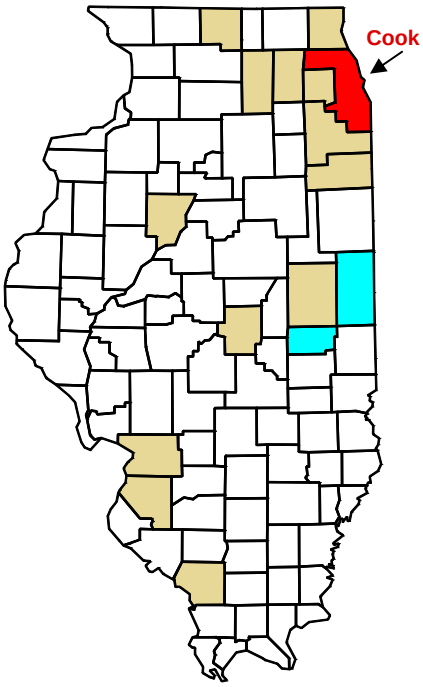
Eliminating Syphilis -- Cook County, IL

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.



Illinois County Rates

Key features of syphilis in Cook County, IL in 2003

Primary and secondary syphilis cases, rates and rank

- Cook County, IL's 302 cases ranked 3 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Cook County, IL's rate of 5.6 cases/100,000 population ranked 100 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Cook County, IL's rate was 2.2 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.

Male-female ratios (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Cook County, IL 269 (89%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (10.4/100,000) was 2.5 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In Cook County, IL 33 (11%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (1.2/100,000) was 1.5 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Cook County, IL was 8.6:1.0, higher than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Cook County, IL in 2003, the racial distribution of the 302 cases was: White = 115; Black = 139; Hispanics = 28; Asian = 2; American Indian = 0. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 4.9; Black = 10.6; Hispanics = 2.6; Asian = 0.7; American Indian = 0.0.
- 40.4% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 49% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (10.6) was 2.2 times that of Whites (4.9).
- 9.9% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (2.6) was 0.5 times that of Whites (4.9).
- 0.7% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.7) was 0.1 times that of Whites (4.9).
- 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 (4.9).

Congenital Syphilis

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

- Cook County, IL had 16 congenital syphilis cases born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the county was 19.6 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Cook County, IL was 1.9 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000.