

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

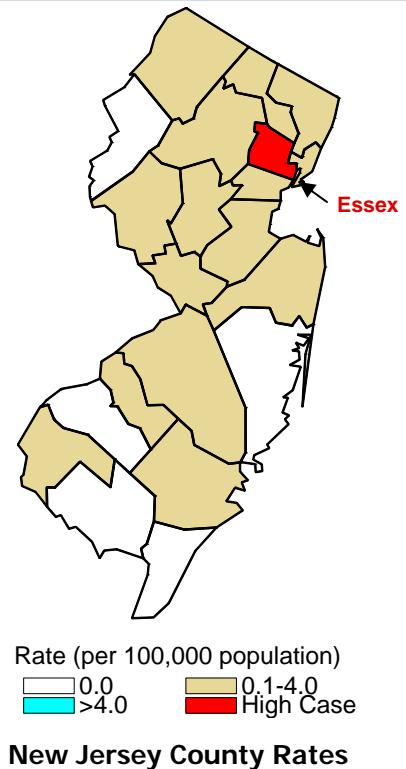
*Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD). Syphilis disproportionately affects a small percentage of the population and research shows that these are often isolated groups involved in high-risk activities such as illicit drug use, exchanging sex for money or drugs, unprotected 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 Essex County, NJ in 2003

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

- Essex County, NJ's 76 cases ranked 18 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Essex County, NJ's rate of 9.5 cases/100,000 population ranked 40 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Essex County, NJ's rate was 3.8 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.



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

- In Essex County, NJ 46 (61%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (12.1/100,000) was 2.9 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In Essex County, NJ 30 (39%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (7.2/100,000) was 9 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Essex County, NJ was 1.7:1.0, lower than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

### Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Essex County, NJ in 2003, the racial distribution of the 76 cases was: White = 4; Black = 55; Hispanics = 3; Asian = 0; American Indian = 0. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 1.7; Black = 20.1; Hispanics = 3; Asian = 0.0; American Indian = 0.0.
- 6.6% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 88.2% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (20.1) was 11.8 times that of Whites (1.7).
- 5.3% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (3) was 1.8 times that of Whites (1.7).
- 0.0% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.0) was 0.0 times that of Whites (1.7).
- 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 (1.7).

### Congenital Syphilis

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

- Essex County, NJ had 18 congenital syphilis cases born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the county was 148.5 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Essex County, NJ was 14.4 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000.