

New figures show doubling of some STIs

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New figures detailing the scale of sexually transmitted diseases in Scotland has revealed how rates of some have doubled in recent years.

Since 2009, cases of both gonorrhoea and syphilis have soared, while thousands are still treated for chlamydia despite a general downwards trend.

The statistics were published by the Scottish Government following a parliamentary question from shadow health secretary Miles Briggs.

They show that in 2009 there were 1021 cases of gonorrhoea, which rose to 2346 in 2015 – the latest year for which figures are available in that category.

Instances of syphilis increased from 190 in 2009 up to 356 in 2016.

And for chlamydia, while the overall figures are in decline, there was still a small increase in cases from last year to 15,147, meaning 41 people a day are being treated for the disease.

Scottish Conservative shadow health secretary Miles Briggs said:

“It’s extremely concerning to see such an increase in certain diseases, especially at a time when awareness is meant to be high.

“These are infections which are easily preventable but can have long-lasting negative consequences for men and women.

“Of course it’s not just down to the Scottish Government to ensure these statistics decrease and personal responsibility has to be involved.

“But it would seem, particularly where gonorrhoea and syphilis are concerned, there is considerably more work still to be done.

“The sexual health of our young people is important. Getting the facts and medical help on sexually transmitted diseases is vital to support the health and wellbeing of young Scots.

“That is why Scottish Conservatives have called for a review of sexual health services in Scotland and the provision of GUM clinics.

“We also want to see what steps are being taken to provide confidential support as well as STI postal testing for people who live in rural, island, and remote communities.”

To see a full geographical breakdown of the figures, visit:
<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/S5W-10637BIB-No-59019.pdf>