



TOGETHER...



You are invited to become part of a local effort to **eliminate syphilis** from our community and help erase one of our nation's biggest racial disparities in health. Syphilis is concentrated in a small number of counties, most of them urban or in the South. Unfortunately, ours is one of them. In 2003, our community reported a syphilis rate of \_\_\_ cases per 100,000 people, compared to the national rate of 2.2 cases per 100,000 people.

This local effort is part of a broader, national **Syphilis Elimination Effort (SEE)**, bringing together health care providers, community leaders, and policy makers at the national, state, and local levels to drive down the syphilis rate in the United States. The goal is to reduce the number of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis cases to less than 1,000 (0.4 cases per 100,000 people) and make at least 90 percent of U.S. counties—including ours—syphilis-free.

**THE TIME TO SEE IS NOW.**

While U.S. syphilis rates reached their lowest point ever in 2000, they have since been on the rise, increasing slightly in 2001 and more substantially in 2002. Between 2001 and 2002, the overall syphilis rate increased 12.4 percent, from 2.2 to 2.4 cases per 100,000 people. In 2003, reported P&S syphilis cases increased 4.6 percent. Because syphilis tends to rebound in 7- to 10-year cycles, we must seize this opportunity to eliminate syphilis now, while rates are still relatively low.

**TOGETHER WE CAN SEE.**

Together we can wipe out this disease and make our communities healthier, for a safer today and tomorrow. (Please see response card for a list of ways you can get involved in this effort). We look forward to receiving your response card and to working with you in the near future.

Thank you for inviting me to join the SEE initiative. I would like to receive information so that I can: **(Please check all that apply)**

- Coordinate syphilis elimination activities within my organization
- Increase awareness about syphilis and syphilis elimination in my community
- Educate policy makers and opinion leaders about the importance of syphilis elimination
- Involve health care providers in syphilis elimination activities
- Assist my local health department's SEE outreach efforts by:
  - Providing space for meetings
  - Recruiting volunteers
  - Providing incentives for syphilis screenings
  - Displaying SEE materials in my place of business
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please send relevant materials to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

How do you describe your work/profession?

- Health care professional
- Religious leader
- Policy maker
- Activist
- Community-based organization staff
- State or local health department staff
- Community leader
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



For more information:

[www.cdc.gov/std/see/](http://www.cdc.gov/std/see/)



