

Eliminating Syphilis Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

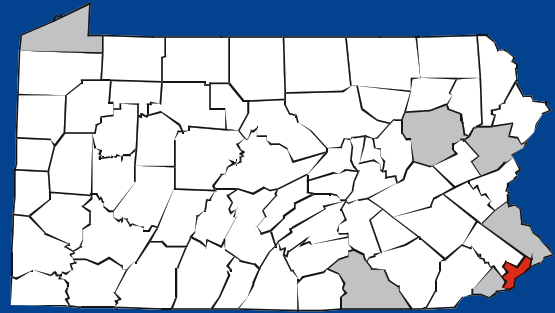
Why is Syphilis Elimination in the U.S. within our reach now?

- 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 Philadelphia County?

- **In 1998 Philadelphia County ranked 15th in the nation** in new cases of infectious syphilis (89 cases) and had a rate greater than 2 times the national rate.
- **To reduce one of the most glaring racial disparities in health**
 - S 88% of cases are among African Americans (79% of cases nationally).
 - S The infectious syphilis rate in Philadelphia County for African Americans is 13 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.
 - S Syphilis in men who have sex with men increased 22% in Philadelphia County between 1997 and 1998.
- **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, 21 cases of congenital syphilis were reported from Philadelphia County for a rate of 92.1 cases/100,000 births, greater than 4 times the national rate of 20.6 cases/100,000 births.

Infectious Syphilis — Pennsylvania, 1998



Philadelphia County
rate=6.1

- 0 cases reported
- Rate \leq 4/100,000*
- Rate $>$ 4/100,000*
- One of 28 counties reporting half of new cases in the U.S.

* Healthy People 2000 objective is 4/100,000

1998 U.S. rate: 2.6 cases/100,000 population

Philadelphia County Responds

- The Adopt-a-Street Program identifies establishments, including bookstores, barber shops/hair salons, and community based organizations, that are willing to distribute condoms provided by the Department of Public Health to at risk persons.

For more information contact:
Martin Goldberg
Division of Disease Control
(215)875-5637
(215)545-8362 (fax)

For media inquiries contact:
National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office of Communications
(404) 639-8895

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



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention

