

## Increasing syphilis notifications in Mongolia: Results from national surveillance for 2001–2011

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In Western Pacific Region countries, sexually transmitted infections (STI) rates vary but are considered high. In Mongolia, syphilis incidence has increased between 2001 and 2011; therefore, the objective of this study was to describe the epidemiology of syphilis in Mongolia to provide evidence for prevention and control activities. A retrospective analysis of syphilis was conducted using STI data from the passive surveillance system. This included demographic and clinical information and laboratory test results. In addition, a test for the trend of syphilis notification rates over time was conducted. Syphilis notification rates increased by two-fold from 71 per 100 000 in 2001 to 152 per 100 000 in 2011 ( $P < 0.006$ ), and there were significant differences observed between the capital city and the province rates over time ( $P = 0.011$ ). Generally, notification rates among females were significantly higher than males ( $P < 0.001$ ) except that male rates increased to 185 per 100 000, higher than female rates of 179 per 100 000 in 2009. The increase of notifications of latent syphilis for males ( $P < 0.009$ ) and females ( $P < 0.006$ ) was significant. This is the first analysis of the overall situation of syphilis in Mongolia, and although the years with the largest number of cases corresponded to large-scale screening programs, we observed a significant increase in syphilis notification rates over time. These results will be useful for evidence-based prevention and control activities such as awareness campaigns for young adults.

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