

Attachment C

Reported Early Syphilis Infections in Kansas Between 01-01-2009 and 12-31-2009



**Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention
STD Section**

<http://www.kdheks.gov/std>

“Mission- As the state’s environmental protection and public health agency, KDHE promotes responsible choices to protect the health and environment for all Kansans”

**Reported Early Syphilis Infections in Kansas between 01-01-09 and 12-31-2009
State Summary:**

Kansas had 87 reported early syphilis cases (infections less than 12 months duration) in calendar year (CY)2009. This was a 1 case (1%) increase compared to CY2008. Sixty-two (71%) of the 87 reported total early syphilis cases in CY2009 resided in Wyandotte, Johnson and Sedgwick Counties. All counties reporting cases in CY2009:

County	Reported Early Syphilis Cases	Percent n = 87
Sedgwick	30	34
Wyandotte	17	20
Johnson	15	17
Douglas	6	7
Geary	5	6
Shawnee	3	3
Leavenworth	3	3
Finney	2	2
Riley	2	2
Butler	2	2
Ellsworth	1	1
Saline	1	1

Of the 87 reported early syphilis cases, 31 (36%) were diagnosed as primary or secondary (symptomatic) syphilis; 24 (77%) of the 31 primary or secondary cases resided in Wyandotte, Johnson or Sedgwick Counties.

Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) interviewed 86 of the 87 reported early syphilis cases from which they initiated 280 sexual partners for investigation. Additionally, DIS investigated 345 individuals from social networks (clusters) surrounding these cases. (Clusters are individuals deemed at risk for syphilis and are investigated but are not sexual contacts to syphilis cases.) Six hundred and twenty-five individuals (7.3 individuals per case) were initiated for investigation. DIS identified 11 new early syphilis infections from these investigations.

Historically, African–American and other minorities have been disproportionately affected by syphilis in Kansas:

Racial Groups	All Early Syphilis Cases	Rate Per 100,000
African-Americans	31	17
Whites	40	2
Hispanic	11	4
Native Americans	1	3
Asians	4	6

Thirty-five (40%) of the 87 reported cases were MSM (males that have sex with males). Twenty of the reported MSM syphilis cases were in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties; while 10 were reported in Sedgwick County. Fifteen (43%) of the 35 reported MSM syphilis cases were co-infected with HIV.

The male to female ratio of the 87 reported early syphilis cases in Kansas for CY2009 was 1:0.45 (60 to 27). The ratio is weighted heavily towards males due to the high percentage of cases among the men that reported having sex with men (MSM).

Seventy-one percent (62) of the reported early syphilis cases were diagnosed through private providers in Kansas in CY2009. Syphilis cases from private provider offices are frequently delinquent and misdiagnosed leading to increases in latent syphilis at the expense of symptomatic (Primary/Secondary) syphilis. In Kansas in CY2009, 64% of the reported cases were diagnosed as early latent cases.

The median age of an individual infected with early syphilis in Kansas for CY2009 was 29 years of age with the age range of 17 to 71 years of age.

Age Groups	All Early Syphilis Cases	Rate Per 100,000
15-19	8	4
20-24	22	10
25-29	17	9
30-34	8	5
35-39	12	7
40-44	5	3
45-54	8	2
55-64	5	1
65 and Above	2	1

Kansas reported three presumptive congenital syphilis cases in CY2009:

Case one; Mom presented for her first prenatal visit on July 30th and delivered on August 21st. Mom had a RPR 1:8 and an IGG Reactive on her prenatal visit. She was treated for early latent syphilis on August 5th.

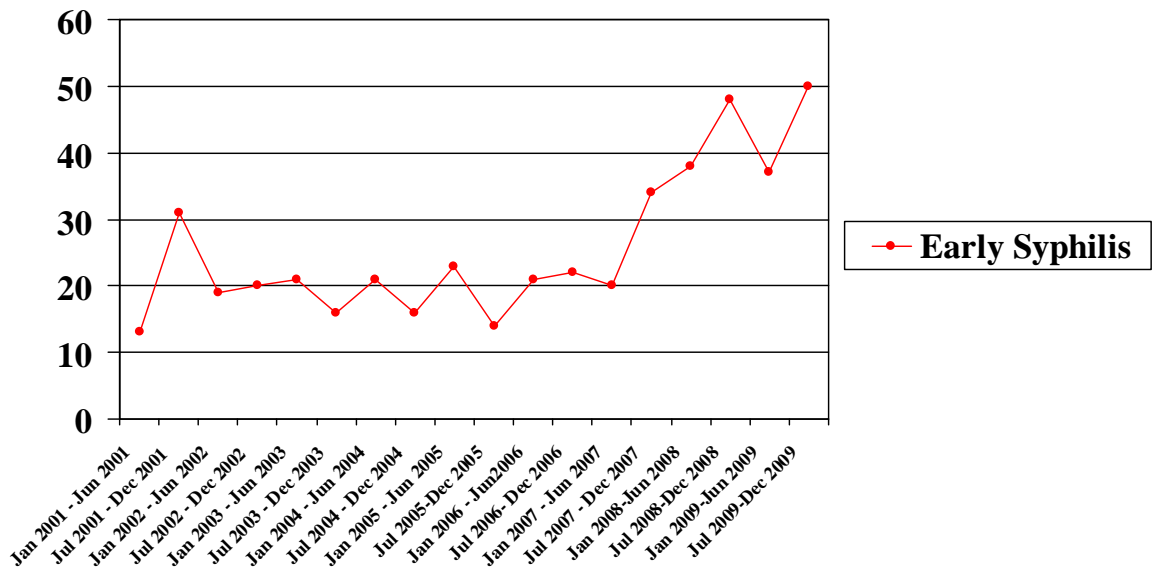
Cases two and three; Both women were screened with RPRs for their initial prenatal visit. Both tests were negative. At delivery both women were screened with an IGG that was reactive. IGMs at the time of delivery were non-reactive. Epidemiology was non-productive for risk and source. Both moms were treated as 740 syphilis cases. The newborns were designated as presumptive congenital syphilis cases because IGGs are sensitive and specific even though false-positives occur, especially in low-prevalence populations.



