**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 San Francisco County, CA in 2004**

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

- San Francisco County, CA's 345 cases ranked 2 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- San Francisco County, CA's rate of 45.9 cases/100,000 population ranked 3 among 3,140 U.S. counties.
- San Francisco County, CA's rate was 17 times the U.S. rate of 2.7 cases/100,000 population.

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

- In San Francisco County, CA 344 (100%) cases in 2004 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (90.2/100,000) was 19.2 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.7/100,000).
- In San Francisco County, CA 0 (0%) cases were among females, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among females (0.0/100,000) was 0.0 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in San Francisco County, CA was 90.2:0.0, higher than than the U.S. ratio of 5.3:1.0.

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

- In San Francisco County, CA in 2004, the racial distribution of the 345 cases was: White = 207; Black = 27; Hispanics = 64; Asian = 33; American Indian = 3. The race-adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 63.5; Black = 49.4; Hispanics = 62.8; Asian = 13.6; American Indian = 118.5.
- 62% of cases were among Whites, compared to 40% nationally.
- 8.1% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 41% nationally. The rate among Blacks (49.4) was 0.8 times that of Whites (63.5).
- 19.1% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (62.8) was 1 times that of Whites (63.5).
- 9.9% cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (13.6) was 0.2 times that of Whites (63.5).
- 0.9% cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (118.5) was 1.9 times that of Whites (63.5).

**Congenital Syphilis**

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

- San Francisco County, CA had 0 congenital syphilis cases born in 2004.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the county was 0.0 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in San Francisco County, CA was 0.0 times the U.S. rate of 8.8/100,000.