



TEXAS

Health and Human Services



Texas Department of State
Health Services

Increase in Female Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis, 2018

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Outline



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- Background of Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis.
 - Syphilis stages
 - Congenital Syphilis definition
- Epidemiology of Syphilis among women and Congenital Syphilis
- Conclusion
 - What is currently being done to decrease the spread?

Background



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- In 2017, Syphilis cases were the highest recorded since 1993 (CDC).
- 90% of P&S Syphilis (most infectious stage) were among men
- Total Syphilis rates increased 69% from 2013 to 2018 and increased **61%** among females in Texas.
- Congenital Syphilis has been increasing since 2013
 - TX reported **164 cases** (40.7 per 100,000 live births) in 2017
 - TX reported **367 cases** (91 per 100,000 live births) in 2018
 - **124% increase**

Syphilis Stages



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Primary and Secondary Syphilis (P&S) earliest and most transmissible stage.

- Transmitted person to person by direct contact.

Syphilis, early non-primary and non-secondary infection occurred previous 12 months and do not have signs/symptoms of P&S.

Syphilis, unknown duration or late infection occurred >12 months previously or when no evidence of previous infection.

Overview of Congenital Syphilis

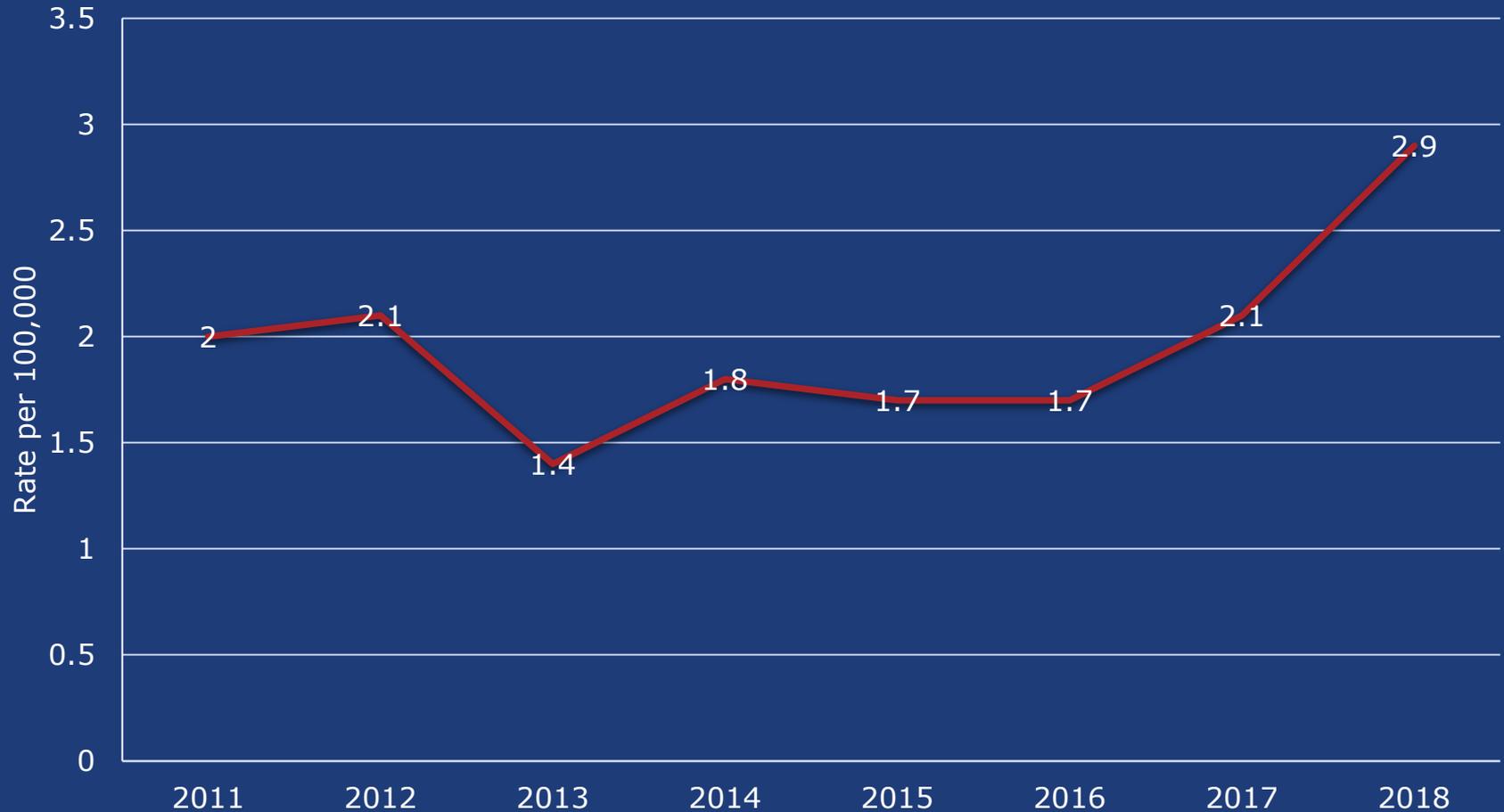


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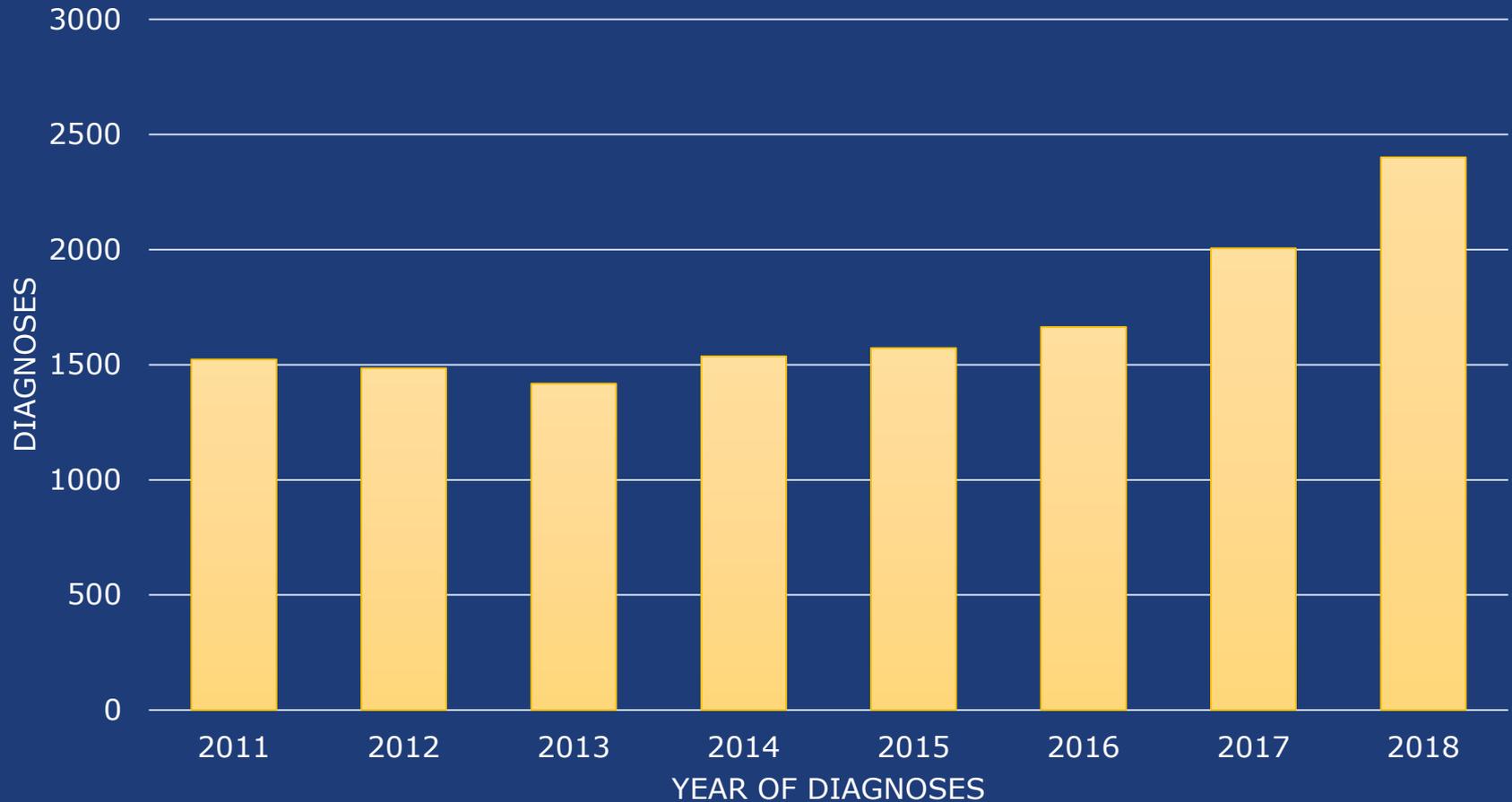
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- **Congenital syphilis** is caused when syphilis is passed from mother to child during fetal development or at birth.
- Up to **40%** of infants born to a woman with untreated syphilis may be stillborn or die as an infant.
- Congenital Syphilis can cause:
 - Deformed bones
 - Anemia
 - Enlarged liver and spleen
 - Jaundice
 - Brain and nerve problems, like blindness or deafness
 - Meningitis
 - Skin rashes

