

## SYPHILIS

### Primary and Secondary (PS)

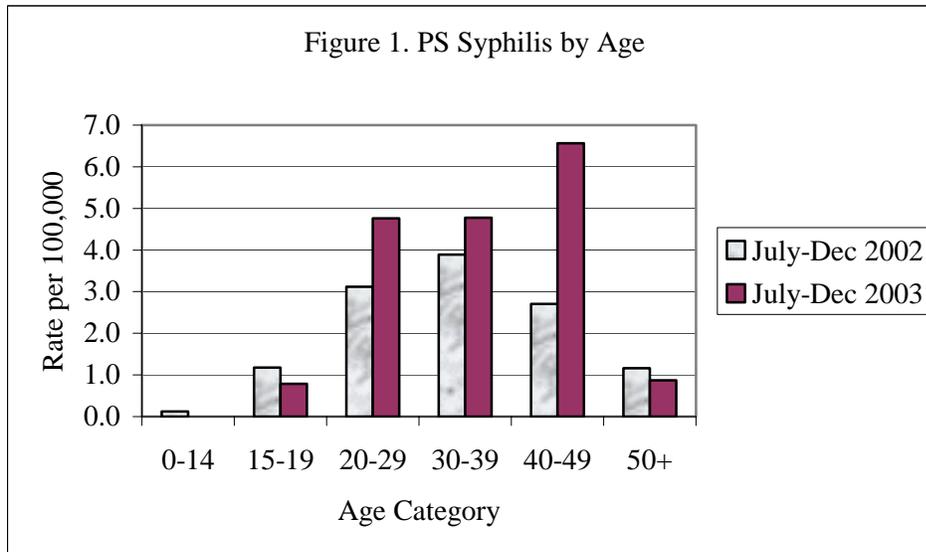
During July–December 2003, there were 95 reported cases of PS syphilis. The cases represent a 46% increase over the number of cases reported during July–December 2002 (65). Likewise, the case rate of PS syphilis has increased from 1.9/100,000 to 2.8/100,000 (Table 1).

#### A. Age Distribution

For the current reporting period, the 40-49 age group represented the largest proportion (36%) of cases; for the same time period in 2002, the 30-39 age group represented the largest proportion (34%) (Table 1). In 2003, following the same trend, the 40-49 age group has the highest case rate of 6.6/100,000, compared to the highest case rate last year (2002), of 3.9/100,000 in the 30-39 age group (Table 1 and Figure 1). The case rate for the 40-49 age group has increased from 2.7/100,000 to 6.6/100,000 (143%) while the case rate for the 30-39 age group has increased from 3.9/100,000 to 4.8/100,000 (23%). PS syphilis cases for age range 20-49 years increased by 64% over the same period last year. The age categories of 0-19 and 50+ have decreased compared to last year.

**Table 1. PS Syphilis Cases by Age**

Age Group	Population <sup>1</sup>	July-Dec 2002		July-Dec 2003	
		#Cases	Rate <sup>2</sup>	#Cases	Rate
0-14	828,962	1	0.1	0	0.0
15-19	254,828	3	1.2	2	0.8
20-29	545,677	17	3.1	26	4.8
30-39	565,165	22	3.9	27	4.8
40-49	518,008	14	2.7	34	6.6
50+	687,938	8	1.2	6	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,400,578</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>2.8</b>



<sup>1</sup> US Census 2000, Harris County

<sup>2</sup> Case rates per 100,000

**B. Gender Distribution**

For the second half of 2003, males accounted for 92% of PS syphilis cases, similar to the same period last year with 89% males. This equates to a case rate for males of 5.1/100,000 for the current period compared to 3.4/100,000 last year. Overall, the male PS syphilis cases in this reporting period increased by 50% and female PS syphilis cases increased by 14% when compared to the second half of last year. This data is shown in Table 2.

For this current reporting period, there were 10.9 males diagnosed with P&S syphilis for every one diagnosed female, compared to 8.3 diagnosed males for every diagnosed female in the same reporting period in 2002.

