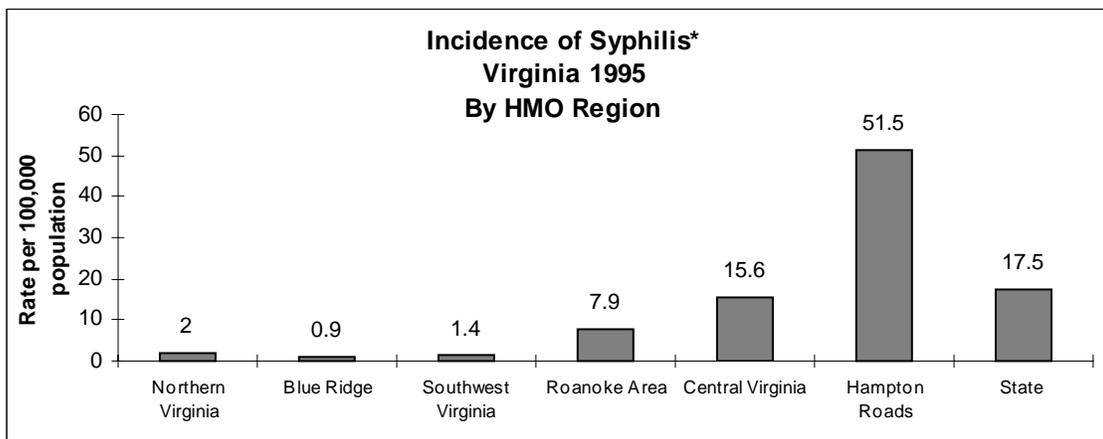
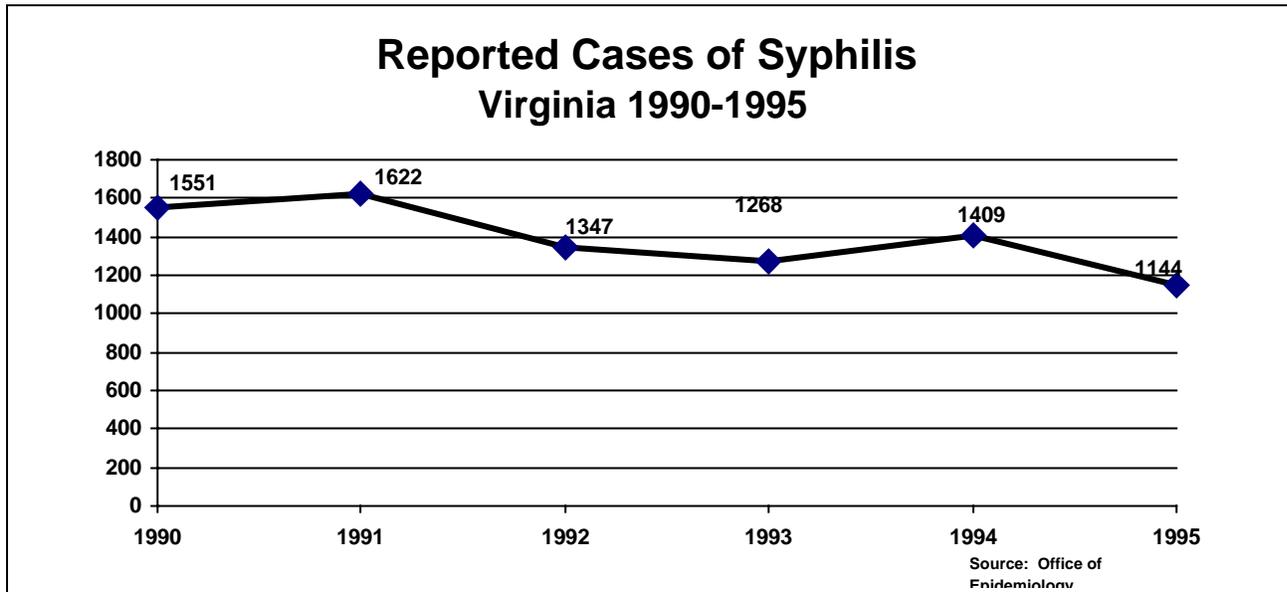


# Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Syphilis

**Objective:** *Reduce primary and secondary syphilis to an incidence of no more than 4 cases per 100,000 people*

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are a group of infections with the common characteristic of being transmitted from person to person during sexual contact. These diseases are major public health problems because they can cause enormous human suffering, cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and impose huge demands on health care providers. Syphilis is a bacterial infection which typically causes relatively mild symptoms at the time of initial infection but which can result in progressive tissue damage in multiple organs over a lifetime if left untreated. Syphilis was the first STD for which control measures were developed and the number of cases reached a low point nationally in the mid-1980s before starting to climb again. Although the data for 1995 show a promising drop in Virginia's rate, we still have a long way to go to meet our objective, particularly in the eastern part of the state.



\*Primary, secondary, and early latent, rate per 100,000 population

Source: Office of Epidemiology

**Incidence of Syphilis\* by  
Health District, Virginia 1995**

|                            |                       |       |                                    |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| <b>FIRST<br/>QUARTILE</b>  | New River             | 0.0   |                                    |
|                            | Central Shenandoah    | 0.4   |                                    |
|                            | Lord Fairfax          | 0.6   |                                    |
|                            | Alleghany             | 0.6   |                                    |
|                            | Rappahannock/Rapidan  | 0.8   |                                    |
|                            | Loudoun               | 1.0   |                                    |
|                            | Mount Rogers          | 1.1   |                                    |
|                            | Lenowisco             | 1.1   |                                    |
|                            | Fairfax               | 1.2   |                                    |
| <b>SECOND<br/>QUARTILE</b> | West Piedmont         | 1.5   |                                    |
|                            | Cumberland Plateau    | 1.7   |                                    |
|                            | Thomas Jefferson      | 1.7   |                                    |
|                            | Hanover               | 1.9   |                                    |
|                            | Prince William        | 2.1   |                                    |
|                            | Rappahannock          | 2.6   |                                    |
|                            | Henrico               | 3.9   |                                    |
|                            | Arlington             | 4.0   | <b>Virginia 2000<br/>Objective</b> |
|                            | Piedmont              | 5.8   | <b>4.0 per 100,000</b>             |
| <b>THIRD<br/>QUARTILE</b>  | Alexandria            | 6.0   |                                    |
|                            | Southside             | 6.2   |                                    |
|                            | Chesterfield          | 6.6   |                                    |
|                            | Pittsylvania/Danville | 7.4   |                                    |
|                            | Three Rivers          | 8.0   | <b>U.S. Rate<br/>1994</b>          |
|                            | Virginia Beach        | 8.4   | <b>8.1 per 100,000</b>             |
|                            | Roanoke               | 20.0  |                                    |
|                            | Central Virginia      | 21.2  | <b>Virginia Rate<br/>1995</b>      |
|                            | Crater                | 29.0  | <b>17.5 per 100,000</b>            |
| <b>FOURTH<br/>QUARTILE</b> | Peninsula             | 29.9  |                                    |
|                            | Chesapeake            | 33.9  |                                    |
|                            | Hampton               | 43.5  |                                    |
|                            | Richmond              | 54.0  |                                    |
|                            | Eastern Shore         | 91.5  |                                    |
|                            | Norfolk               | 92.8  |                                    |
|                            | Western Tidewater     | 120.9 |                                    |
|                            | Portsmouth            | 164.4 |                                    |

\*Primary, secondary and early latent.  
Rate per 100,000 population