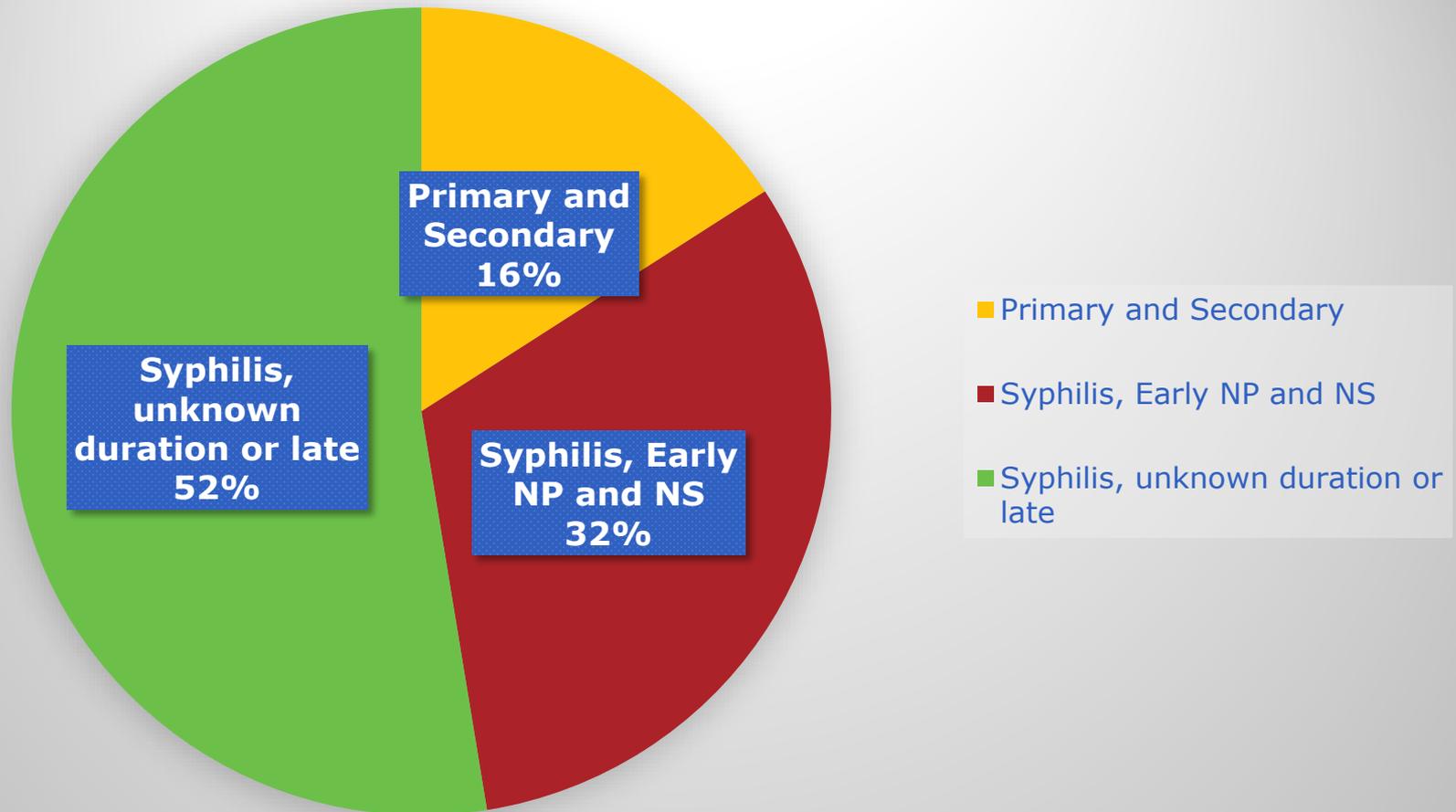
Primary & Secondary Syphilis Diagnoses Rates Among Women by Year Texas, 2011-2018



