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## Syphilis rising among US gays and bisexuals

**NEW YORK:** The rising US syphilis rate appears to be disproportionately striking minority gay and bisexual men, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

The increase in the disease, which has been on the rise in the US since 2000, raises concerns not only because of syphilis itself, but also because the infection makes people more vulnerable to contracting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The new findings, reported in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, show that minorities – and young men, in particular those who are gay or bisexual – are being hit hardest by syphilis, which can be easily cured by antibiotics in the early stages but may not show symptoms early on.

The bottom line in prevention among gay and bisexual men is awareness, said lead researcher John Su, a medical epidemiologist at the CDC.

“First, you have to know you’re at risk. Then have a frank discussion about it with your healthcare provider,” he told Reuters Health. – Reuters