

# Match.Com, OK Cupid, Bumble And Plenty Of Fish Have Filled America With Syphilis

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## The surprising and alarming reasons behind the US' 'out of control' STI epidemic: Dating apps by big corporations are causing it all

READ THE REPORT: [Internet Dating Tips](#)

- Cases of syphilis have surged to their highest level since the 1950s, data shows
- Experts say dating apps, covid 'hangover' and falling condom use is to blame
- [READ MORE: REVEALED: Where in the US are syphilis cases highest?](#)

By [Luke Andrews Health Reporter](#)

Leading sexual health experts have blamed record-high cases of sexually transmitted infections on the 'explosion' in popularity of dating apps like Hinge and [Bumble](#).

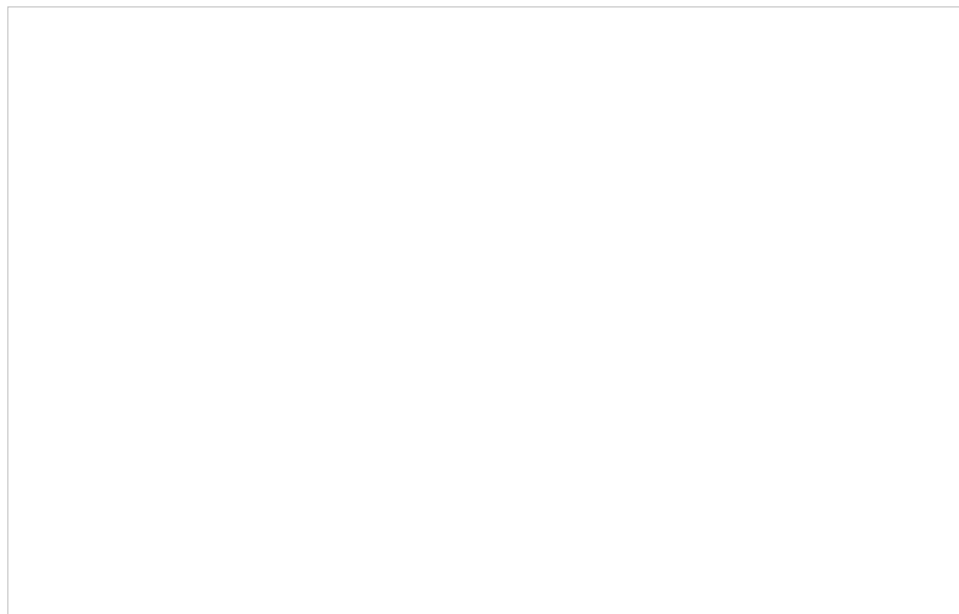
Last week, officials deemed the spiralling cases of conditions like chlamydia and syphilis striking the US an 'out of control' epidemic.

The warning followed the release of the latest [CDC](#) data that showed 2.5 million cases of STIs were detected in 2022, marking a rise in chlamydia and, most worryingly, potentially deadly syphilis.

Prevalence of the infection, which can damage the brain and heart, has shot up almost 80 percent in five years.

The shocking figures have led to fierce debate among the medical community as to what is causing the alarming situation.

Some, for instance, have pointed to the staggering drop in condom use among American men - almost 30 percent since 2011, according to some studies.



This graph shows how syphilis cases are rising again in the US and are now at their highest level since the 1950s

TRENDING



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And doctors have intriguing theories as to why this is.

Now, some of the US' leading sexual health experts have told DailyMail.com of their fascinating explanations for the leap in infections.

The never-ending Covid 'hangover' and the digital dating revolution are just two of the many reasons...

## **SYPHILIS USED TO MOSTLY AFFECT GAY MEN - THEN CAME DATING APPS...**

In 2000, syphilis was on the verge of eradication with a record-low of 5,979 cases per year in the US.

In 2022, there were 207,000 diagnoses, according to official data.

A decade ago, experts say infections - which spread via contact with a syphilitic sore, which usually forms on the genitals - were almost all among gay or bisexual men.

But there was a sudden 'shift' in 2013, when cases began to rise among women and straight men.

Experts say much of this can be explained by the increasingly popularity of dating apps among heterosexual people, like Tinder, which launched in 2012.

