



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

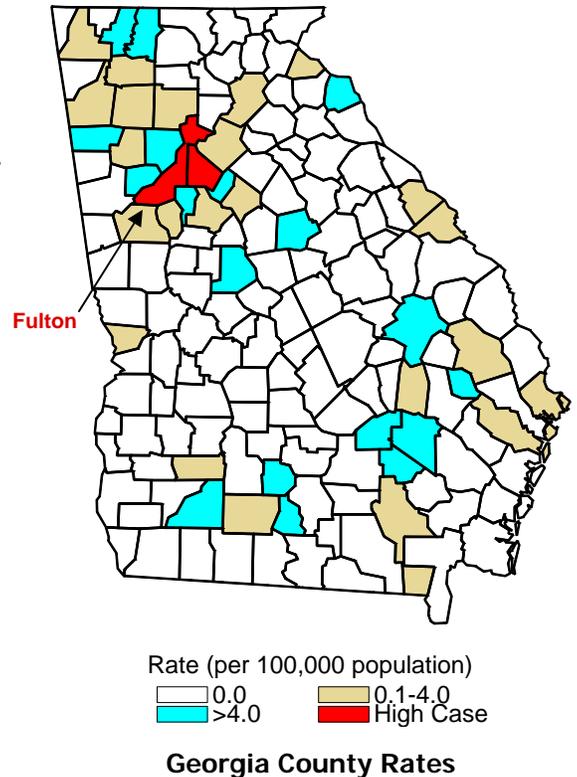
*Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD). Syphilis disproportionately affects a small percentage of the population and research shows that these are often isolated groups involved in high-risk activities such as illicit drug use, exchanging sex for money or drugs, unprotected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

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

- Fulton County, GA's 298 cases ranked 4 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Fulton County, GA's rate of 36.4 cases/100,000 population ranked 5 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Fulton County, GA's rate was 14.6 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.



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

- In Fulton County, GA 259 (87%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (64.1/100,000) was 15.3 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In Fulton County, GA 39 (13%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (9.4/100,000) was 11.8 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Fulton County, GA was 6.8:1.0, higher than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

### Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In Fulton County, GA in 2003, the racial distribution of the 298 cases was: White = 98; Black = 179; Hispanics = 10; Asian = 0; American Indian = 1. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 26.6; Black = 52.5; Hispanics = 18.1; Asian = 0.0; American Indian = 65.8.
- 33.9% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 62.1% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (52.5) was 2 times that of Whites (26.6).
- 3.4% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (18.1) was 0.7 times that of Whites (26.6).
- 0.0% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.0) was 0.0 times that of Whites (26.6).
- 0.3% cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (65.8) was 2.5 times that of Whites (26.6).

### Congenital Syphilis

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

- Fulton County, GA had 3 congenital syphilis cases born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the county was 22.2 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Fulton County, GA was 2.2 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000.