

# 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 Missouri in 2004

## Primary and secondary syphilis cases, rates and rank

- Missouri's 94 cases ranked 22 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- Missouri's rate of 1.6 cases/100,000 population ranked 29 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- Missouri's rate was 0.6 times the U.S. rate of 2.7 cases/100,000 population.

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

- In Missouri, 82 (87%) cases in 2004 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (3/100,000) was 0.6 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.7/100,000).
- In Missouri, 12 (13%) cases were among females, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among females (0.4/100,000) was 0.5 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Missouri was 7.2:1.0, higher than the U.S. ratio of 5.3:1.0.

## Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Missouri in 2004, the racial distribution of the 94 cases was: White = 60; Black = 30; Hispanics = 4; Asian = 0; American Indian = 0. The race adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 1.3; Black = 4.5; Hispanics = 3.1; Asian = 0.0; American Indian = 0.0.
- 63.8% of cases were among Whites, compared to 40% nationally.
- 31.9% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 41% nationally. The rate among Blacks (4.5) was 3.5 times that of Whites (1.3).
- 4.3% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (3.1) was 2.4 times that of Whites (1.3).
- 0.0% of cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.0) was 0.0 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.

- Missouri had 2 congenital syphilis cases born in 2004.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the state was 2.7 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Missouri was 0.3 times the U.S. rate of 8.8/100,000 live births.



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







