

Memo

To: Public Health Officials, Community Leaders, Physicians
From: Stephanie B.C. Bailey, M.D., M.S.H.S.A.
Director of Health
Date: 07/31/01
Re: The Nashville Syphilis Epidemic Investigative Report (Part Two)

Enclosed is Primary and Secondary Syphilis in Nashville and Davidson County, TN: 1996-1999 Epidemic Risk Factors Examined, An Investigative Report on the Current Syphilis Epidemic In Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee (Part Two) for your perusal. The report is prepared and distributed by the Division of Epidemiology of the Metropolitan Health Department.

Syphilis has been and remains a public health problem in Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee. Since the initial release of Epidemiology of Primary and Secondary Syphilis in Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee in October 1998, this community has continued to face an increased rate of P & S syphilis until 1999. Although data showed that the number of P & S syphilis cases reported in 2000 decreased 23% from the previous year, the incidence rate in 2000 is significantly higher than that of the pre-epidemic period of 1994-1995. Clearly, Nashvillians are still experiencing a syphilis epidemic.

The report examines risk factors associated with the epidemic which are useful for informing and directing the syphilis prevention and control efforts throughout Nashville. Public health issues are best dealt with by participating with the public. You are invited to become part of the solution to this community problem.

If you have any questions, comments and suggestions regarding this report, please contact Dr. Jesse Huang at (615) 340 2151 (phone), (615) 340 2110 (fax), or jesse_huang@mhd.nashville.org (e-mail).