

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 Arizona in 2004

Primary and secondary syphilis cases, rates and rank

- Arizona's 157 cases ranked 14 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- Arizona's rate of 2.8 cases/100,000 population ranked 14 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- Arizona's rate was 1 times the U.S. rate of 2.7 cases/100,000 population.

Male-female ratios (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Arizona, 115 (73%) cases in 2004 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (4.1/100,000) was 0.9 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.7/100,000).
- In Arizona, 42 (27%) cases were among females, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among females (1.5/100,000) was 1.9 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Arizona was 2.7:1.0, lower than than the U.S. ratio of 5.3:1.0.

Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Arizona in 2004, the racial distribution of the 157 cases was: White = 49; Black = 13; Hispanics = 50; Asian = 1; American Indian = 19. The race adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 1.7; Black = 8.4; Hispanics = 3.8; Asian = 0.8; American Indian = 8.5.
- 36.9% of cases were among Whites, compared to 40% nationally.
- 9.6% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 41% nationally. The rate among Blacks (8.4) was 4.9 times that of Whites (1.7).
- 37.6% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (3.8) was 2.2 times that of Whites (1.7).
- 0.6% of cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.8) was 0.5 times that of Whites (1.7).
- 14.6% of cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (8.5) was 5 times that of Whites (1.7).

Congenital Syphilis

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

- Arizona had 26 congenital syphilis cases born in 2004.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the state was 29.6 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Arizona was 3.4 times the U.S. rate of 8.8/100,000 live births.



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





