

**Reported Early Syphilis Infections in Kansas  
Between 01-01-2005 and 12-31-2005**

Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention

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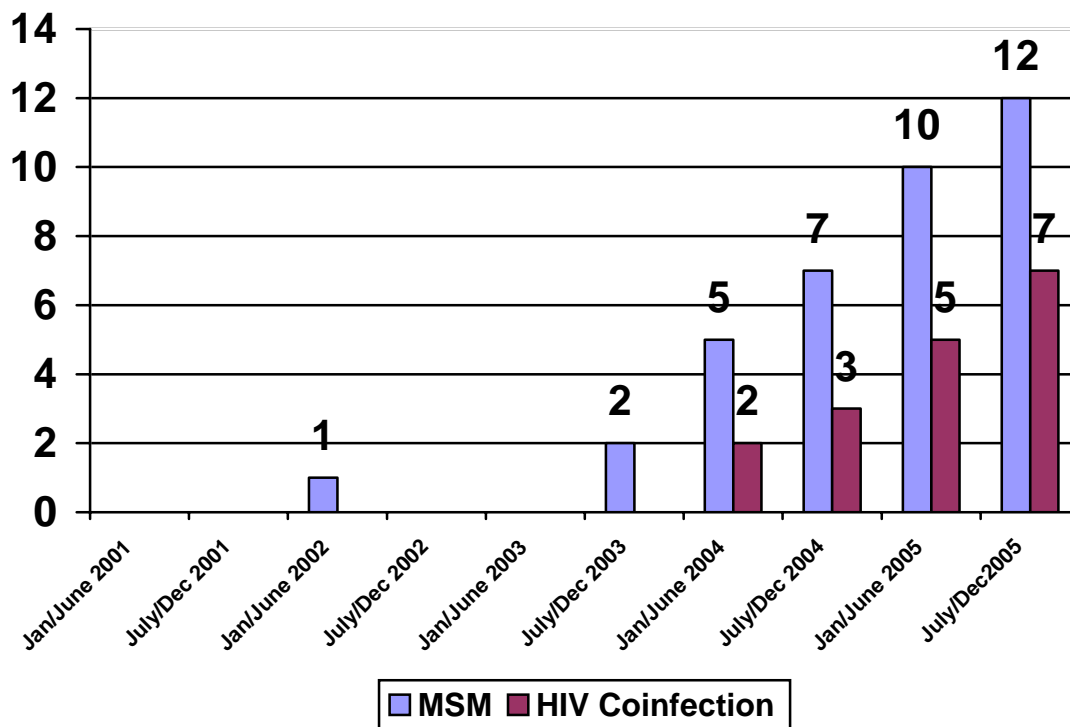
Early syphilis cases diagnosed in males that have sex with males have been rising since the late 1990's across the United States. MSM populations that have syphilis are of particular concern because of the high rates of co-infection with HIV. Co-infection of early syphilis and HIV are rising in the United States as well. Both of these trends began to manifest themselves in Kansas in the first half of 2004.

In calendar year 2005, an outbreak that had begun among MSM who frequent social/sexual networks out of the state, particularly in Kansas City, MO, continued throughout the year. The outbreak accounted for 22 of 37 total early syphilis cases reported in Kansas.

Although MSM early syphilis cases in 2005 were distributed across five different counties (Wyandotte, Johnson, Douglas, Leavenworth and Shawnee), all 22 cases associated with the outbreak lived within 60 miles of Kansas City, MO and named partners at sexual venues (such as bookstores) in the greater Kansas City area. These early syphilis cases were generally non-productive for disease intervention due to insufficient locating information and anonymous sexual encounters. Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) elicited 86 sexual partners but only obtained enough information to investigate 21 for disease intervention. Nine of the 21 sexual partners investigated were treated for syphilis.

There were 12 early syphilis cases co-infected with HIV reported in Kansas for 2005, all were in the MSM population. Before 2004, the last early syphilis case co-infected with HIV was reported in 1999.

**Early Syphilis Cases Co-Infected with HIV and MSM  
Cases in Kansas Jan. 2001- Dec. 2005**



### **State Summary**

Twenty-seven (73%) of the total 37 early syphilis cases reported in Kansas in 2005 were in two counties. Wyandotte and Johnson Counties had 15 and 12 cases, respectively. There were 4 early cases in Sedgwick County and two each in Douglas and Leavenworth Counties. There was one case in each Shawnee and Reno Counties.

Nineteen (51%) of 37 early syphilis cases reported in Kansas were primary or secondary syphilis. Seventeen of the nineteen primary and secondary cases were among MSM.

Whites accounted for 51 percent (19 cases) of the early syphilis cases in 2005. African-Americans accounted for 41 percent (15 cases) of the reported early syphilis cases in Kansas. Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders accounted for one case. Hispanics, with no race elicited, accounted for the remaining five percent (2 cases) of the reported early syphilis cases.

The male to female ratio of the 37 early syphilis cases in Kansas for 2005 was 1:0.3 (28:9). The ratio is weighted heavily towards males due to the high percentage (59%) of cases among MSM.

Thirty percent (11) of the early syphilis cases were diagnosed through public providers. Within the MSM outbreak, individuals typically are urban, white and affluent. They are seeking diagnosis and treatment at their private medical provider's office.

The median age of an individual infected with early syphilis in Kansas for 2005 was 37 years of age with the age range of 17 to 67 years of age. During the CY2005, 43 percent (16 cases) of the early syphilis cases were reported in individuals over 40 years of age. 14 percent (5 cases) were reported in both the 35-39 and 30-34 age groups. Eleven percent (4 cases) were reported in both the 25-29 and 20-24 age groups. There were three cases in the 15-19 age group.

There were no congenital syphilis cases reported in Kansas in calendar year 2005.