



SYPHILIS 2008

The Facts

- Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*.
- Anyone can get syphilis. It is common among young adults.
- Young, sexually active males and females need testing every year.
- Many people who have syphilis don't know it. Often the disease has no symptoms.
- You can pass syphilis to others without knowing it.
- When diagnosed in its early stages, syphilis is easy to treat and cure.

How does someone get syphilis?

- You can get syphilis by having sex with someone who has it.
- "Having sex" means having anal, oral, or vaginal contact.
- If you are a pregnant woman who has syphilis, you can pass the infection to your baby (congenital syphilis).

What are the symptoms of syphilis?

There are 3 stages of a Syphilis infection:

1st Stage:

- An ulcer (a chancre ["shane-ker"]) appears within 10 days to 3 months after exposure, but usually within 2-6 weeks.
- These usually disappear within a few weeks whether treated or not.

2nd Stage:

- a rash of flat, red lesions over the whole body
- rash on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet)
- broad-based papules (lumps or warts) in warm, moist sites
- mucous patches or snail-track ulcers (sores) in the mouth, appearing from 3-6 weeks after the chancre develops
- Flu-like symptoms

3rd Stage:

-A minority (up to 30%) of individuals with untreated Syphilis may develop tertiary Syphilis with lesions many years after the initial infection. The lesions can cause serious disabilities such as:

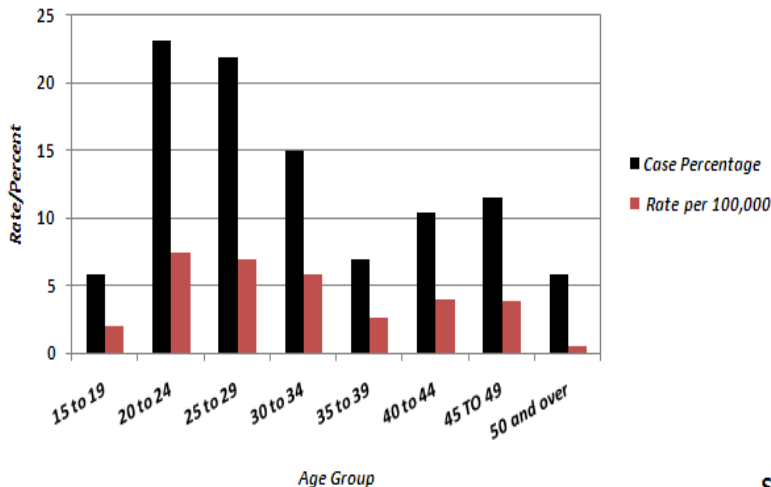
- spinal cord (neurosyphilis)
- blindness
- heart disease
- mental illness
- death

How can Syphilis be prevented?

- Abstinence is the only full-proof method of not contracting syphilis or be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship.
- However, when used consistently and correctly, latex condoms can reduce the risk of transmission.

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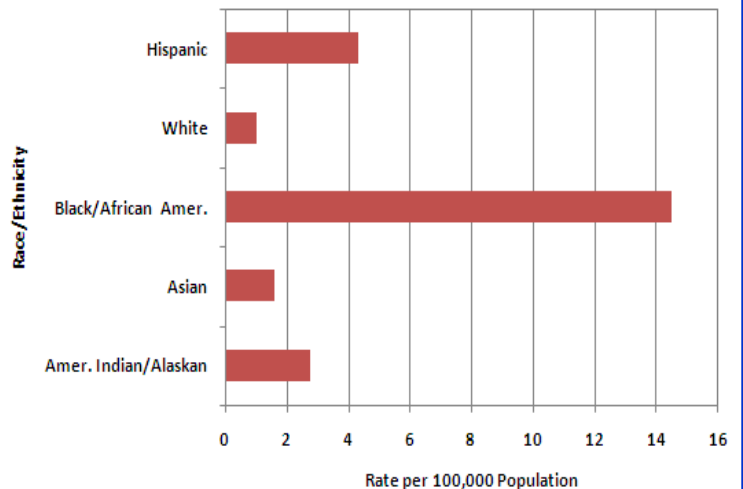
Syphilis by Age Group, Case Percentage vs. Rate, Oklahoma 2008



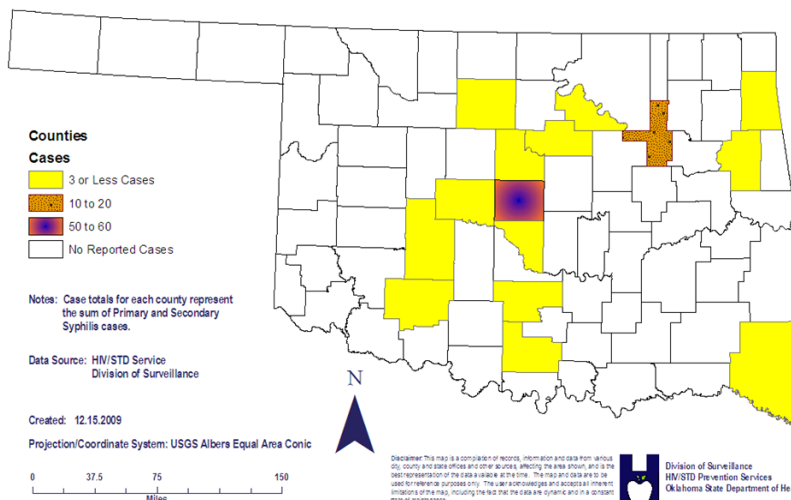
- ◆ The rate among African Americans was 14 times higher than Whites (14 per 100,000 compared to 1 per 100,000) and represents the highest rate among all racial/ethnic groups.
- ◆ The rate among American Indians was 3 times higher than the White population.
- ◆ The rate among Hispanics was 4 times higher than Whites at 4 per 100,000.

- ◆ In 2008 there were 87 reported cases of syphilis in Oklahoma (includes only Primary and Secondary Syphilis).
- ◆ Males accounted for 70% of the total reported cases.
- ◆ Approximately 60% of the reported syphilis cases were between the ages of 20 and 34 years of age, with 45% between 20 and 29.
- ◆ Those age 20 to 24 years and 25 to 29 years had rates of infection 7 times higher than the state rate at 7 per 100,000 population.

Syphilis Rate per 100,000 by Race, Oklahoma 2008



Syphilis Cases by County, Oklahoma 2008



- ◆ In 2008, Oklahoma ranked 23rd out of 50 states for syphilis infection.
- ◆ The rate of syphilis in Oklahoma was 2.4 per 100,000 population, 20% higher than the 2007 rate of 2 per 100,000 but 53% lower than the overall 2008 U.S. rate of 4.5 per 100,000.
- ◆ Oklahoma and Tulsa counties reported 79% of the total Syphilis cases in 2008.