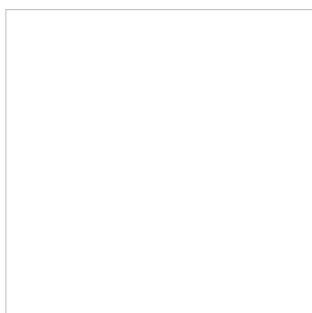
Grindr - a dating app used by gay men - launched in 2009, when syphilis cases among men who have sex with men began to gradually rise.

Experts suggest the apps expanded access to sexual partners, as Americans no longer had to rely on meeting potential suitors in person.

Dr Joseph Cherabie, a sexual health expert in St Louis, Missouri, told DailyMail.com: 'The way we date, meet people, hook up, has been made a lot more easy with the advent of dating apps — so that plays a role.

'All of a sudden, you have a bunch of potential mates at your fingertips, and so I think that could definitely play a role.'

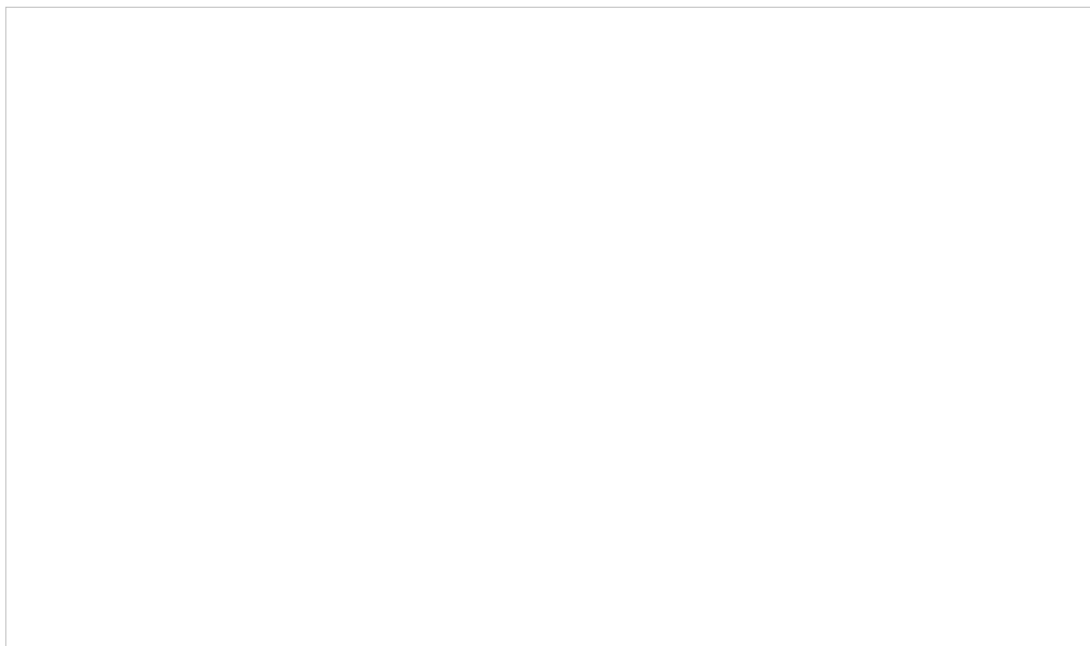
Writing in the [Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#) in 2018, researchers commented that apps have also been linked to an increase in fluid sexuality, meaning infections can pass on from different groups of partners.



This chart shows 29 percent of total syphilis infections are now detected in gay men, compared to nearly 90 percent in the early 2000s

The researchers, including Dr Elizabeth Torrone at the CDC, said: 'One hypothesis for the increasing rates among heterosexual populations is increased mixing between sexual networks.

'An increasing number of men who have sex with both men and women serve as 'bridges' between gay men and heterosexual networks.'



Covid could also have played a role, experts said, with a surge in sexual activity after lockdowns leading to more transmission

#### THE COVID 'HANGOVER' CONTINUES

The sudden return to socializing after the pandemic has led to a spike in sexually promiscuous behavior, experts say.

Americans are spending more intimate moments together to 'make up for lost time'.

And the monkeypox outbreak hit the US in 2022, which was linked to sexual activity at LGBT events, with more than 30,000 cases now diagnosed in the US to date.

