Key features of syphilis in the U.S. in 2004

**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 2004 was 2.7 cases/100,000 population (7,980 cases).
- U.S. congenital syphilis rate was 8.8 cases/100,000 live births (353 cases).
- Half of U.S. P&S cases in 2004 were in 20 counties, less than 1% of 3,140 counties.

Key features of syphilis in Dallas County, TX in 2004

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

- Dallas County, TX's 184 cases ranked 9 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Dallas County, TX's rate of 8.1 cases/100,000 population ranked 65 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- Dallas County, TX's rate was 3 times the U.S. rate of 2.7 cases/100,000 population.

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

- In Dallas County, TX 134 (73%) cases in 2004 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (11.7/100,000) was 2.5 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.7/100,000).
- In Dallas County, TX 50 (27%) cases were among females, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among females (4.4/100,000) was 5.5 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in Dallas County, TX was 2.7:1.0, lower than than the U.S. ratio of 5.3:1.0.

**Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)**

- In Dallas County, TX in 2004, the racial distribution of the 184 cases was: White = 56; Black = 93; Hispanics = 25; Asian = 2; American Indian = 0. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 6.4; Black = 20.8; Hispanics = 3.3; Asian = 2; American Indian = 0.0.
- 32.1% of cases were among Whites, compared to 40% nationally.
- 52.7% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 41% nationally. The rate among Blacks (20.8) was 3.3 times that of Whites (6.4).
- 14.1% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (3.3) was 0.5 times that of Whites (6.4).
- 1.1% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (2) was 0.3 times that of Whites (6.4).
- 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 (6.4).

**Congenital Syphilis**

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

- Dallas County, TX had 11 congenital syphilis cases born in 2004.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the county was 25.7 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in Dallas County, TX was 2.9 times the U.S. rate of 8.8/100,000.