**Table 2. PS Syphilis Cases by Gender**

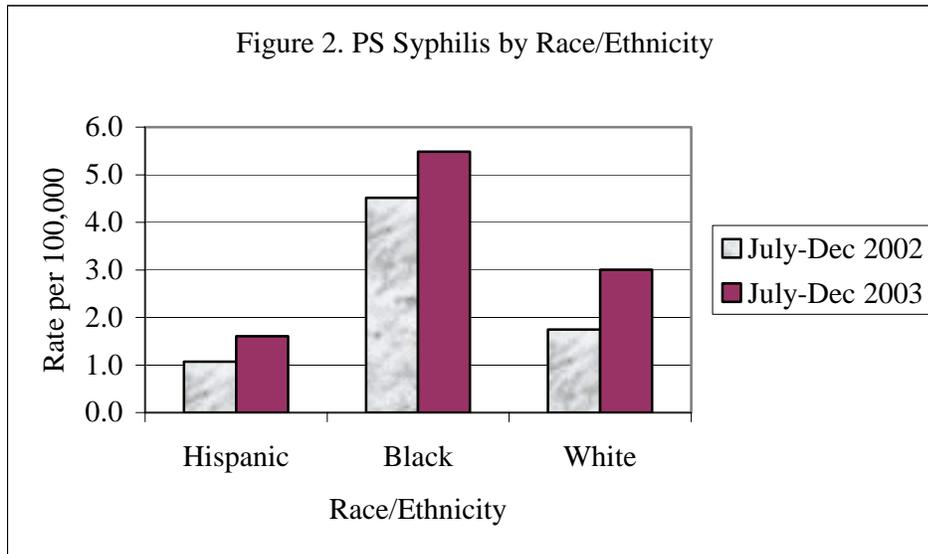
Gender	Population	July-Dec 2002		July-Dec 2003	
		#Cases	Rate	#Cases	Rate
Male	1,693,882	58	3.4	87	5.1
Female	1,706,696	7	0.4	8	0.5

**C. Race/Ethnicity Distribution**

Whites (45%) accounted for the largest proportion of cases, while for the same period last year, Blacks (43%) accounted for the largest proportion (Table 3). Blacks, however, accounted for the highest case rates for both reporting periods, at 4.5/100,000 for July-December 2002 and 5.5/100,000 for July-December 2003 (Table 3 and Figure 2). Overall, PS syphilis cases have increased for Hispanics (50%), Blacks (21%), and Whites (72%).

**Table 3. PS Syphilis Cases by Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity	Population	July-Dec 2002		July-Dec 2003	
		#Cases	Rate	#Cases	Rate
Hispanic	1,119,751	12	1.1	18	1.6
Black	619,694	28	4.5	34	5.5
White	1,432,264	25	1.7	43	3.0



**D. Race/Ethnicity by Gender Distribution**

During July-December 2003, male PS cases have increased for every race/ethnicity when compared to the same time period from last year: Hispanic males (55%); Black males (13%); and White males (87%). For females, the PS cases increase are in Black racial category. This is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4. PS Syphilis Cases by Gender and Race/Ethnicity**

Gender	Race/Eth	Population	July-Dec 2002		July-Dec 2003	
			#Cases	Rate	#Cases	Rate
Male	Hispanic	583,936	11	1.9	17	2.9
	Black <sup>3</sup>	293,148	24	8.2	27	9.2
	White	706,041	23	3.3	43	6.1
Female	Hispanic	535,815	1	0.2	1	0.2
	Black	335,471	4	1.2	7	2.1
	White	726,223	2	0.3	0	0.0

***MSM (Men-Who-Have-Sex-With-Men) Primary and Secondary***

Among the 95 cases of PS syphilis during the second half of December 2003, there were 56 cases (59%) that reported MSM risk behavior. This represents a 19% increase from the same period in 2002. Likewise, the case rate of MSM PS syphilis has increased from 1.4/100,000 to 1.6/100,000 (Table 5).

