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Important Phone Numbers

Communicable Disease
(586) 783-8190

STD/HIV/AIDS
(586) 465-9217

Tuberculosis
(586) 469-5421

No Charge HIV Testing
(586) 465-8434

IMMUNIZATIONS

Mt. Clemens Clinic
(586) 469-5372

Warren Clinic
(586) 465-8537

St. Clair Shores Clinic
(586) 466-6800

TO REPORT BY FAX

Communicable Disease
Secure Fax
(586) 493-0075

STD/HIV/AIDS
Secure Fax
(586) 573-2019

Hotline for
Emergent Issues
(586) 466-7923

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE NEWSLETTER

www.macombcountymi.gov/publichealth

TRENDS IN SYPHILIS * MACOMB COUNTY

Macomb County Health Department has seen an increase in the reported number of total syphilis cases in 2010 and year-to-date for 2011. Even more concerning, is the increase in the number of infectious syphilis cases and the number of cases who are co-infected with HIV. Based on Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) reports for the period January – November 2011, there were 45 reported cases of all stages of syphilis. Twenty-one (21) of these cases were infectious (primary and secondary) syphilis. This represents a **133.3% increase over the number of infectious syphilis cases reported in the calendar year 2010**, and is a situation that warrants close attention.

Table #1 SYPHILIS SURVEILLANCE 2006 – 2010 & JAN-NOV 2011

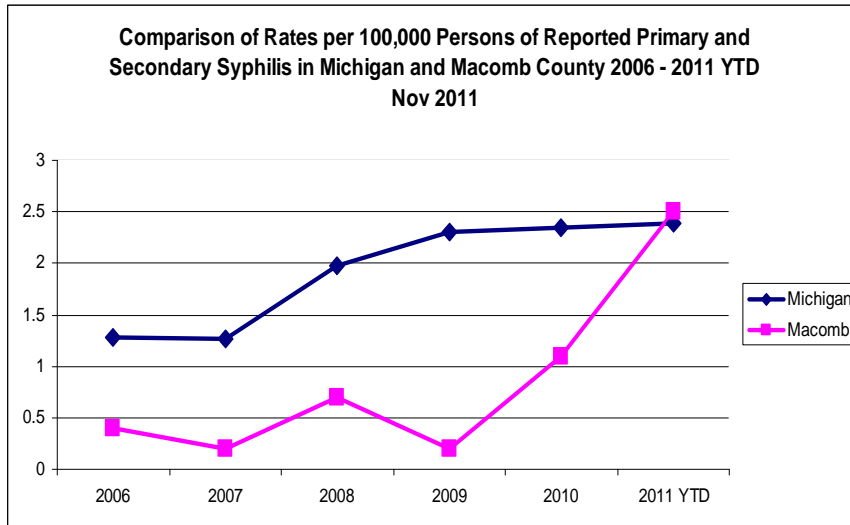
INDICATOR	^ 2006	^ 2007	^ 2008	^ 2009	^ 2010	Jan-Nov 2011 *
Number of primary syphilis cases					2	4
Number of secondary syphilis cases	3	2	6	2	7	17
Number of early latent syphilis cases					6	8
Number of late latent syphilis cases	7	10	13	14	11	10
Number of latent (unknown duration)					1	6
TOTAL ALL CASES	10	12	19	16	27	45
AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL SYPHILIS CASES						
TOTAL Males	6	10	13	15	21	35
Age <20 yrs	1	1	0	1	0	0
Age 20 – 29 yrs	1	4	4	3	9	13
Age 30 – 44 yrs	3	4	6	6	6	13
Age 45 yrs and older	1	1	3	5	6	9
TOTAL Females	4	2	6	1	6	10
Age <20 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 20 – 29 yrs	1	0	2	0	3	6
Age 30 – 44 yrs	1	2	2	1	1	3
Age 45 yrs and older	2	0	2	0	2	1

^ SOURCE: MDCH STD Statistics - **Number of cases** reported by outpatient clinics, hospitals, doctors' offices and other health facilities. These cases represent testing for Macomb residents whether testing occurred within the State of Michigan or in other states

* Source: MDSS.

