

# Eliminating Syphilis

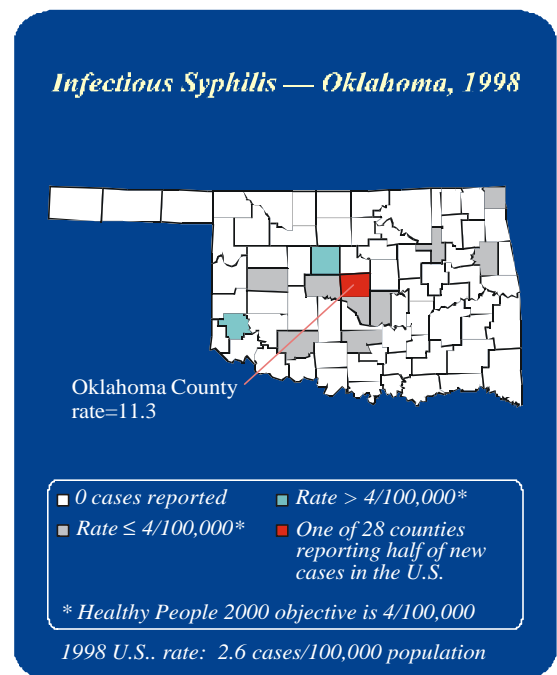
## Oklahoma County (Oklahoma City), Oklahoma

### 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 Oklahoma County?

- **In 1998 Oklahoma County ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation** in new cases of infectious syphilis (71 cases) and had a rate greater than 4 times the national rate.
- **To reduce one of the most glaring racial disparities in health**
  - S 56% of cases are among African Americans (79% of cases nationally).
  - S The infectious syphilis rate in Oklahoma County for African Americans is nearly 8 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, 10 cases of congenital syphilis were reported from Oklahoma County for a rate of 97.3 cases/100,000 births, nearly 5 times higher than the national rate of 20.6 cases/100,000 births.



### Oklahoma County Responds

- The Oklahoma City Community Planning Partnership, a component of the statewide Community Planning Group for HIV Prevention, has incorporated STD prevention goals and objectives into the regional priority setting process. Through their network of targeted community gatekeepers, the Oklahoma City/County Health Department will have increased access to persons at highest risk for syphilis and other STD infections.
- The Oklahoma City/County Health Department has established syphilis screening in the Oklahoma County Jail.

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



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
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