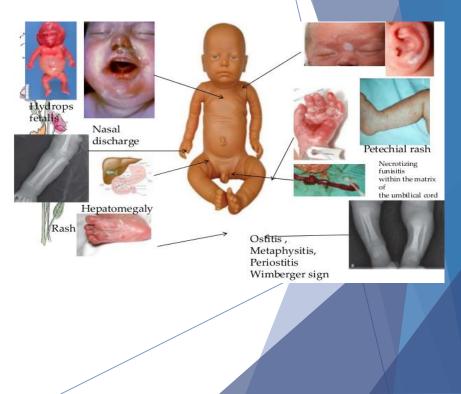


Dr Sinead Cook CSRH ST6, Cardiff and Vale Dr Laura Cunningham, Consultant GUM, Cardiff and Vale Dr Nicola Lomax Consultant GUM, Cardiff and Vale Dr Christopher Williams Consultant Epidemiologist, Public Health Wales

# Background - congenital syphilis

- In UK <0.5/1000 live births</p>
- Preventable through screening and treating pregnant women
- Problems:
  - late presentation
  - Infection after screening
  - Increased risk even if syphilis treated in pregnancy

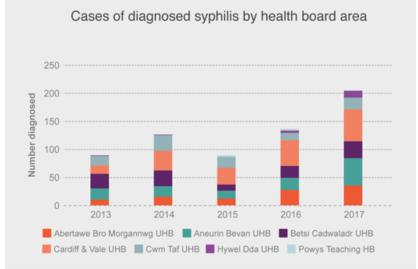
Potential for serious consequences Risk of **re-emergence** of congenital syphilis with increasing incidence in women





# Syphilis in Wales: increasing

- Mainly MSM
- But increase in new antenatal diagnoses via National Enhanced Syphilis Surveillance (NESS) in 2017 and early 2018



http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/88720

#### Main aims

- Describe the number and demographics of syphilis amongst pregnant women, and women generally
- Investigate what measures may be required to attempt to control syphilis within Wales, particularly antenatal and congenital syphilis



#### **Methods**

Sources of data:



- Lab results
- SWS
- Discussions with clinicians



### **Results: NESS**

6

5

4

3 2

0

Number of cases

Infectious syphilis cases in pregnant women reported through NESS by year, 2001-2017



Year

## Demographics

- Health boards:
  - 2016: Cardiff and Vale
  - 2017: Betsi Cadwaladr and Abertae Bro Morgannwg
- 21-31 years old (mean = 25) + white British
- None appeared to have any traditional risk factors



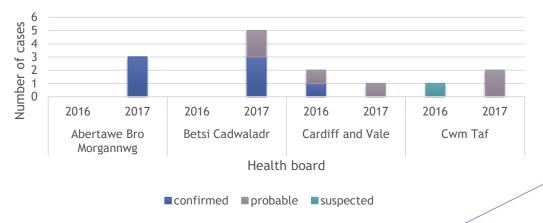
## Laboratory Data

Where first diagnosed:

12 / 14 detected through antenatal service blood testing 1 = unclear, 1 = TOP

Health board:

Antenatal syphilis cases (laboratory data) by health board 2016-2017

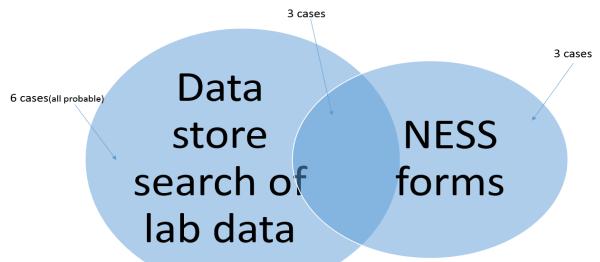






### Comparison of data sources

Comparison of antenatal syphilis cases in 2017 identified through different sources



## Congenital syphilis

1 case in 2017



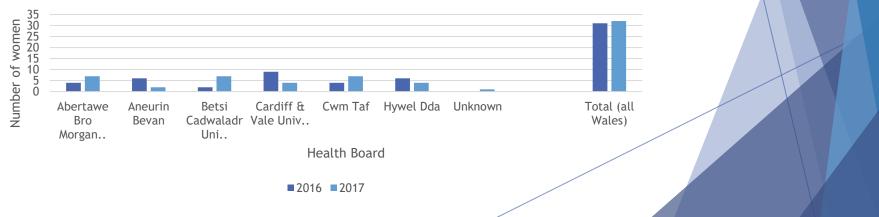


# Why was there an increase in antenatal syphilis?

- Increase in 2 HBs, also saw an increase in syphilis cases amongst all women
  - Echoed in England

Furegato M et al. Factors associated with four atypical cases of congential syphilis in England, 2016 to 2017: an ecological analysis. Euro Surveill. 2017;22(49)

SWS: number of women with any syphilis diagnosis A1-7a (2016-2017)





- However, in England, areas also had a higher proportion of behaviourally bisexual MSM diagnosed with syphilis
- Neither HB had a increase in diagnoses in MSM compared to other health boards in 2016 and 2017
- Neither had a higher proportion of MSM coded as bisexual
  - Betsi Cadwaladr had a large increase in syphilis diagnoses in 2013/14 amongst MSM

Health Board	Percentage of MSM coded by GUM clinics as bisexual
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	5.6%
Aneurin Bevan	12.3%
Betsi Cadwaladr	13.8%
Cardiff and Vale	3.3%
Cwm Taf	37.5%
Hywel Dda	0%

# What should we do now?

- Controlling overall rates, particularly in MSM
- Need further investigation re: why?
- Increase screening of women?
  - Community clinics?
  - Other services eg primary care / TOP...
- Improving antenatal surveillance
  - Electronic submission
  - Clinicians asked to submit all new antenatal cases
- Improving congenital syphilis surveillance
- Improving pathways / teamworking for antenatal women



תודה Dankie Gracias تىكرا Спасибо <mark>Merci Takk</mark> Köszönjük Terima kasih Grazie Dziękujemy Dekojame Ďakujeme Vielen Dank Paldies Täname teid 谢谢 Thank You Diolch Tak 感謝您 Obrigado Teşekkür Ederiz ここの Sulvaouatorius Σας ευχαριστούμε υουραι Bedankt Děkujeme vám ありがとうございます Tack