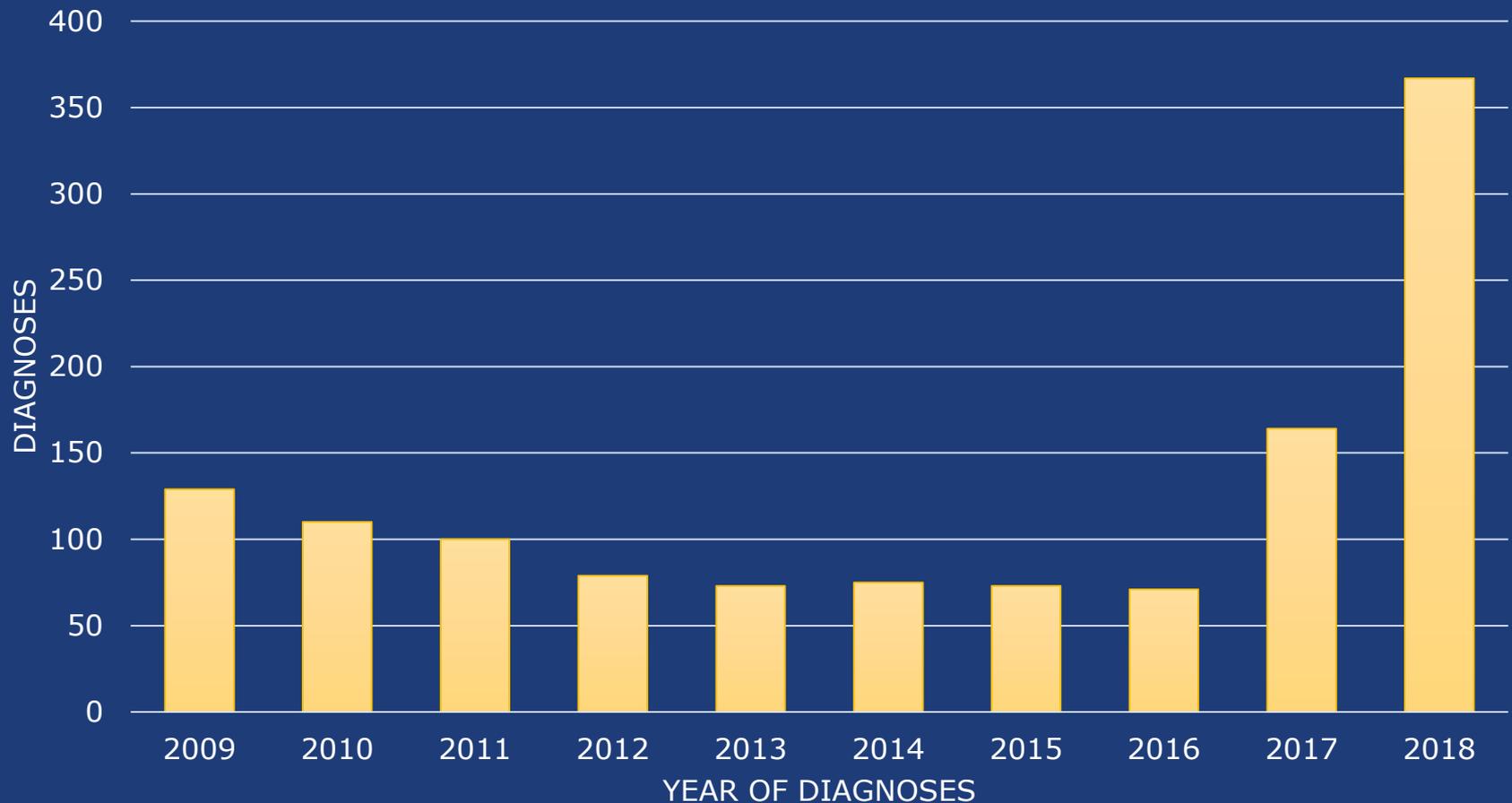
Women of Childbearing Age (15-44) Diagnosed with Syphilis, Texas 2011-2018



