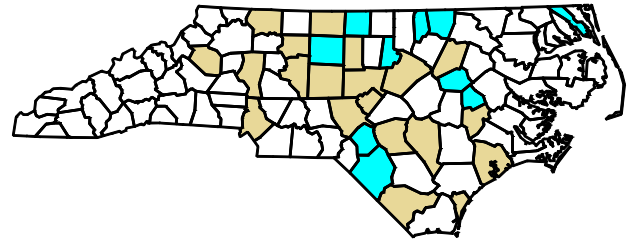




### Key features of syphilis in the U.S. in 2003

*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.



Rate (per 100,000 population)  
0.0 0.1-4.0 >4.0

### Key features of syphilis in North Carolina in 2003

#### North Carolina Rates

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

- North Carolina's 152 cases ranked 15 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- North Carolina's rate of 1.8 cases/100,000 population ranked 22 among 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories.
- North Carolina's rate was 0.7 times the U.S. rate of 2.5 cases/100,000 population.

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

- In North Carolina, 105 (69%) cases in 2003 were among males, compared to 83% nationally. The rate among males (2.5/100,000) was 0.6 times that of the U.S. male rate (4.2/100,000).
- In North Carolina, 47 (31%) cases were among females, compared to 17% nationally. The rate among females (1.1/100,000) was 1.4 times that of the U.S. female rate (0.8/100,000).
- The ratio of male to female rates in North Carolina was 2.3:1.0, lower than than the U.S. ratio of 4.9:1.0.

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

- In North Carolina in 2003, the racial distribution of the 152 cases was: White = 28; Black = 113; Hispanics = 7; Asian = 0; American Indian = 4. The race adjusted rates (per 100,000 population) were: White = 0.5; Black = 6.2; Hispanics = 1.5; Asian = 0.0; American Indian = 3.8.
- 18.4% of cases were among Whites, compared to 42% nationally.
- 74.3% of cases were among Blacks, compared to 39% nationally. The rate among Blacks (6.2) was 12.4 times that of Whites (0.5).
- 4.6% of cases were among Hispanics, compared to 16% nationally. The rate among Hispanics (1.5) was 3 times that of Whites (0.5).
- 0.0% of cases were among Asians, compared to 2% nationally. The rate among Asians (0.0) was 0.0 times that of Whites (0.5).
- 2.6% of cases were among American Indians, compared to 1% nationally. The rate among American Indians (3.8) was 7.6 times that of Whites (0.5).

#### Congenital Syphilis

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

- North Carolina had 18 congenital syphilis cases born in 2003.
- The congenital syphilis rate in the state was 15.3 cases/100,000 live births.
- The congenital syphilis rate in North Carolina was 1.5 times the U.S. rate of 10.3/100,000 live births.