

# Eliminating Syphilis -- Baltimore (City), MD

# Key features of syphilis in the U.S. in 2004

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 2004 was 2.7 cases/100,000 population (7,980 cases).
- U.S. congenital syphilis rate was 8.8 cases/100,000 live births (353 cases).
- Half of U.S. P&S cases in 2004 were in 20 counties, less than 1% of 3,140 counties.

# Baltimore



# Key features of syphilis in Baltimore (City), MD in 2004

# Primary and secondary syphilis cases, rates and rank

#### **Maryland County Rates**

- Baltimore (City), MD's 209 cases ranked 8 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Baltimore (City), MD's rate of 33.2 cases/100,000 population ranked 7 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Baltimore (City), MD's rate was 12.3 times the U.S. rate of 2.7 cases/100,000 population.

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

- In Baltimore (City), MD 154 (74%) cases in 2004 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (52.6/100,000) was 11.2 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.7/100,000).
- In Baltimore (City), MD 55 (26%) cases were among females, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among females (16.4/100,000) was 20.5 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Baltimore (City), MD was 3.2:1.0, lower than than the U.S. ratio of 5.3:1.0.

#### Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Baltimore (City), MD in 2004, the racial distribution of the 209 cases was: White = 44; Black = 140; Hispanics = 11; Asian = 1; American Indian = 0. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 24.2; Black = 36.4; Hispanics = 103.3; Asian = 9.1; American Indian = 0.0.
- 22.5% of cases were among Whites, compared to 40% nationally.
- 71.3% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 41% nationally. The rate among Blacks (36.4) was 1.5 times that of Whites (24.2).
- 5.7% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (103.3) was 4.3 times that of Whites (24.2).
- 0.5% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (9.1) was 0.4 times that of Whites (24.2).
- 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 (24.2).

#### Congenital Syphilis

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

- Baltimore (City), MD had 9 congenital syphilis cases born in 2004.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the city was 93.3 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Baltimore (City), MD was 10.6 times the U.S. rate of 8.8/100,000.