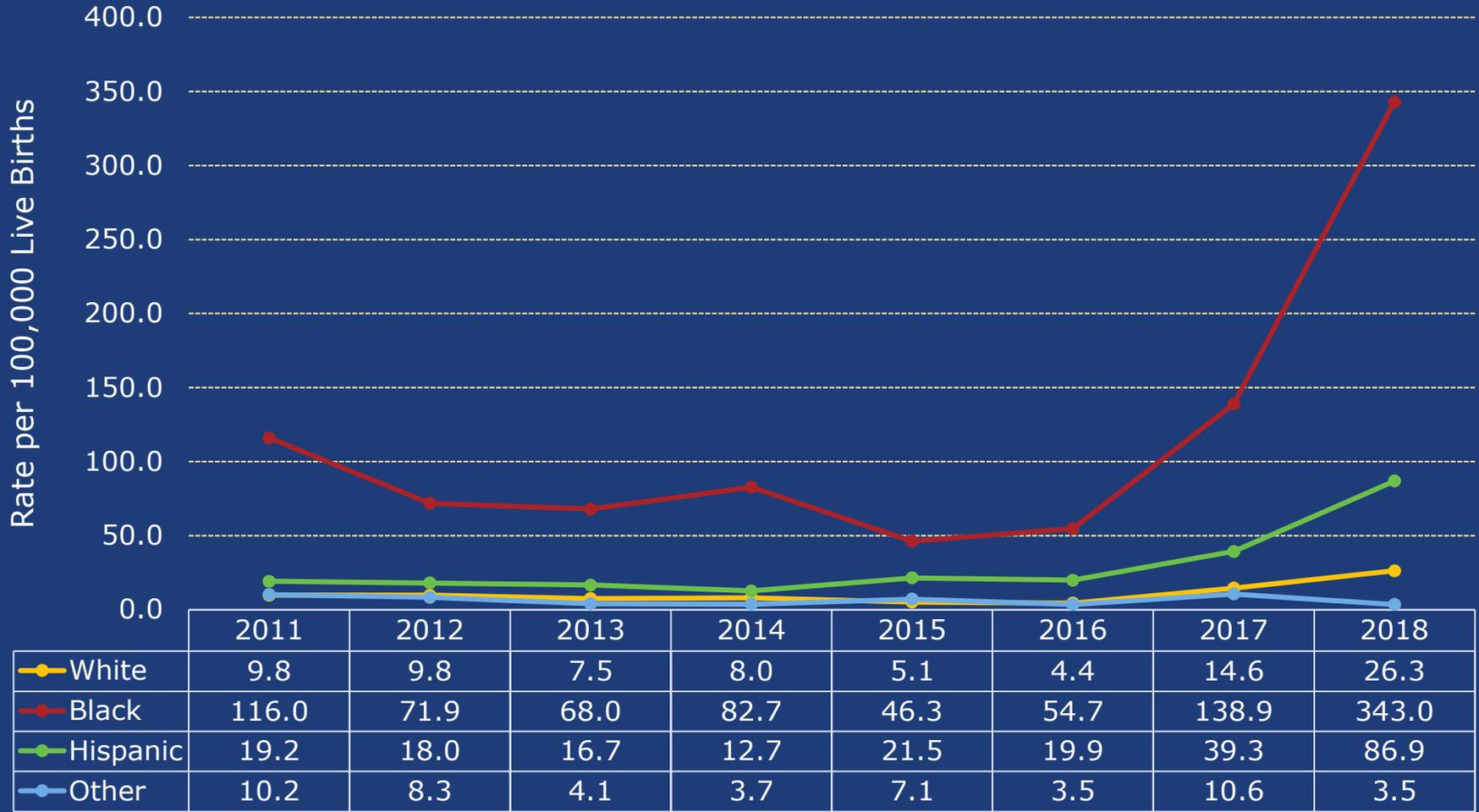
Women Diagnosed with Syphilis of Childbearing Age (15-44) by Stage, Texas 2018