Both following graphs illustrate the evolving syphilis trends in Kansas. MSM syphilis cases were the driving force behind syphilis increases from CY2004 though the first half of 2007 and to lesser extent afterwards. In CY2008 another cofactor began to significantly impact the number of early syphilis cases reported in Kansas. Socio-economically disadvantaged urban individuals associated with illicit drugs and sexual behaviors, such as drugs and money for sex, began to manifest themselves in higher syphilis rates.

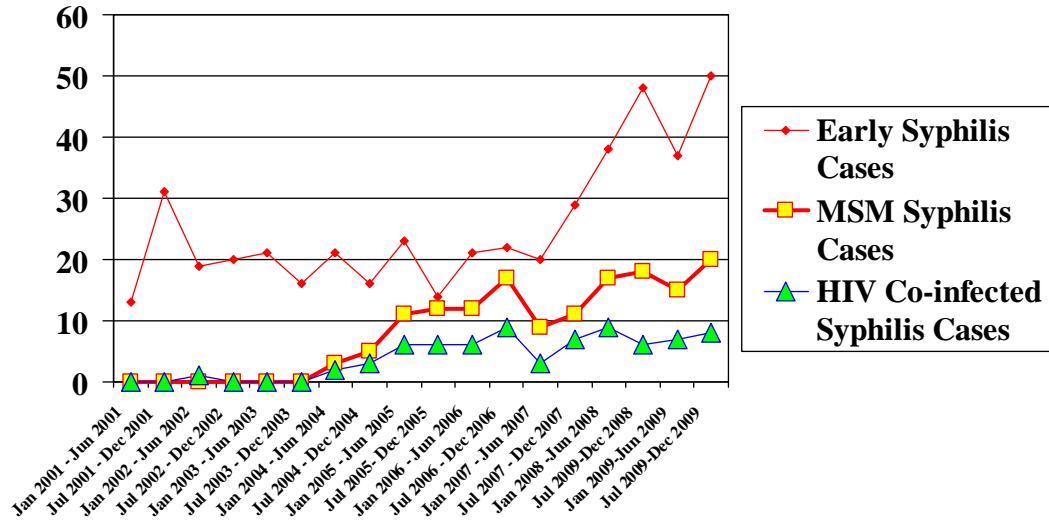
Total Syphilis in Kansas

January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2009



Total/MSM/HIV Co-infected Syphilis in Kansas

January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2009



Wyandotte and Johnson Counties Report:

In CY2009, in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties 32 early syphilis cases were reported. Ten of these cases were diagnosed as Primary or Secondary cases. Thirteen were MSM cases.

Neighboring Kansas City, MO is seeing these same trends. Wyandotte County and Kansas City, MO STD staffs are continuing to have conference calls twice a month to discuss individual cases (chalk talks). STD Staff have also met twice as a group to discuss syphilis issues and plan to have these meetings every year.

The prevailing risk associated with MSM is “hooking-up” through the internet. Sites named in investigations have been gay.com, adam4adam and craigslist. DIS investigated contacts on these sites through their screen names. Several MSM cases named bars in KC, MO as their venues for “hooking-up”. The predominating risk associated with heterosexual early syphilis cases was illicit drug use. The drugs named in investigations from Wyandotte County were marijuana and crack cocaine. DIS will continue to work with drug and alcohol treatment programs in the area to ensure screening for all new admittees.



Sedgwick County Report:

Sedgwick County has had an increase in early syphilis from 3 cases in CY2007 to 24 in CY2008 and 30 cases in CY2009. Fourteen (58%) of the early syphilis cases were symptomatic in Sedgwick County in CY2009. Ten (33%) of the reported early syphilis cases in Sedgwick County were MSM cases.

The prevailing risk associated with MSM is “hooking-up” through the internet; same sites as Kansas City. DIS investigated contacts on these sites through their screen names. Sedgwick County in collaboration with the Missouri State Health Department developed a syphilis intervention in the FH2009 directed towards MSM. Posters and signs were developed and posted at 36 different venues in Wichita. DIS conducted a screening night at one of the venues in the FH2009. Forty- two individuals were screened for syphilis and HIV; they were all negative. The predominating risk associated with heterosexual early syphilis cases was illicit drug use. The drugs named in investigations from Sedgwick County were marijuana, methamphetamines and crack cocaine. DIS will continue to work with drug and alcohol treatment programs in the area to ensure screening for all new admittees.



<http://www.kdheks.gov/std>

Our Vision – Healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments.

DID YOU...?

take **PHIL** home
last night

Syphilis is on the rise in Sedgwick County.
Could you be at risk?



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For **free, confidential
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SYPHILIS 316-660-7300

**IT'S TREATABLE.
GET TESTED.**

www.sedgwickcounty.org

This public health initiative is sponsored by the Sedgwick County Health Department.

SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

Confidential visits for assistance regarding
sexually transmitted diseases

**Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: 2716 W Central - Phone: 316-660-7300**

Sliding fee/Voucher Program available



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working for you*



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

HEALTHY PEOPLE