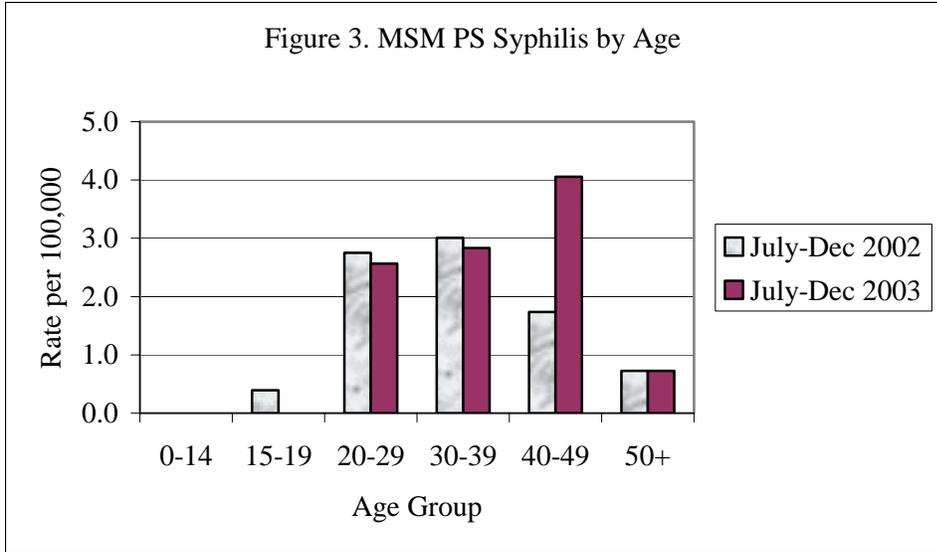
**A. Age Distribution**

For age distribution, the 40-49 group represented the largest proportion (38%) of PS MSM syphilis cases, while the 30-39 age group represented the largest proportion (36%) of cases over the same time period last year (Table 5). The case rate for the 30-39 age group has declined from 3.0/100,000 to 2.8/100,000 (6% decrease) while the case rate for the 40-49 age group has increased from 1.7/100,000 to 4.1/100,000 (133% increase). Interestingly, the 40-49 age group was the only group with increased case rates, while the rates reported in the other categories have either decreased or remained the same (see Table 5 and Figure 3).

**Table 5. MSM PS Syphilis Cases by Age**

Age Group	Population	July-Dec 2002		July-Dec 2003	
		#Cases	Rate	#Cases	Rate
0-14	828,962	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-19	254,828	1	0.4	0	0.0
20-29	545,677	15	2.7	14	2.6
30-39	565,165	17	3.0	16	2.8
40-49	518,008	9	1.7	21	4.1
50+	687,938	5	0.7	5	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,400,578</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1.6</b>

<sup>3</sup> Black population by gender is an approximation from US 2000 Census and may include Hispanics

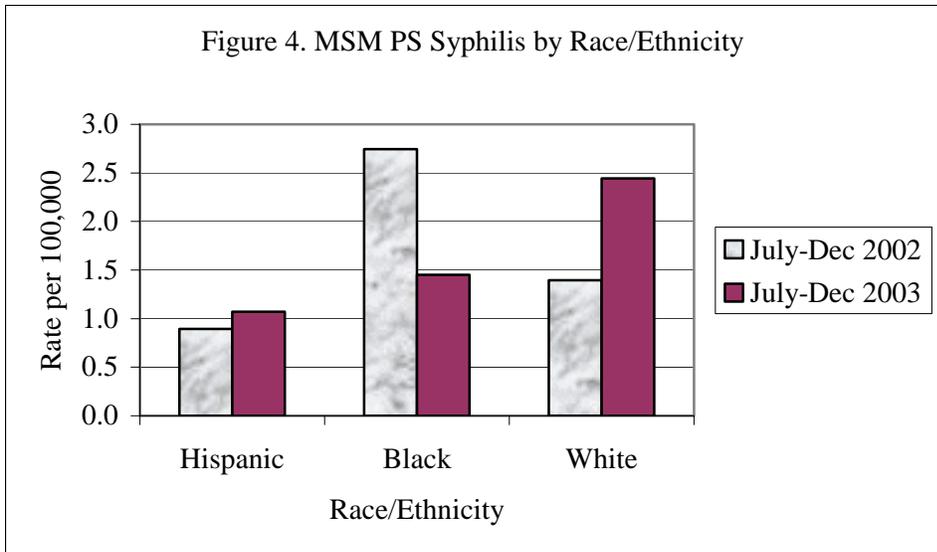


**B. Race/Ethnicity Distribution**

Whites (63%) comprised the largest proportion of MSM PS syphilis cases for the second half of 2003 and 43% for the second half of 2002 (Table 6). The highest case rate for this reporting period was also in the White racial category, with 2.4/100,000, while the highest case rate for this period last year was in the Black race category, with 2.7/100,000 (Table 6 and Figure 4). Since 2002, the case rate for Blacks has declined by 47% while the case rate for Whites have increased by 75%.

