 29 EU/EEA Member States (data were not available from Austria and Liechtenstein), an overall rate of 5.1 per 100,000 population. The largest number of cases were reported in Germany (5,012) and France (13,324). The number of cases in the EU/EEA region increased by 20% between 2009 and 2014.

### Key Findings

- The rate of syphilis cases among men who have sex with men (MSM) was approximately ten times higher than that for the general population.
- The proportion of cases among age groups below 35 years decreased, while there were increases among those aged 35 years or over.
- The largest increases were observed in MSM and those below 25 years of age.
- The rate of reported confirmed syphilis cases per 100,000 population among those aged 15–24 years was 8.3 in men and 1.3 in women in 2014.

### Discussion

- The European Surveillance System (TESSy) is a system for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data on communicable diseases. EU Member States and EEA countries are required to report data on syphilis.
- Data on the HIV status were reported by 11 countries, which accounted for 41% of syphilis cases in 2014. Of these, 29% were HIV positive (either known or newly diagnosed).
- The HIV status was unknown for 21% of cases. Among cases for whom the HIV status was known, 36% were HIV positive. In MSM with known HIV status, the rate of syphilis was 2.4 times higher among those who were HIV positive compared to those who were HIV negative.
- In 2014, the majority of countries reported data based on the EU case definitions. Five countries reported using national case definitions, and five countries did not state which case definitions were used.

### Epidemiology

- In 2014, the rate among men was 8.3 cases per 100,000 population in men (18,045 cases) and 1.3 cases per 100,000 population in women (2,897 cases).
- Among men who have sex with men, the rate was 14.4 cases per 100,000 population (29,167 cases).
- Among men aged 15–24 years, the rate was 8.3 cases per 100,000 population (1,804 cases).

### Table: Number of Reported Syphilis Cases by Age Group, 2010–2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>3033</td>
<td>3702</td>
<td>4414</td>
<td>5012</td>
<td>5718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>1014</td>
<td>1332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 1: Number of reported syphilis cases per 100,000 population, EU/EEA, 2010–2014

- The male-to-female ratio in 2014 was 6.2:1. The rate was 8.3 cases per 100,000 population in men and 1.3 cases per 100,000 population in women.
- The age-specific rate was highest among those aged 15–24 years.
- The rate of reported confirmed syphilis cases per 100,000 population among those aged 15–24 years was 8.3 in men and 1.3 in women in 2014.