

14.91

20pc rise in cases of syphilis

NAOMI LEE ^{SCMP}
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More people are contracting sexually transmitted diseases, according to figures released yesterday.

The figures have prompted a publicity campaign to promote safe sex.

More than 5,180 cases have been treated by the Department of Health's Social Hygiene Service in the second quarter of this year, compared with 5,032 cases in the corresponding period last year.

Sixty-four per cent of patients were aged between 20 and 40. Syphilis saw the biggest increase with cases rising from 127 to 150.

There were 661 cases of gonorrhoea, a 17 per cent rise from 563, while cases of genital warts rose from 834 to 843.