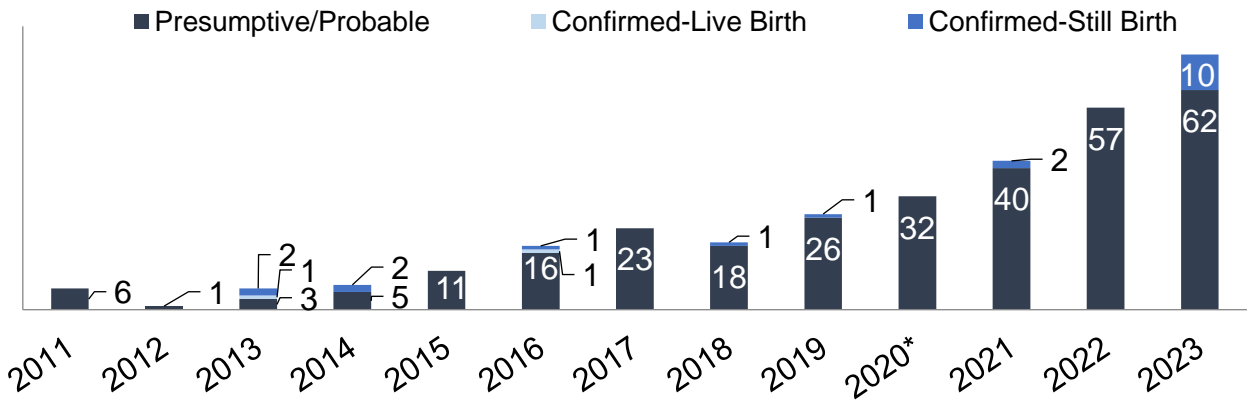




# Congenital Syphilis in North Carolina, 2023

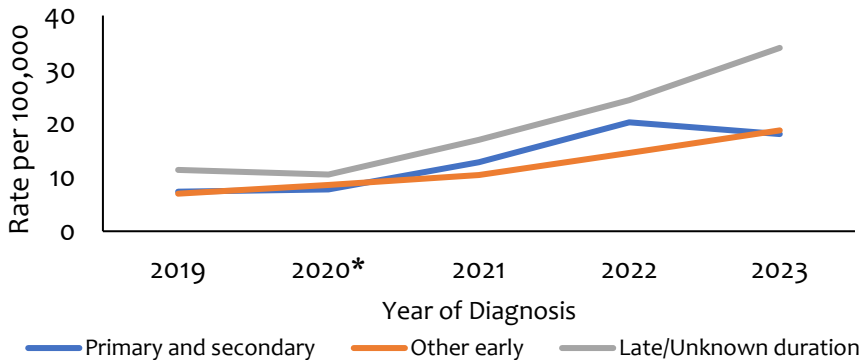


## Congenital syphilis cases increased 26% in 2023



## Syphilis continues to increase in women 14-44

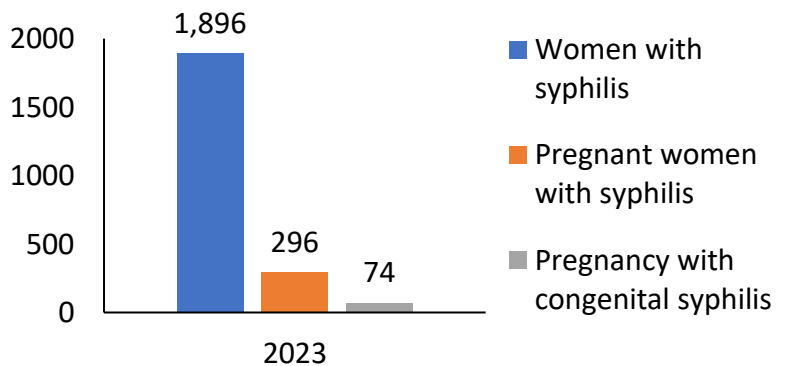
Syphilis Rates among Women aged 14-44 by Syphilis Stage North Carolina, 2019-2023



In 2023, 934 women were diagnosed with primary, secondary, or other early syphilis, and 962 were diagnosed with late/unknown duration syphilis.

Effective treatment for pregnant women prevents most congenital syphilis

### Women with Syphilis of Any Stage, NC 2023



\*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, 2024).



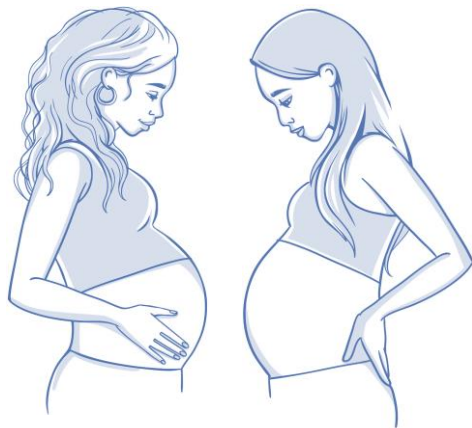
## Syphilis testing during pregnancy is required for ALL women in NC

- 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



No or late entry into prenatal care

Prenatal care but incomplete syphilis testing during pregnancy

Exposed newborn is not appropriately evaluated or treated at birth

### 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.
- Ensure **ALL** required testing is performed during pregnancy – 3 tests for everyone.
- Treat per the CDC guidelines.
- Ensure babies born to women who tested positive for syphilis are appropriately evaluated and treated for infection, per CDC guidelines.

## 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 through out your pregnancy for STIs.