



Key features of syphilis in the U.S. in 2003

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 2003 was 2.5 cases/100,000 population (7,177 cases).
- U.S. congenital syphilis rate was 10.3 cases/100,000 live births (413 cases).
- Half of U.S. P&S cases in 2003 were in 19 counties, less than 1% of 3,140 counties.

Key features of syphilis in District of Columbia in 2003

Primary and secondary syphilis cases, rates and rank

- District of Columbia's 48 cases ranked 27 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- District of Columbia's rate of 8.5 cases/100,000 population ranked 1 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories
- District of Columbia's rate was 3.4 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.

Male-female ratios (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In District of Columbia, 45 (94%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (16.9/100,000) was 4 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In District of Columbia, 3 (6%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (1/100,000) was 1.3 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in District of Columbia was 16.7:1.0, higher than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

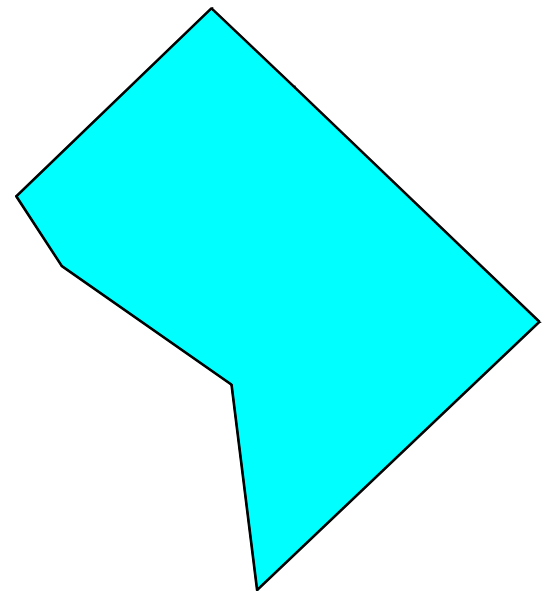
Racial disparities (primary and secondary syphilis)

- In District of Columbia in 2003, the racial distribution of the 48 cases was: White = 12; Black = 32; Hispanics = 3; Asian = 0; American Indian = 0. The race adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 7.4; Black = 10; Hispanics = 5.6; Asian = 0.0; American Indian = 0.0.
- 25% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 68.8% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (10) was 1.4 times that of Whites (7.4).
- 6.3% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (5.6) was 0.8 times that of Whites (7.4).
- 0.0% of cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.0) was 0.0 times that of Whites (7.4).
- 0.0% of cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (0.0) was 0.0 times that of Whites (7.4).

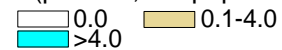
Congenital Syphilis

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

- District of Columbia had 1 congenital syphilis case born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the state was 13.3 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in District of Columbia was 1.3 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000 live births.



Rate (per 100,000 population)



District of Columbia Rates