Dr Monica Gandhi, an epidemiologist at the University of California, San Francisco, told DailyMail.com: 'We initially did have reduced STD rates in this country after lockdowns.

'But there was also less testing and then there was a very clear rebound.

'Testing rates were down, treatment rates were down, and that then fueled an epidemic.

'Once Covid lockdowns were over, that led to a let's get back to normal attitude and some sort of celebratory atmosphere, maybe — including having more sex.'

She added: 'It is just not natural to tell people to stay away from each other — and so I think a lot of that response was compensatory.'

#### FIVE-FOLD INCREASE IN IV DRUG USE IN 7 YEARS

America's opioid crisis has reached record levels, with an estimated 106,000 people now dying from overdoses every month.

Since 2011, the number of people injecting drugs in the USA has risen to at least three million, according to Government data.

Doctors say these individuals are more likely to engage in risky sexual activity — which could be to secure food or drugs.

They may also be reusing needles and other equipment which could have become contaminated with syphilis.

The CDC reported a link between a spike in syphilis cases and meth use in 2019.

Experts found between 2013 and 2017, the rate of syphilis cases in heterosexual men and women who also used methamphetamine or injectable drugs more than doubled.

Drugs were also implicated in another increase in syphilis in the 1990s, which experts said was linked to surges in crack cocaine use.

#### [MATCH\\_DOT\\_COM\\_LIES\\_TO\\_AND\\_ABUSES\\_THEIR\\_USERS](#)

Falling condom use may also be behind the rise

#### FEWER GAY MEN ARE USING CONDOMS

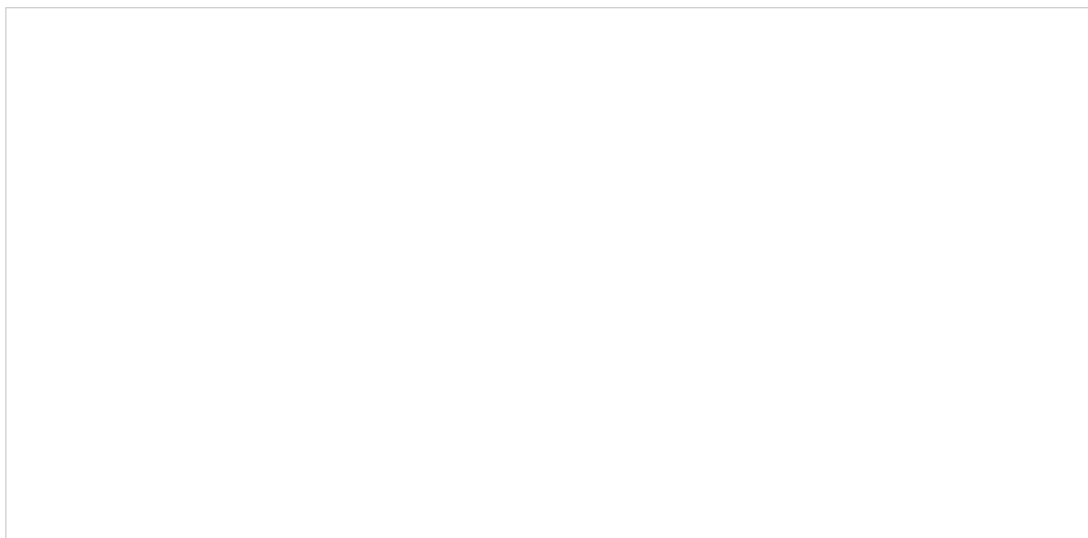
Condoms have been around for decades in one form or another as a way to prevent pregnancy and, more recently, stop sexually transmitted diseases.

But in recent years they have fallen out of favor among younger groups.

CDC data shows between 2011 and 2021, condom use declined from 75 percent of men studied to 42 percent.

