

Eliminating Syphilis Wayne County (Detroit), Michigan

Why is Syphilis Elimination in the U.S. within our reach now?

- Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- Infectious syphilis is at the lowest rate ever reported: 2.6 cases/100,000 population (6,993 total cases).
- Syphilis is now very concentrated; half of all new cases in 1998 were reported from only 28 counties, which represent less than 1% of all of U.S. counties.
- Other industrialized countries have already eliminated syphilis.

Why is it Important to Eliminate Syphilis in Wayne County?

- **In 1998 Wayne County ranked 6th in the nation** in new cases of infectious syphilis (169 cases) and had a rate 3 times higher than the national rate.
- **To reduce one of the most glaring racial disparities in health**
 - S 92% of cases are among African Americans (79% of cases nationally).
 - S The infectious syphilis rate in Wayne County for African Americans is 14 times greater than the rate for white Americans.
- **To decrease spread of HIV infection**
 - S Syphilis increases HIV transmission at least 2-to-5 fold.
- **To improve infant health**
 - S Syphilis can be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy causing stillbirths or congenital infection, some of which may result in persistent health problems.
 - S In 1998, 13 cases of congenital syphilis were reported from Wayne County for a rate of 41.0 cases/100,000 births, greater than 2 times the national rate of 20.6 cases/100,000 births.

Wayne County Responds

- Detroit's nine year battle with syphilis is paying off. Although Detroit saw an increase in cases in 1998, the number reported was much lower than the 1,088 cases reported in 1991. Control efforts are directed primarily toward populations using crack cocaine and trading sex for drugs, both of which have been related to infectious syphilis outbreaks.

Infectious Syphilis — Michigan, 1998



Wayne County
rate=7.9

- 0 cases reported
- Rate ≤ 4/100,000*
- Rate > 4/100,000*
- One of 28 counties reporting half of new cases in the U.S.

* Healthy People 2000 objective is 4/100,000

1998 U.S. rate: 2.6 cases/100,000 population

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<http://www.cdc.gov/StopSyphilis/>



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