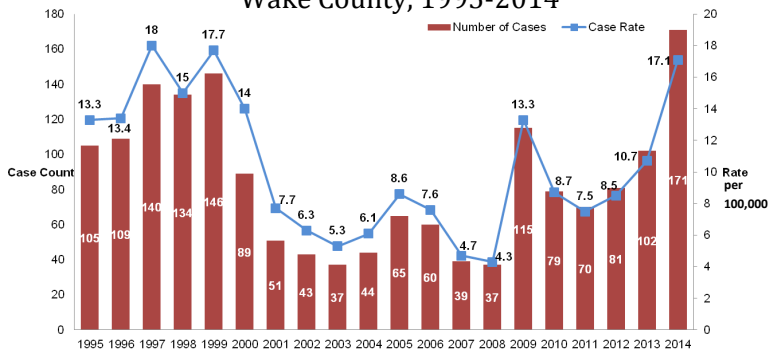


Syphilis in Wake County

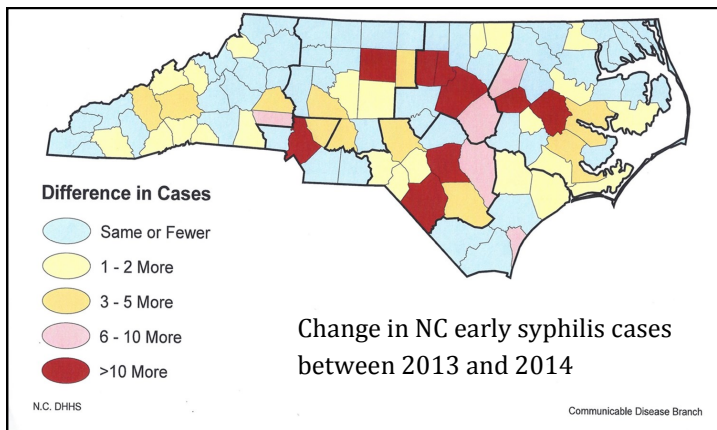
- **The number of residents of Wake County with early syphilis (infected in the last 12 months) is at a 20 year high (graph).**

Early Syphilis Case Counts and Rates
Wake County, 1995-2014



Source: <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/stds/>

- Wake County is not alone. Other counties in North Carolina are also seeing an increase in numbers of people with early syphilis (map).



Source: NC Department of Public Health

- Syphilis is diagnosed with a simple blood test and is easily treated with antibiotics.
- Testing and treatment are available at no charge to people who need it.
- Untreated syphilis can cause:
 - Stillbirth
 - Paralysis
 - Blindness
 - Dementia
 - Damage to internal organs
 - Death

- Anyone having unprotected sex can get syphilis. **In Wake County, 213 people have been diagnosed with syphilis between January 1, 2014 and April 23, 2015. They are:**
 - Between 16—70 years old
 - 197 males and 16 females
 - Race/ethnicity:
 - 99 Black/African American
 - 88 White, non-Hispanic
 - 17 Hispanic
 - Men having sex with men are at higher risk
- In Wake County 45.6% of those with syphilis also have HIV. Genital sores caused by syphilis make it easier to contract and spread HIV.

What is Wake County doing to address this problem?

- Meeting with health care providers to encourage syphilis testing for specific groups at risk (men having sex with men, people with HIV, people who are being tested for other sexually transmitted infections, pregnant women, etc.)
- Providing targeted testing, outreach, education and condoms in areas of the community where more people are being diagnosed with syphilis.
- Providing education and testing information through social media sites.
- Providing treatment for people with syphilis and their known partners.
- Coordinating and sharing information with healthcare and community partners as well as other health departments in the region.

For more information go to: <http://www.wakegov.com/humanservices/publichealth/information/hiv/>