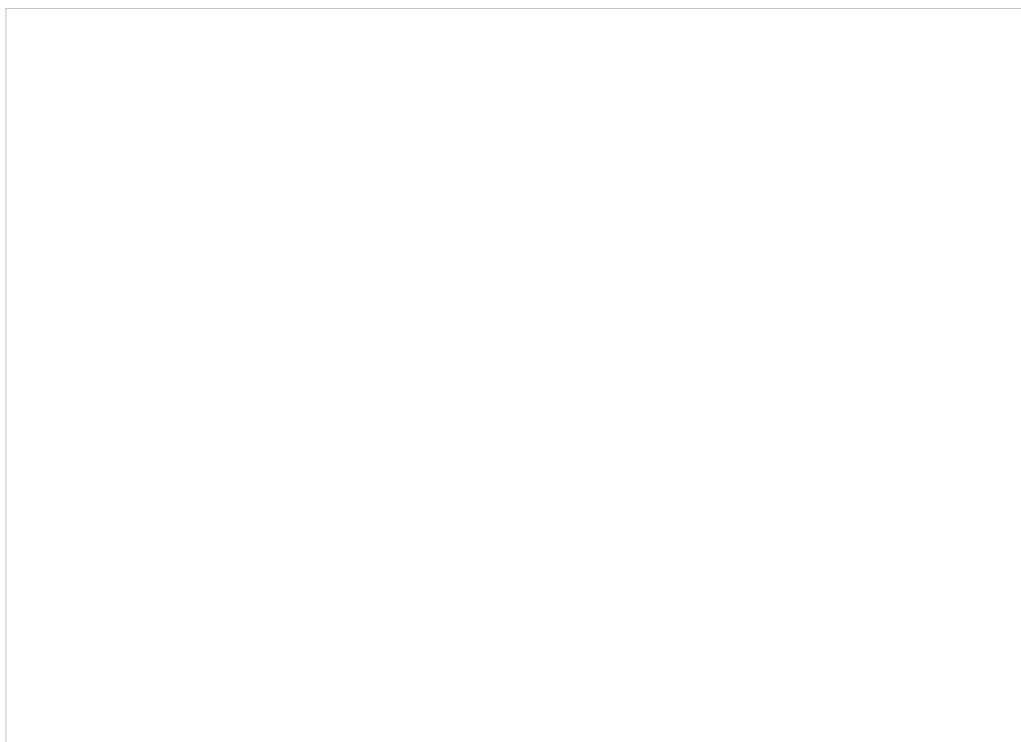
Dr Cherabie says one possible reason for this could be the advent of highly effective HIV prevention treatments, such as PrEP, which dramatically reduces the chances of contracting HIV.

The medications have led to a more 'relaxed' attitude to condom use among men who have sex with men, he adds.



But doctors warn the removal of this barrier is making it easier for other sexually transmitted diseases, like syphilis, to spread.

It is not entirely clear why condom use has fallen among heterosexual people. However, some experts have suggested a reduction in sexual education resources, and the increasing unpopularity of the method could be to blame.



People are celebrating the death of Toby Keith after Toby's public feud with the [Dixie Chicks](#) (now just "The Chicks") back in 2003.

If you don't remember, it all started when the lead singer of the then-Dixie Chicks, Natalie Maines, spoke out against Toby's hit "Courtesy of the Red White and Blue," calling the song "ignorant."

***"Don't get me started. I hate it. It's ignorant, and it makes country music sound ignorant.***

***It targets an entire culture – and not just the bad people who did bad things. You've got to have some tact.***

***Anybody can write, 'We'll put a boot in your ass.' But a lot of people agree with it. The kinds of songs I prefer on the subject are like Bruce Springsteen's new songs."***

Toby responded by displaying a backdrop at his shows featuring Maines alongside Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Then, Maines showed up to the ACM Awards wearing a shirt that said "FUTK," which many assumed stood for "F\*ck You Toby Keith," something Maines later confirmed.

So when news broke this morning of Toby's passing, some vile people took to Twitter not to mourn, but to celebrate, with "Dixie Chicks" trending on the site as many professed they would be listening to their music in honor of Keith's death.

The Dixie Chicks right now. [pic.twitter.com/xWezWSpMqh](https://pic.twitter.com/xWezWSpMqh)

— Lisa Holliday 🇺🇸 🇬🇧 🇨🇦 (@GooseNibble) [February 6, 2024](#)

**[Scoring for a living: 98% of Premier League soccer players are cheating on their wives claims Italian model who says she's slept with three top stars](#)**



Paola Saulino said she was contacted by 'many' footballers online and said she had slept with three players from the English top division and believes 'betrayal is natural' after outcry around Walker.