

SYPHILIS RATES AMONG AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is transmitted through direct contact with an infected syphilis sore during oral, vaginal, or anal sex.¹ Syphilis has four stages, with primary and secondary considered the most infectious stages of syphilis.¹

Primary and Secondary Syphilis

In 2023, the AI/AN population had the **highest rate of primary and secondary syphilis** of all racial/ethnic groups in the United States, a rate

6.4x

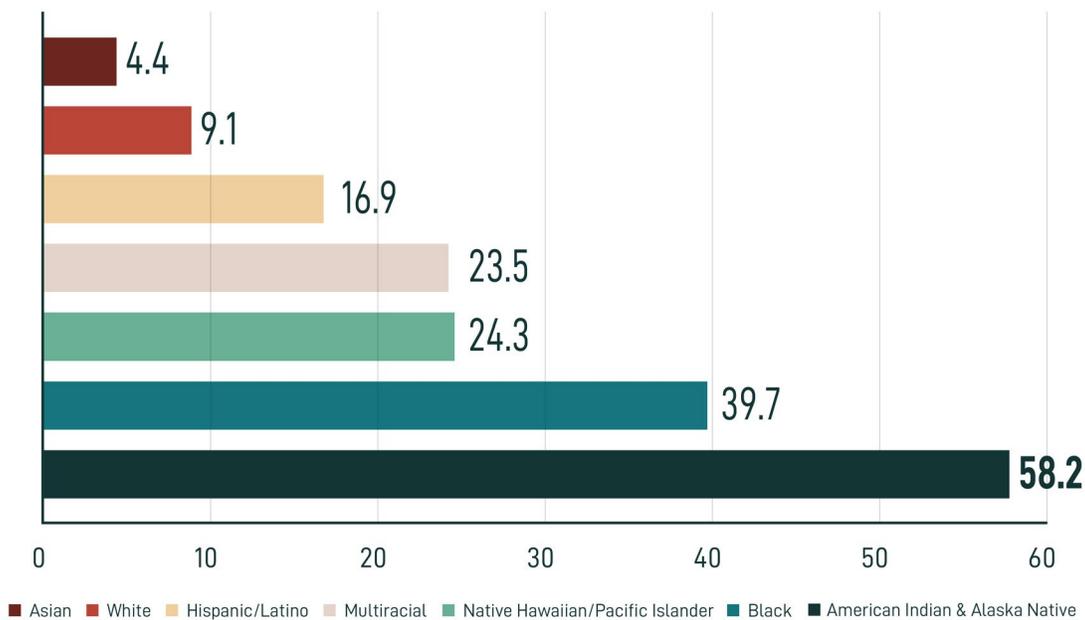
that of their White counterparts and **3.7x** that of the total population.²

The AI/AN primary and secondary syphilis rate **increased by**

116.3%

between 2020-2023, compared to an increase of **25.4%** for the national rate.^{2,4,5,6}

Figure 1. 2023 Primary and Secondary Syphilis (Rate Per 100,000 Persons) by Race/Ethnicity²



Between 2020 to 2023, the rate of primary and secondary syphilis increased by

81.6%

more among AI/AN males than all males, as well as by **76.1% more among AI/AN females** than all females.^{2,4,5,6}

When comparing the 2023 rates of primary and secondary syphilis per 100,000 persons, the rate for AI/AN males was **2.7x** that of the national rate, while the rate for AI/AN females was

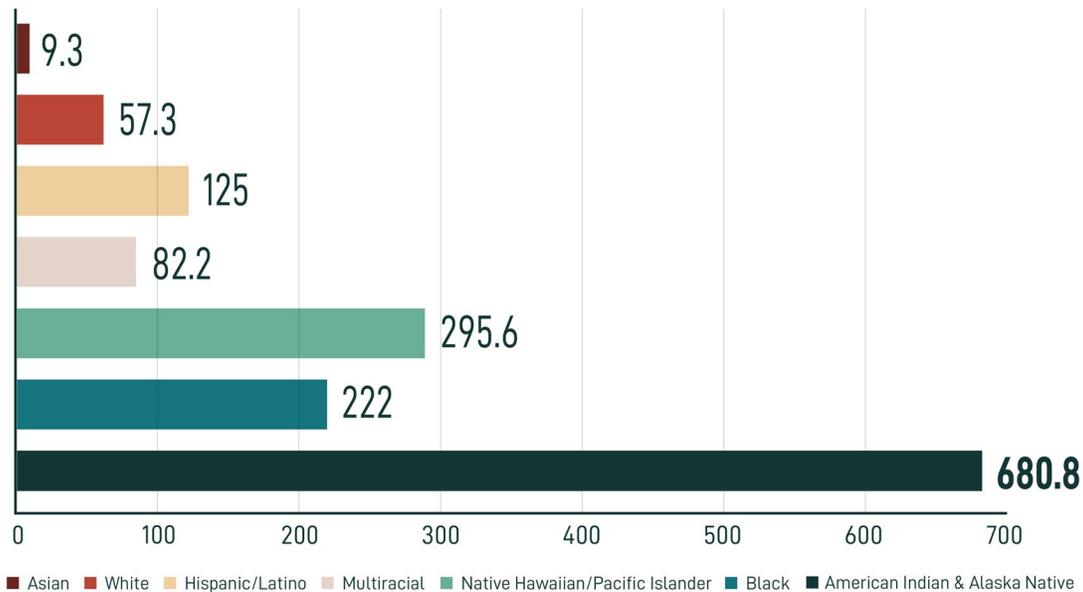
6.5x

that of the national rate.^{2,4,5,6}

Congenital Syphilis

Congenital syphilis is a disease that occurs when syphilis is passed from pregnant people to their babies during pregnancy.³ Congenital syphilis can affect pregnancy by causing miscarriage, stillbirth, prematurity, low birth weight, or even infant mortality.³ Babies born with congenital syphilis can experience issues like bone deformity, severe anemia, jaundice, blindness or deafness, and more.³

Figure 2. 2023 Congenital Syphilis (Rate per 100,000 Live Births) by Race/Ethnicity²



In 2023, the AI/AN population had the **highest rate of congenital syphilis** of all racial/ethnic groups in the United States, a rate **6.4x** that of the total population and

11.9x

that of their White counterparts.²

Between 2020 to 2023, the rate of congenital syphilis per 100,000 live births increased by **76.3%** for the total population, compared to an increase of

257.2%

for the AI/AN population.^{2,4,5,6}

To learn more about syphilis disparities and key resources that can support AI/AN communities, visit ncuih.org/syphilis

References

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