Syphilis: A Public Health Advisory
Why this advisory?
- Wake County syphilis case numbers highest in 20 years
- Stop further transmission and prevent disease shift to vulnerable populations

Why are we here?
- Reach out to providers and the public with information to
  - Find and treat those who are infected
  - Prevent further transmission
- Identify collaborative strategies to stop this and help prevent future outbreaks
- Provide outbreak data
- Identify current resources
Agenda

→ Introductions
→ Scope of this outbreak
→ Disease overview
→ Public Health response
→ Resources
→ Strategies for collective impact
Early Syphilis Case Counts and Rates
Wake County, 1995-2014

Source: NC DHHS Epidemiology Section
http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/stds/figures.html
NC Early Syphilis Cases
Change from 2013 (n=677) to 2014 (n=1032)
Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31 by date of diagnosis

Difference in Cases
- Same or Fewer
- 1 - 2 More
- 3 - 5 More
- 6 - 10 More
- >10 More

Source: NC DHHS Communicable Disease Branch
People Affected

Wake County: Jan. 1, 2014 – April 23, 2015

- People are affected across demographics
- 213 people
  - Age range: 16-70
  - Gender: 197 male, 16 female
  - Race/ethnicity:
    - 99 Black/African American
    - 88 White, non-Hispanic
    - 17 Hispanic
  - HIV positive: 99 (46.5% of all cases)
Syphilis Overview

→ Transmission
  – Physical contact during vaginal, oral and anal sex
  – In utero

→ Treatment
  – Antibiotics

Treponema pallidum
Course of Untreated Syphilis

**“Early” Stages**

- **Primary**
  - Painless sore (chancre)
  - 48
  - 3 weeks average

- **Secondary**
  - Skin rashes
  - Mucous membrane lesions
  - Patchy hair loss (alopecia)
  - Condyloma lata
  - 96
  - 4 weeks average

**“Late” Stages**

- **Latent**
  - No signs/symptoms
  - 69
  - Up to 1 year

- **Latent**
  - Damage to internal organs
  - Paralysis
  - Gradual blindness
  - Dementia
  - > 1 year

**Infectiousness**

- **Incubation**
  - No signs/symptoms

**Numbers of People by Stage at Diagnosis**

Wake County n=213
January 1, 2014 – April 23, 2015
Screening

→ All HIV positive people
→ All sexually active men having sex with men (MSM)
→ All those seeking care/treatment for a sexually transmitted infection (STI)
→ All those seeking care for a rash or hair loss

→ All pregnant women (at least 3 times)
  - At initial visit
  - At 28-32 weeks
  - At delivery
  - Any woman delivering a stillborn infant after 20 weeks gestation
Treatment for Adults

→ Presumptive treatment

→ Primary, Secondary and Early Latent Syphilis
  Benzathine Penicillin G 2.4mu IM x1
  Doxycycline 100mg BID x 14 days (PCN allergy)

→ Late Latent Syphilis
  Benzathine Penicillin G 2.4 mu IM q weekly x 3
  Doxycycline 100 mg BID x 28 days (PCN allergy)

→ Neurosyphilis and Congenital Syphilis
  Infectious Disease consult recommended!
What is being done?

→ WCHS

- Increase awareness & education
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Targeted testing
- Coordination with other health departments in the region
Resources

→ Screening and Treatment
  – Wake County Human Services Clinic A
    ▪ Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
      – Sign in at 8:30 am and 12:30 pm
    ▪ Tuesday
      – Sign in at 9:30 am and 12:30 pm
    ▪ Wednesday evening clinic
      – Sign in at 4:30 pm
  – Non-traditional testing sites (see handout)
    http://www.wakegov.com/humanservices/publichealth/information/hiv/Pages/default.aspx
Resources

➡ Case Management
  – Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) interview and follow up with all newly diagnosed people
  – Wake County and NC Division of Public Health DIS serve Wake County
  – Contact tracing on all those diagnosed with early syphilis

➡ Rules on Testing and Reporting
  – North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC)
    ▪ Reportable Diseases and Conditions
      10A NCAC 41A.0101
    ▪ Control Measures-Sexually Transmitted Diseases
      10A NCAC 41A.0204
      http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp?folderName=\Title 10A - Health and Human Services\Chapter 41 - Epidemiology Health
Resources

➔ Data
  – Facts and Figures-NC HIV/STD Reports
    http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/stands/figures.html

➔ Additional information
  – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
    Facts, data and treatment info
    http://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/default.htm
  – Wake County Human Services Medical Providers web page
    (see handout)
    http://www.wakegov.com/humanservices/publichealth/providers/Pages/default.aspx
How can we work together?

→ Strategies:
   1. Community partners: increased awareness and testing
   2.
   3.
   4.

How can we support your efforts?

1.
2.
3.
4.