

# 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.

# Key features of syphilis in Cook County, IL in 2004

# Primary and secondary syphilis cases, rates and rank

- Cook County, IL's 340 cases ranked 3 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Cook County, IL's rate of 6.4 cases/100,000 population ranked 94 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Cook County, IL's rate was 2.4 times the U.S. rate of 2.7 cases/100,000 population.

# Rate (per 100,000 population)

### **Illinois County Rates**

]0.0 ]>4.0 0.1-4.0 High Case

# Male-female ratios (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Cook County, IL 290 (85%) cases in 2004 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (11.2/100,000) was 2.4 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.7/100,000).
- In Cook County, IL 50 (15%) cases were among females, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among females (1.8/100,000) was 2.3 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Cook County, IL was 6.1:1.0, higher than the U.S. ratio of 5.3:1.0.

# Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Cook County, IL in 2004, the racial distribution of the 340 cases was: White = 113; Black = 174; Hispanics = 36; Asian = 6; American Indian = 0. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 4.7; Black = 12.9; Hispanics = 3.2; Asian = 2; American Indian = 0.0.
- 34.4% of cases were among Whites, compared to 40% nationally.
- 52.9% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 41% nationally. The rate among Blacks (12.9) was 2.7 times that of Whites (4.7).
- 10.9% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (3.2) was 0.7 times that of Whites (4.7).
- 1.8% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (2) was 0.4 times that of Whites (4.7).
- 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 (4.7).

# **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 20 congenital syphilis cases born in 2004.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the county was 24.5 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Cook County, IL was 2.8 times the U.S. rate of 8.8/100,000.



For more information, visit http://www.cdc.gov/stopsyphilis/