According to CDC, increases in syphilis among Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) have been reported in various cities and urban areas including Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco Miami, and New York City. CDC reports that in recent outbreaks, high rates of HIV co-infection were documented, ranging from 20% to 70%. It is now known that genital sores caused by syphilis and other STDs make it easier to transmit and acquire HIV infection sexually. In Macomb County through September 2011, of the 17 infectious syphilis cases reported, 14 were MSM, and 8 were co-infected with HIV. In 2011, MSM comprised 100% of Macomb's HIV co-infected cases of infectious syphilis.

Figure 1



While the rate of infectious syphilis has remained fairly stable in Michigan for the last three years, the 2011 rate in Macomb County has increased by 12.5 times, from 0.2 to 2.5 cases per 100,000 population. **See Figure 1.** It is important that medical providers in Macomb County and surrounding counties continue to assess their patients for risk behaviors for sexually transmitted diseases, to test and treat all patients who present with symptoms or who are at risk, and to assure testing and/or treatment for sexual partners.

Table #2 shows the distribution by gender, age and race of infectious syphilis cases reported in Macomb County in 2011. Significant changes from previous years are the sheer number of cases, the disproportionate number of cases who are African-American and the fact that the age distribution for infectious syphilis and total syphilis cases has trended younger each year since 2006. If you have questions about testing, treatment or reporting of syphilis, you can contact the Macomb County Health Department's STD Program or access the 2010 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines at: www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm.

Table #2 AGE, GENDER & RACIAL DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS SYPHILIS CASES, 2011.

AGE GROUP	GENDER		RACE		TOTAL	Percent
	Female	Male	Afr-Amer.	Caucasian		
< 20 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
20 – 29 yrs	2	9	9	2	11	52.4%
30 – 44 yrs	1	7	5	3	8	38.1%
45+ yrs	0	2	0	2	2	9.5%
TOTAL	3	18	14	7	21	100.0%

KEY POINTS:

In Macomb County,

- African-Americans comprised 66.7% of cases of infectious syphilis in 2011.
- African-American males comprised 52.4% of cases of infectious syphilis in 2011
- All females (N=3) with infectious syphilis in 2011 were African-American
- Persons under 30 years-of-age represented 52.4% of infectious cases, and 61.9% occurred in persons under 35 years-of-age.
- 26% of the total syphilis cases reported were co-infected with HIV, 97% of co-infected cases were Men who have Sex with Men (MSM).

Public Health Fact Sheet

Syphilis



What is Syphilis?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). People who come in contact with sores or rash of a person infected with syphilis are at risk of getting the disease. Sometimes symptoms are not easily seen and go unnoticed.

What are the symptoms? Syphilis has three stages:

Stage 1:

- A hard, painless, reddish sore (or sores), called a chancre, will appear 10-90 days after intimate contact with someone who is infected.
- The sores appear most often where the infection entered the body – on the head or shaft of the penis, around the vaginal opening and rectum, inside the vagina or rectum, on the cervix, in the mouth, or on the fingers.
- The sore will go away on its own in 1-5 weeks, but syphilis is still in the body and can be transmitted to others.

Stage 2:

- Red or pigmented skin rashes can appear 6-12 weeks after contact.
- The rash can appear anywhere on the body, but often occurs on the palms of the hands or the bottom of the feet.
- Mild flu-like symptoms
- Symptoms will go away in 2-6 weeks, but syphilis is still in the body and can be transmitted to others.

Stage 3:

- A person may never have symptoms again. However, if they do have symptoms they are very serious and often occur many years after the initial infection. Syphilis can slowly and permanently damage your heart, brain and other vital organs. It can even cause death.
- If you suspect you have been exposed to syphilis, seek testing as soon as possible.

How is it spread?

Syphilis is spread during oral, anal or vaginal sex with someone who has untreated syphilis. It can also be transmitted through any skin-to-skin contact with the rash or sores on an infected person. Syphilis is passed to the unborn fetus if the mother is infected.

How is it prevented?

- **Don't have sex.** You cannot give or get an STD if there is no contact with the penis, vagina, mouth or anus of an infected person.
- **Limit the number of your sexual partners.** The more people you have sex with the greater our chance of getting syphilis.
- **If you choose to have sex, be prepared.** Use condoms with a water-bases lubricant and use a new condom every time you have sex.
- **Have regular exams if you are sexually active.** If you think you have syphilis, get tested. Ask your partner(s) to get tested. Remember, a Pap-smear is not a test for syphilis.
- **Ask to be tested if you are at risk.**
- **Tell your partner(s) if you are infected.** If they are not treated they may pass it back to you.

