



## 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 DeKalb County, GA in 2003

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

- DeKalb County, GA's 108 cases ranked 16 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- DeKalb County, GA's rate of 16 cases/100,000 population ranked 18 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- DeKalb County, GA's rate was 6.4 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.

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

- In DeKalb County, GA 104 (96%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (31.7/100,000) was 7.5 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In DeKalb County, GA 4 (4%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (1.2/100,000) was 1.5 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in DeKalb County, GA was 27.3:1.0, higher than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

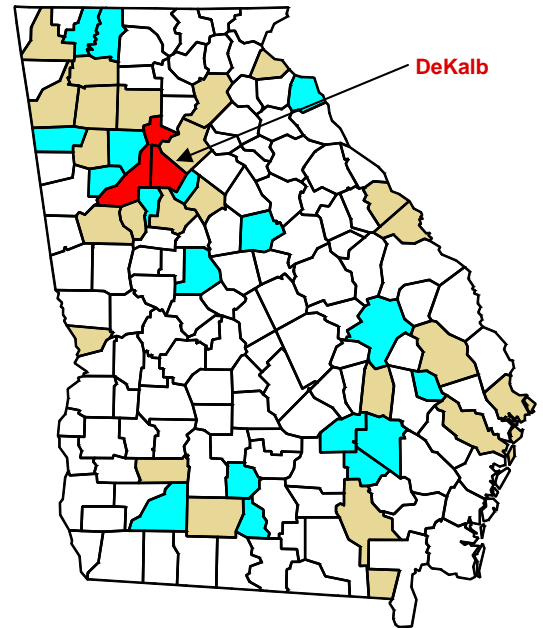
### Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In DeKalb County, GA in 2003, the racial distribution of the 108 cases was: White = 45; Black = 49; Hispanics = 1; Asian = 0; American Indian = 0. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 23.9; Black = 15; Hispanics = 1.7; Asian = 0.0; American Indian = 0.0.
- 47.2% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 51.9% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (15) was 0.6 times that of Whites (23.9).
- 0.9% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (1.7) was 0.1 times that of Whites (23.9).
- 0.0% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.0) was 0.0 times that of Whites (23.9).
- 0.0% cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (0.0) was 0.0 times that of Whites (23.9).

### Congenital Syphilis

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

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



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

Georgia County Rates