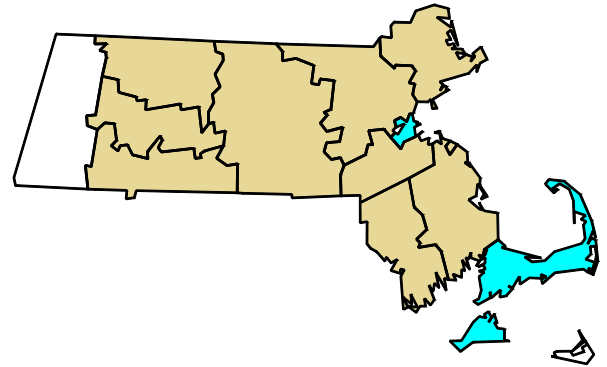




## Key features of syphilis in the U.S. in 2004

*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.



Rate (per 100,000 population)  
 0.0 0.1-4.0  
 >4.0

## Key features of syphilis in Massachusetts in 2004

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

- Massachusetts' 114 cases ranked 21 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories
- Massachusetts' rate of 1.8 cases/100,000 population ranked 23 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- Massachusetts' rate was 0.7 times the U.S. rate of 2.7 cases/100,000 population.

### Massachusetts Rates

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

- In Massachusetts, 109 (96%) cases in 2004 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (3.5/100,000) was 0.7 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.7/100,000).
- In Massachusetts, 5 (4%) cases were among females, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among females (0.1/100,000) was 0.2 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Massachusetts was 23.3:1.0, higher than than the U.S. ratio of 5.3:1.0.

### Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Massachusetts in 2004, the racial distribution of the 114 cases was: White = 62; Black = 18; Hispanics = 22; Asian = 2; American Indian = 0. The race adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 1.3; Black = 5.2; Hispanics = 5; Asian = 0.7; American Indian = 0.0.
- 59.6% of cases were among Whites, compared to 40% nationally.
- 17.5% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 41% nationally. The rate among Blacks (5.2) was 4 times that of Whites (1.3).
- 21.1% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (5) was 3.8 times that of Whites (1.3).
- 1.8% of cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.7) was 0.5 times that of Whites (1.3).
- 0.0% of cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (0.0) was 0.0 times that of Whites (1.3).

### Congenital Syphilis

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

- Massachusetts had 0 congenital syphilis cases born in 2004.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the state was 0.0 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Massachusetts was 0.0 times the U.S. rate of 8.8/100,000 live births.