How is it treated?

Syphilis can be treated with 1-3 injections of the antibiotic penicillin (depending on the stage). For people allergic to penicillin, other antibiotics are available to treat syphilis. If more than 24 hours have passed since the start of treatment, syphilis is not likely to be transmitted. You can be tested and treated at your private doctor, or at the Macomb County Health Department. It is important to complete the entire course of treatment and to have a follow-up exam to make sure you are cured.

Macomb County Health Department STD Program: Call (586) 465-9217 for an appointment.

Macomb County Health Department Reportable Diseases Summary

Diseases Reported as of MMWR Week # 52 (Ending 12/31/2011) **DECEMBER 2011**

	2011	2010	2009		2011	2010	2009
AIDS	14	26	49	KAWASAKI SYNDROME	4**	6**	4
AMEBIASIS	0	1	1	LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE	32	33	16
BLASTOMYCOSIS	0	0	0	LISTERIOSIS	2	0	3
BOTULISM (FOODBORNE)	0	0	0	LYME DISEASE	5**	0	0
BOTULISM (INFECTIOUS)	0	0	0	MALARIA	3	0	1
BRUCELLOSIS	1	0	0	MEASLES	0	0	0
CAMPYLOBACTER	130**	132**	46	MENINGITIS VIRAL	74**	75**	71
CHICKENPOX	54	98	120	MENINGITIS BACTERIAL/BACTEREMIA	7	12	17
CHLAMYDIA	1935	2127	2219	(EXCLUDING N. MENINGITIDIS)			
COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS	3	0	2	MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE	0	2	0
CREUTZFELDT JAKOB	1	0	4	MUMPS	0	5	5
CRYPTOCOCCOSIS	2	0	0	PERTUSSIS	56**	76**	70
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	5	4	3	POLIO	0	0	0
DENGUE FEVER	0	0	0	PSITTACOSIS	1**	0	0
DIPHTHERIA	0	0	0	Q FEVER	0	0	0
EHRlichiosis	1			RABIES ANIMAL	1	4	2
ENCEPHALITIS PRIMARY	3	0	0	RABIES HUMAN	0	0	0
ENC POST OTHER	3	0	1	REYE SYNDROME	0	0	0
E. COLI 0157	***	***	7	ROCKY MNTN SPOTTED FVR	0	0	2
FLU-LIKE DISEASE	44509	40074	79787	RUBELLA	0	0	0
GIARDIASIS	19	34	35	SALMONELLOSIS	71	66	83
GONORRHEA	495	506	570	SHIGELLOSIS	6	20	4
GRANULOMA INGUINALE	0	0	0	STEC***	3	8	
GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME	5**	4	2	STREP INVASIVE DISEASE	15	10	8
HEMOLYTIC UREMIC SYN.	1	0	0	STREP PNEUMO INV DS	33	57	76
HEPATITIS A	4	6	5	SYPHILIS	49	27	16
HEPATITIS B (ACUTE)	13	10	18	SYPHILIS CONGENITAL	0	0	0
HEPATITIS B (CHRONIC)	120	152	161	TETANUS	1	0	0
HEPATITIS C (ACUTE)	4	5	2	TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME	0	1	0
HEPATITIS C (CHRONIC)	600	498	542	TUBERCULOSIS	8	13	4
HEPATITIS D	0	0	0	TULAREMIA	0	0	0
HEPATITIS E	0	1	0	TYPHOID FEVER	0	0	0
H. FLU INVASIVE DISEASE	12	5	7	VIBRIOSIS	0	1	
HISTOPLASMOSIS	5	1	1	VISA	1		
INFLUENZA, NOVEL	0	0	28	WEST NILE VIRUS	9**	11	0
				YERSINIA ENTERITIS	1		

ALL NUMBERS FOR 2011 REMAIN PROVISIONAL AT THIS TIME

**REFLECTS BOTH PROBABLE & CONFIRMED CASE REPORTS

***New category of Shiga-toxin producing Escherichia coli per MDCH in 2010; combo of E. coli & Shiga Toxin 1or2

The December 2011 Communicable Disease Newsletter – Volume 8, Issue 2, can be found on the Health Department Web site on the Communicable Disease Web page at: www.macombcountymi.gov/publichealth/HPDC/hpdc_cd.htm