**Table 6. MSM PS Syphilis Cases by Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity	Population	July-Dec 2002		July-Dec 2003	
		#Cases	Rate	#Cases	Rate
Hispanic	1,119,751	10	0.9	12	1.1
Black	619,694	17	2.7	9	1.5
White	1,432,264	20	1.4	35	2.4



### **Early Latent (EL)**

During July–December 2003, there were 68 reported cases of EL syphilis. The cases reported represent a 1% decline from the same reporting period in 2002 (69 cases). The case rate for EL syphilis has remained at 2/100,000.

#### **A. Age Distribution**

The 20-29 group remains the group with the largest proportion of EL syphilis cases (45% of cases for July-December 2002 and 43% of cases for July-December 2003), followed by the 30-39 group (30% of cases for July-December 2002 and 24% for July-December 2003). The case rate for the 20-29 age group, however, has dropped from 5.7/100,000 to 5.3/100,000, which represents a 6% decrease. For the 30-39 group, the case rate of reported EL syphilis cases has also decreased, from 3.7/100,000 to 2.8/100,000 (24% decrease).

#### **B. Gender Distribution**

For both the current reporting period and the same period in 2002, males accounted for the larger proportion of EL syphilis cases (64% in the second half of 2002 and 69% in the second half of 2003). Furthermore, the case rate of EL syphilis for males has increased from 2.6/100,000 to 2.8/100,000 (7%) while the case rate for females have declined from 1.5/100,000 to 1.2/100,000 (16% decrease).

#### **C. Race/Ethnicity Distribution**

The largest proportion of EL cases occurred in the Hispanic group (40%) for the second half of 2003, compared to the largest proportion being in the Black group (39%) for the second half of 2002. The highest case rates for both reporting periods, however, were in the Black group, with 4.4/100,000 in 2002 to 3.9/100,000 in 2003. This change represents 11% decrease. The EL case rates for the Hispanics increased from 2.2/100,000 to 2.4/100,000 (8% increase) and the case rates for the Whites increased from 1/100,000 to 1.1/100,000 (7% increase).

#### **D. Race/Ethnicity by Gender Distribution**

For males, Hispanics accounted for the largest proportion of EL syphilis cases for both reporting periods and the number of reported cases increased from 16 to 20 (25% increase). The EL syphilis cases for Blacks did not change and Whites (13 to 12 cases, 8% decrease) have appeared to stay relatively the same.

For females, Blacks accounted for the largest proportion of cases but their numbers have decreased (13 cases to 10 cases, 23% decrease). There was also a 22% drop in female Hispanics (9 cases to 7 cases) and a 100% increase in female Whites (2 cases to 4 cases).

### **Summary**

Table 7 lists the number of reported cases of syphilis, broken down by disease stage. There is an increase in the number of Primary (167%) and Secondary (27%) syphilis cases.

For July-December 2003, 92% (87/95) of PS syphilis cases were males with 64% (56/87) of males reporting MSM behavior; for the same period in 2002, 89% (58/65) of cases were males with 81% (47/58) of males reporting MSM behavior.

For all males who reported PS syphilis, the trend was an increase in all race/ethnicities: Hispanics, 55% increase; Blacks, 13% increase; and Whites, 87% increase. Interestingly, for males who reported PS syphilis with MSM, the trend was different: Hispanic, 20% increase; Blacks, 47% decline; and Whites, 75% increase.

**Table 7. Syphilis No. Cases by Stage**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>July-Dec 2002</b>	<b>July-Dec 2003</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Primary</b>	9	24	167%
<b>Secondary</b>	56	71	27%
<b>Early Latent</b>	69	68	-1%
<b>Latent Unk</b>	158	171	8%
<b>Late Latent</b>	201	133	-34%