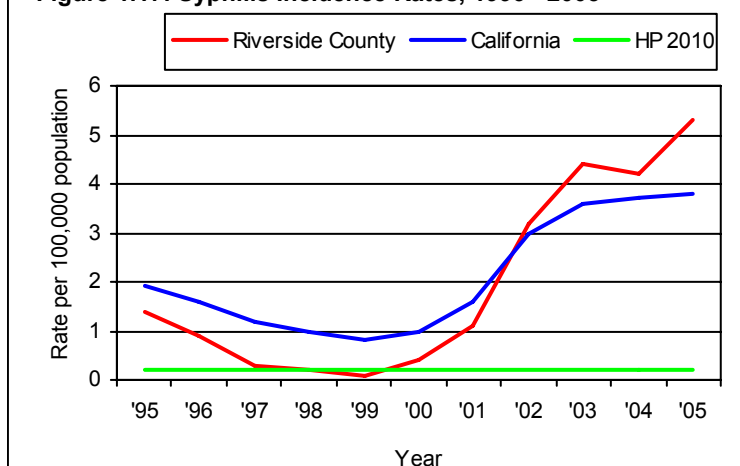


SYPHILIS

DISEASE ABSTRACT

- In 2005, Riverside County had an incidence rate of 5.3 cases per 100,000 population for Primary and Secondary syphilis (P & S).
- Approximately 90% of reported P & S syphilis cases were males.
- Among P & S syphilis cases, 74.2 percent were co-infected with HIV.
- Whites had the highest incidence rate with 8.7 cases per 100,000 population.

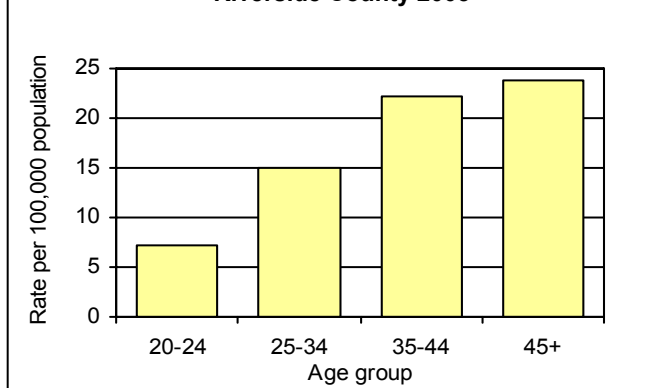
Figure 1.17: Syphilis Incidence Rates, 1996 - 2005



TRENDS

Syphilis rates declined in the 1990s, with a low point of 0.1 cases per 100,000 population in 1999. Since 2000, rates have continued to increase. Increases in P & S syphilis cases are mostly observed in HIV positive men having sex with men (MSM), which, in 2005, contributed 78.4 percent of all reported cases. Healthy People 2010 Objective sets an annual target of 0.2 new cases for every 100,000 persons.

Figure 1.18: Syphilis Incidence Rates in Males by Age, Riverside County 2005

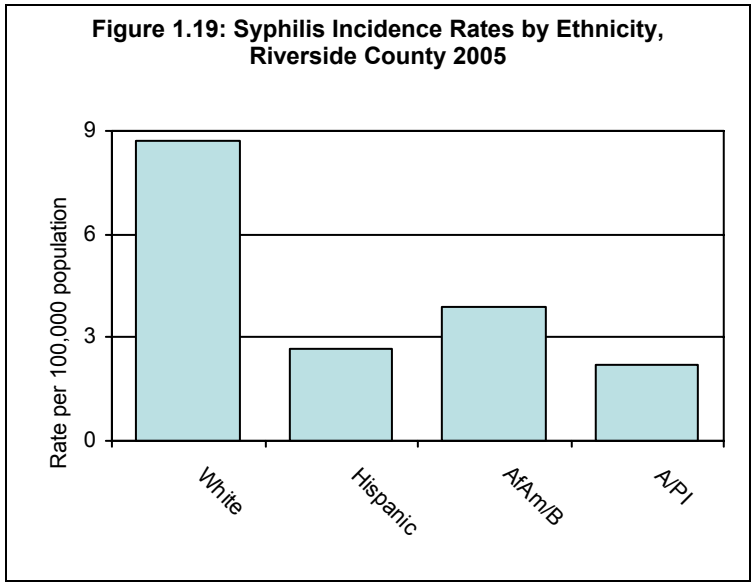


AGE

Compared to gonorrhea and chlamydia, the median age of reported syphilis cases is higher. Adults ages 35-44 years and ages 45+ have the highest incidence of syphilis, comprising 72.7 percent of all reported cases. The incidence rate for age group 35-44 and ages 45+ is 13.4 and 11.3 cases per 100,000 population, respectively.

RISK FACTORS

Risk factors associated with syphilis infection include infection with HIV, methamphetamine use, and unprotected sex. In HIV co-infected cases, the average length of time between HIV diagnosis and the reported episode of syphilis is 10 years (range 0 to 24 years). This suggests that a majority of the co-infected cases knew their HIV status before they became infected with syphilis and therefore may be experiencing prevention fatigue. Individuals engaged in unprotected sex despite knowing the risk. People co-infected with HIV may be at higher risk for complications due to syphilis and are more likely to transmit their HIV infection to an uninfected partner.



RACE/ETHNICITY

The majority of syphilis cases occurred in white men, comprising 64.7% of all cases, followed by Hispanic men (18.2%). African-American/Black and Asian/Pacific Islander men accounted for 5.1% and 2.0% respectively. White females comprised 6.1%.

GENDER

Males contributed 91.8% of all reported P & S syphilis cases in Riverside County in 2005. Of the 99 cases, 58 of 74 with risk factor reported (78.4%) were among MSM.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Of all the P & S syphilis cases in Riverside County, 82.8% were found in the Eastern Region, which includes Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. The incidence rate in this region was 19.1 cases per 100,000 population.