

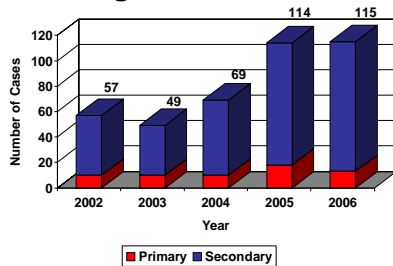
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health



The Status of Infectious Syphilis,
Washington, DC, 2002-2006*

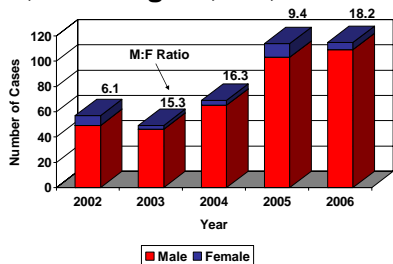
Between 2000 and 2005, the number of primary and secondary syphilis cases reported in Washington, DC increased 200% (from 38 to 114, respectively).

Figure 1. Infectious Syphilis, Washington, DC, 2002-2006



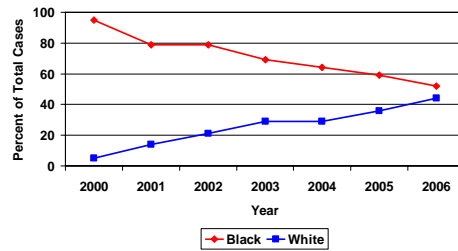
In 2006, though, the preliminary number of infectious syphilis cases reported in the District barely increased (Figure 1).

Figure 2. Infectious Syphilis by Sex, Washington, DC, 2002-2006



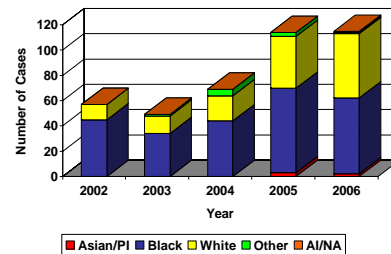
In 1997, there were more infectious syphilis cases reported among females than males in Washington, DC. Since 2000, infectious syphilis cases were predominantly reported among men (Figure 2). In 2006, the male to female ratio of cases reported was at an all time high of 18.2 to 1, with only 6 cases reported among females

Figure 3. Percent of Infectious Syphilis Cases Reported, by Race, Washington, DC, 2000-2006



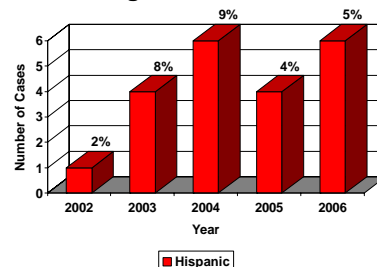
Unlike gonorrhea and chlamydia (where >90% of cases were reported among African Americans), the number of infectious syphilis cases reported in the District among Blacks has been decreasing and the number of cases reported among Whites has been increasing (Figure 3).

Figure 4. Infectious Syphilis by Race, Washington, DC, 2002-2006



In 2006, there were 60 infectious syphilis cases reported among African Americans and 51 reported among Caucasians (Figure 4).

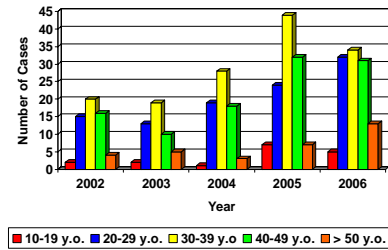
Figure 5. Infectious Syphilis by Ethnicity, Washington, DC, 2002-2006



The number of syphilis cases reported among Hispanics in the last 6 years has ranged between 1 and 6, making up

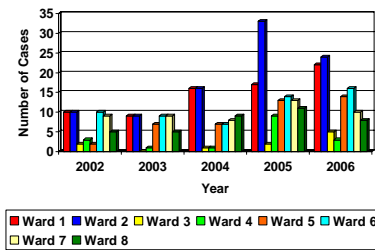
between 2 to 9 percent of the total infectious syphilis cases reported in Washington, DC (Figure 5).

Figure 6. Infectious Syphilis by Age Category, Washington, DC, 2002-2006



Unlike gonorrhea and chlamydia (which were predominantly reported among adolescents), for each of the past 6 years, the most number of infectious syphilis cases reported in the District has been among 30-39 year olds (Figure 6). Still, since 2003, the number of cases reported among 20-29 year olds has been gradually increasing.

Figure 7. Infectious Syphilis by Ward, Washington, DC, 2002-2006

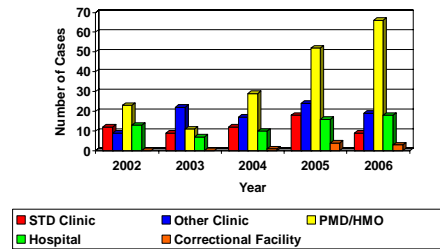


Unlike gonorrhea and chlamydia, which were predominantly reported in the Southeast (Wards 8 & 7), infectious syphilis cases in Washington, DC were predominantly reported in the Northwest (Wards 2 & 1) especially during the last 3 years (Figure 7).

In 2000, 32% of infectious syphilis cases were reported from the Southeast STD Clinic while 29% of cases were reported from private MDs and HMOs. In 2006, only 8% of infectious syphilis cases were reported from the Southeast STD Clinic and 57% of cases were reported from

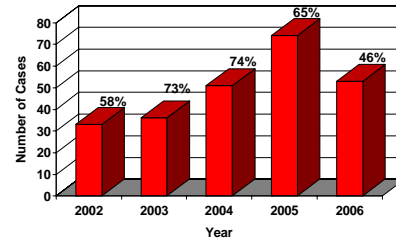
private MDs and HMOs (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Infectious Syphilis by Provider Type, Washington, DC, 2002-2006



Of note, the number of infectious syphilis cases reported among men who have sex with men (MSM) decreased in 2006 for the first time since this epidemic began (2000) (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Infectious Syphilis Among MSM, Washington, DC, 2002-2006



In fact, only 48% of infectious syphilis cases reported in Washington, DC in 2006 were among MSM, down from a high of 74% in 2004.

In summary, the District of Columbia is still experiencing an epidemic of infectious syphilis cases, predominantly among Northwest males 20-49 years of age. Although the male to female ratio of cases indicates homosexual transmission, fewer cases admitted to same sex activity. The number of cases reported among African Americans continues to decrease while the number among Whites continues to increase. Most cases were reported from private MDs and HMOs.

* All 2006 data is preliminary and was downloaded from STD*MIS on Wednesday, January 24, 2007