



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

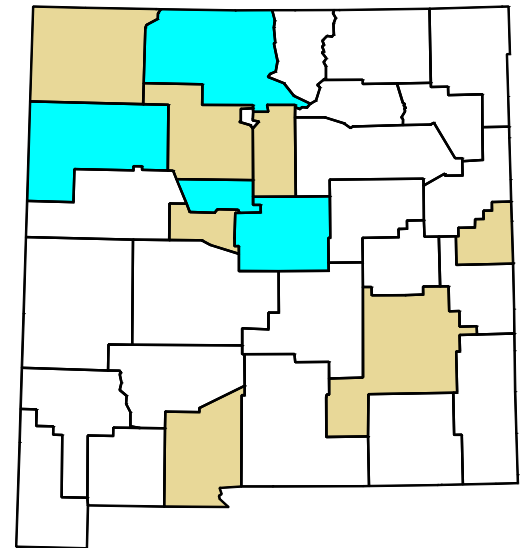
*Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD). Syphilis disproportionately affects a small percentage of the population and research shows that these are often isolated groups involved in high-risk activities such as illicit drug use, exchanging sex for money or drugs, unprotected 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.

### Key features of syphilis in New Mexico in 2003

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

- New Mexico's 71 cases ranked 22 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- New Mexico's rate of 3.8 cases/100,000 population ranked 7 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- New Mexico's rate was 1.5 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.



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

#### New Mexico Rates

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

- In New Mexico, 48 (68%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (5.2/100,000) was 1.2 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In New Mexico, 23 (32%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (2.4/100,000) was 3 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in New Mexico was 2.1:1.0, lower than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

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

- In New Mexico in 2003, the racial distribution of the 71 cases was: White = 9; Black = 2; Hispanics = 32; Asian = 1; American Indian = 25. The race adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 1.1; Black = 5.4; Hispanics = 4.1; Asian = 4.1; American Indian = 14.9.
- 12.7% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 2.8% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (5.4) was 4.9 times that of Whites (1.1).
- 46.5% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (4.1) was 3.7 times that of Whites (1.1).
- 1.4% of cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (4.1) was 3.7 times that of Whites (1.1).
- 36.6% of cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (14.9) was 13.5 times that of Whites (1.1).

#### Congenital Syphilis

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

- New Mexico had 6 congenital syphilis cases born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the state was 21.6 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in New Mexico was 2.1 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000 live births.