

Eliminating Syphilis Dallas County, Texas

Why is Syphilis Elimination in the U.S. within our reach now?

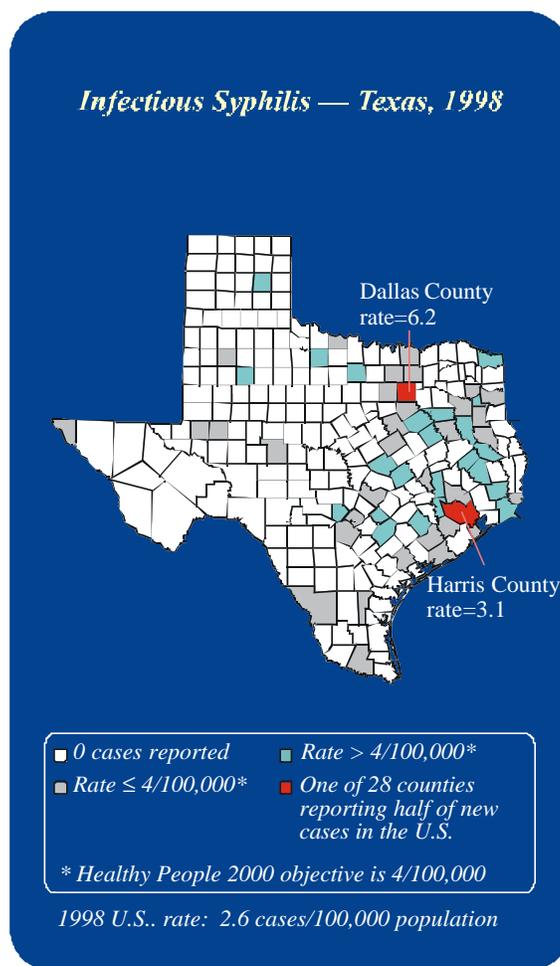
- Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- Infectious syphilis is at the lowest rate ever reported: 2.6 cases/100,000 population (6,993 total cases).
- Syphilis is now very concentrated; half of all new cases in 1998 were reported from only 28 counties, which represent less than 1% of all U.S. counties.
- Other industrialized countries have already eliminated syphilis.

Why is it Important to Eliminate Syphilis in Dallas County?

- **In 1998 Dallas County ranked 9th in the nation** in new cases of infectious syphilis (126 cases) and had a rate greater than 2 times the national rate.
- **To reduce one of the most glaring racial disparities in health**
 - S 76% of cases are among African Americans (79% of cases nationally).
 - S The infectious syphilis rate in Dallas County for African Americans is 17 times greater than the rate for white Americans.
- **To decrease spread of HIV infection**
 - S Syphilis increases HIV transmission at least 2-to-5 fold.
- **To improve infant health**
 - S Syphilis can be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy causing stillbirths or congenital infection, some of which may result in persistent health problems.
 - S In 1998, 20 cases of congenital syphilis were reported from Dallas County for a rate of 55.1 cases/100,000 births, greater than 2 times the national rate of 20.6 cases/100,000 births.

Dallas County Responds

- Dallas County is working with local community based organizations (CBOs) to enhance syphilis screening and outreach in targeted populations and affected communities.
- STD clinic hours have been expanded to improve patient access.
- Syphilis screening and treatment are being increased in local detention facilities.



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<http://www.cdc.gov/StopSyphilis/>



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