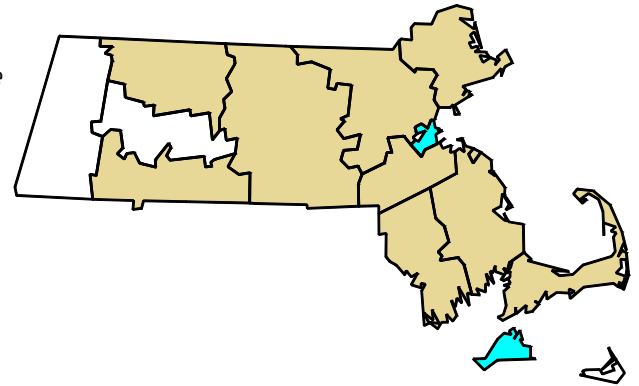




## Key features of syphilis in the U.S. in 2003

*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

## Key features of syphilis in Massachusetts in 2003

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

- Massachusetts' 133 cases ranked 17 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- Massachusetts' rate of 2.1 cases/100,000 population ranked 19 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- Massachusetts' rate was 0.8 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.

### Massachusetts Rates

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

- In Massachusetts, 129 (97%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (4.2/100,000) was 1 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In Massachusetts, 3 (2%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (0.1/100,000) was 0.1 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Massachusetts was 46.1:1.0, higher than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

### Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Massachusetts in 2003, the racial distribution of the 133 cases was: White = 87; Black = 8; Hispanics = 16; Asian = 6; American Indian = 0. The race adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 1.9; Black = 2.3; Hispanics = 3.8; Asian = 2.4; American Indian = 0.0.
- 74.4% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 6.8% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (2.3) was 1.2 times that of Whites (1.9).
- 13.5% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (3.8) was 2 times that of Whites (1.9).
- 5.3% of cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (2.4) was 1.3 times that of Whites (1.9).
- 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 (1.9).

### Congenital Syphilis

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

- Massachusetts had 0 congenital syphilis cases born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the state was 0.0 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Massachusetts was 0.0 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000 live births.