

Eliminating Syphilis Franklin County (Columbus), Ohio

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

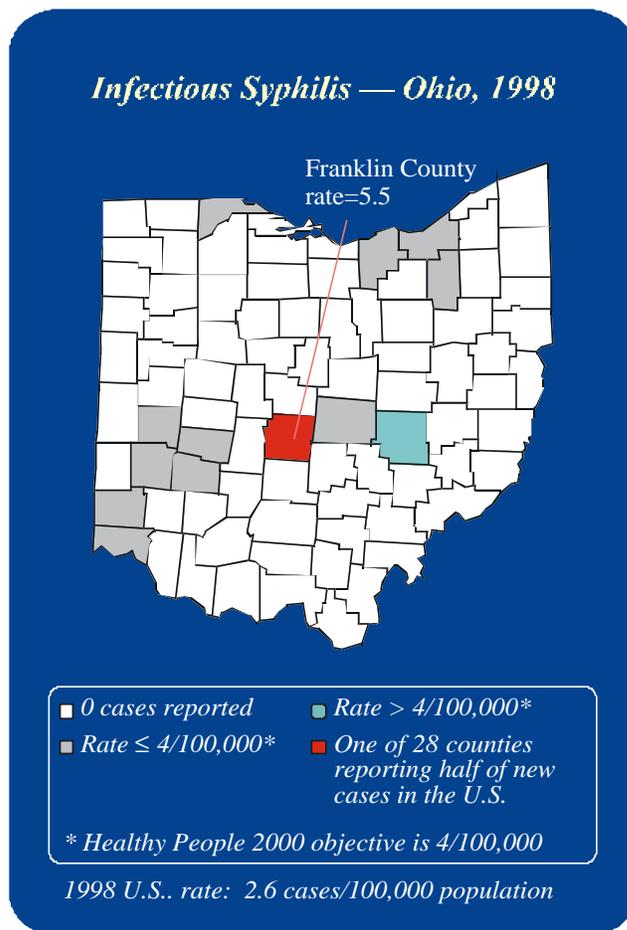
- Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- Infectious syphilis is at the lowest rate ever reported: 2.6 cases/100,000 population (6,993 total cases).
- Syphilis is now very concentrated; half of all new cases in 1998 were reported from only 28 counties, which represent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

Why is it Important to Eliminate Syphilis in Franklin County?

- **In 1998 Franklin County ranked 21st in the nation** in new cases of infectious syphilis (56 cases) and had a rate 2 times higher than the national rate.
- **To reduce one of the most glaring racial disparities in health**
 - S 82% of cases are among African Americans (79% of cases nationally).
 - S The infectious syphilis rate in Franklin County for African Americans is 24 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.

Franklin County Responds

- The Community Forum on Syphilis Elimination is a roundtable discussion group of key community stakeholders in syphilis elimination that discuss intervention strategies and resources.
- The Sexual Health Liaison Program partners with local health department staff and with medical and non-medical community providers to strengthen the medical management of syphilis cases and to create an educated awareness of all STDs in the community.



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