Congenital syphilis cases increased 36% in 2022

Syphilis continues to increase in women 14-44

In 2022, 889 women were diagnosed with primary, secondary, or other early syphilis, and 735 were diagnosed with late/unknown duration syphilis.

Effective treatment for pregnant women prevents most congenital syphilis

*2020 data should be treated with caution due to reduced availability of testing caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Data Source: North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS) (data as of July 1, 2023).

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Prepared by the HIV/STD/Hepatitis Surveillance Unit
Created on 10/16/2023
**Syphilis testing during pregnancy is required for ALL women in NC**

- Perform a thorough sexual health and behavioral risk assessment at every prenatal visit.
- Testing for syphilis is **required** at the first prenatal visit, between 28-30 weeks gestation, and at delivery.
- Treat all sexual partners of pregnant women diagnosed with syphilis to prevent re-infection.

**Syphilis testing during pregnancy prevents congenital syphilis**

**How does a baby end up with congenital syphilis?**

Findings from a review of NC congenital syphilis cases, 2016-2022

**How to prevent?**

- Support women to be linked to care early in pregnancy.
- Test all women at delivery! This is the best safety net to identify infection among women and infants who had no or little prenatal care.

**What YOU can do**

Sexually transmitted infections can be present, **even** if the exposure was in the past and **even** if there are no symptoms.

You deserve to have a healthy pregnancy and infant.

Make sure that your doctor is testing you throughout your pregnancy for STIs.