Congenital Syphilis Diagnoses: Texas, 2009-2018

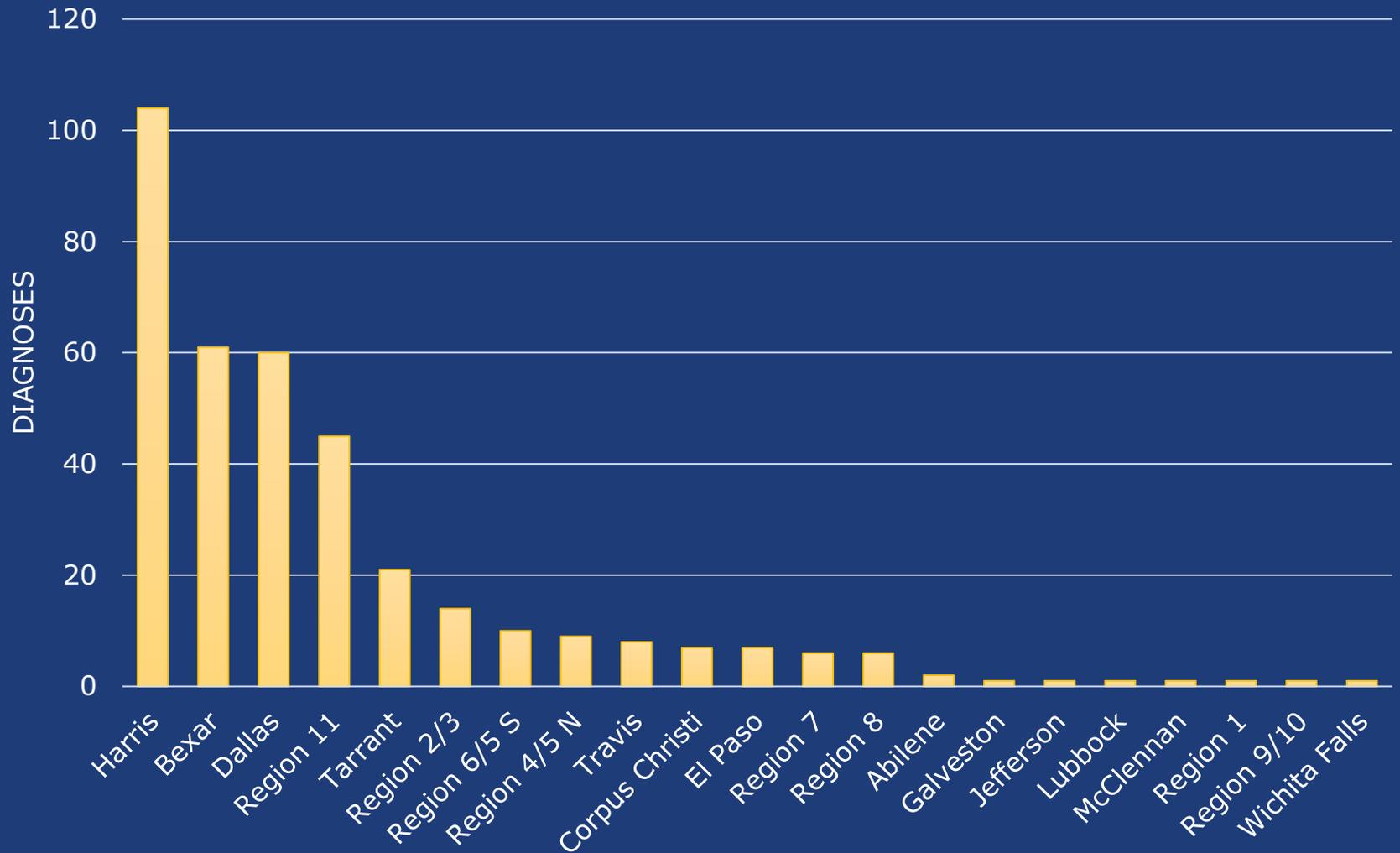


Congenital Syphilis Diagnosis Rates: Texas, 2011-2018



*2016, 2017, and 2018 rates calculated with 2015 birth data due to unavailability of birth data

Congenital Syphilis Diagnoses by Jurisdiction: Texas 2018



Conclusion



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- Texas Fetal and Infant Morbidity Review of congenital Syphilis and Perinatal HIV (FIMRSH) was initiated.
 - Houston, Galveston, Region 6/5 and San Antonio
- Provider/health professional awareness
- Public Health Region/site trainings
- Retrospective cohort studies
- TX law effective September 1, 2019 for mandatory Syphilis testing during gestation and L&D

Questions?

