

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

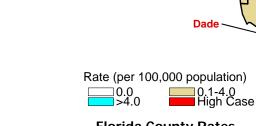
Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD). Syphilis disproportionately affects a small percentage of the population and research shows that these are often isolated groups involved in high-risk activities such as illicit drug use, exchanging sex for money or drugs, unprotected 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 Dade County, FL in 2003

## Primary and secondary syphilis cases, rates and rank

- Dade County, FL's 194 cases ranked 8 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Dade County, FL's rate of 8.3 cases/100,000 population ranked 59 among 3,140 U.S. counties.



- Florida County Rates
- Dade County, FL's rate was 3.3 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.

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

- In Dade County, FL 171 (88%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (15.1/100,000) was 3.6 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In Dade County, FL 23 (12%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (1.9/100,000) was 2.4 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Dade County, FL was 7.9:1.0, higher than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

## Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Dade County, FL in 2003, the racial distribution of the 194 cases was: White = 40; Black = 53; Hispanics = 88; Asian = 1; American Indian = 1. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 9.6; Black = 12.4; Hispanics = 6.6; Asian = 2.9; American Indian = 44.1.
- 21.6% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 28.9% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (12.4) was 1.3 times that of Whites (9.6).
- 47.9% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (6.6) was 0.7 times that of Whites (9.6).
- 0.5% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (2.9) was 0.3 times that of Whites (9.6).
- 0.5% cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (44.1) was 4.6 times that of Whites (9.6).

#### **Congenital Syphilis**

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

- Dade County, FL had 10 congenital syphilis cases born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the county was 31.1 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Dade County, FL was 3 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000.