# **Eliminating Syphilis -- Broward County, FL**

### Key features of syphilis in the U.S. in 2003

Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD). Syphilis disproportionately affects a small percentage of the population and research shows that these are often isolated groups involved in high-risk activities such as illicit drug use, exchanging sex for money or drugs, unprotected sexual intercourse and having multiple sex partners.

- U.S. primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis rate in 2003 was
   2.5 cases/100,000 population (7,177 cases).
- U.S. congenital syphilis rate was 10.3 cases/100,000 live births (413 cases).
- Half of U.S. P&S cases in 2003 were in 19 counties, less than 1% of 3,140 counties.

## Key features of syphilis in Broward County, FL in 2003

### Primary and secondary syphilis cases, rates and rank

- Broward County, FL's 179 cases ranked 9 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Broward County, FL's rate of 10.3 cases/100,000 population ranked 33 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Broward County, FL's rate was 4.1 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.

# Rate (per 100,000 population) 0.0 0.1-4.0 High Case

Florida County Rates

### Male-female ratios (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Broward County, FL 172 (96%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (20.5/100,000) was 4.9 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In Broward County, FL 7 (4%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (0.8/100,000) was 1 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Broward County, FL was 25.9:1.0, higher than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

### Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Broward County, FL in 2003, the racial distribution of the 179 cases was: White = 128; Black = 24; Hispanics = 17; Asian = 1; American Indian = 0. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 14.8; Black = 6.1; Hispanics = 5.2; Asian = 1.9; American Indian = 0.0.
- 75.4% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 14% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (6.1) was 0.4 times that of Whites (14.8).
- 10.1% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (5.2) was 0.4 times that of Whites (14.8).
- 0.6% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (1.9) was 0.1 times that of Whites (14.8).
- 0.0% cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (0.0) was 0.0 times that of Whites (14.8).

#### **Congenital Syphilis**

Syphilis can be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy causing stillbirths or congenital syphilis that may result in lifelong health problems.

- Broward County, FL had 4 congenital syphilis cases born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the county was 18.1 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Broward County, FL was 1.8 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000.