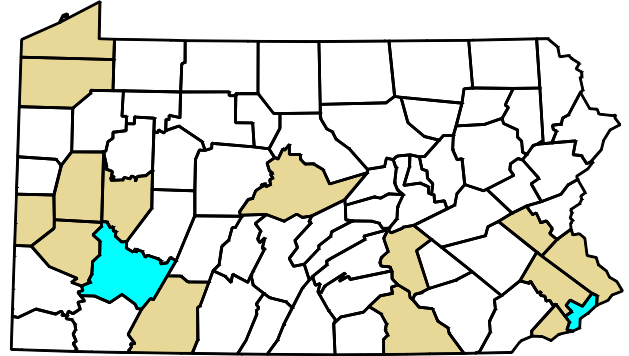




### Key features of syphilis in the U.S. in 2003

*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 2003 was 2.5 cases/100,000 population (7,177 cases).
- U.S. congenital syphilis rate was 10.3 cases/100,000 live births (413 cases).
- Half of U.S. P&S cases in 2003 were in 19 counties, less than 1% of 3,140 counties.



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

### Pennsylvania Rates

### Key features of syphilis in Pennsylvania in 2003

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

- Pennsylvania's 159 cases ranked 14 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- Pennsylvania's rate of 1.3 cases/100,000 population ranked 27 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- Pennsylvania's rate was 0.5 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.

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

- In Pennsylvania, 126 (79%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (2.1/100,000) was 0.5 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In Pennsylvania, 33 (21%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (0.5/100,000) was 0.7 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Pennsylvania was 4.0:1.0, lower than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

#### Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Pennsylvania in 2003, the racial distribution of the 159 cases was: White = 60; Black = 78; Hispanics = 9; Asian = 1; American Indian = 0. The race adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 0.6; Black = 6.6; Hispanics = 2.4; Asian = 0.4; American Indian = 0.0.
- 40.3% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 52.8% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (6.6) was 11 times that of Whites (0.6).
- 6.3% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (2.4) was 4 times that of Whites (0.6).
- 0.6% of cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.4) was 0.7 times that of Whites (0.6).
- 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 (0.6).

#### Congenital Syphilis

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

- Pennsylvania had 2 congenital syphilis cases born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the state was 1.4 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Pennsylvania was 0.1 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000 live births.