

Partnered Workshop: CATIE's Syphilis Fundamentals

Thursday, April 24, 2025 (11:30am - 1:30pm NDT)

Sexually transmitted blood-borne infections (STBBIs) continue to be a significant and growing public health concern in Canada ([GovCan, 2019](#)), with syphilis rates increasing in recent years ([GovCan, 2020](#)). Individuals who use substances through intravenous injection or inhalation face an increased risk of contracting STBBIs, including syphilis ([GovCan, 2024](#)). The risk of contracting syphilis can be influenced by social factors like age, gender, income, culture, and access to healthcare, along with individual behaviours such as sexual activity, substance use, and experiences of violence or discrimination ([GovCan, 2020](#)). Service providers play an important role in increasing knowledge of syphilis, and supporting clients with linkage to prevention, testing, and treatment services.

Learning Objectives:

- ☒ Explain syphilis transmission
- ☒ Identify ways to prevent syphilis
- ☒ Describe the syphilis testing process
- ☒ Explain syphilis treatment options and the benefits of treatment
- ☒ Recognize the influence of structural and social factors on syphilis health inequity in Canada
- ☒ Speak comfortably with their clients about syphilis
- ☒ Apply their knowledge of syphilis transmission, prevention, testing, and treatment through a variety of engagement tools and activities

Workshop Description:

This workshop provides foundational knowledge about syphilis so that frontline providers are better equipped to speak to their clients about syphilis and provide support in syphilis care. Participants will learn the basics about syphilis, how it is passed and prevented, signs and symptoms, and the importance of testing and treatment. This workshop is interactive, allowing attendees to participate in discussions and case study activities to contextualize how to apply this knowledge in their work.

Target Audience:

Health care professionals, service providers, or anyone who supports individuals at risk of or affected by syphilis.

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