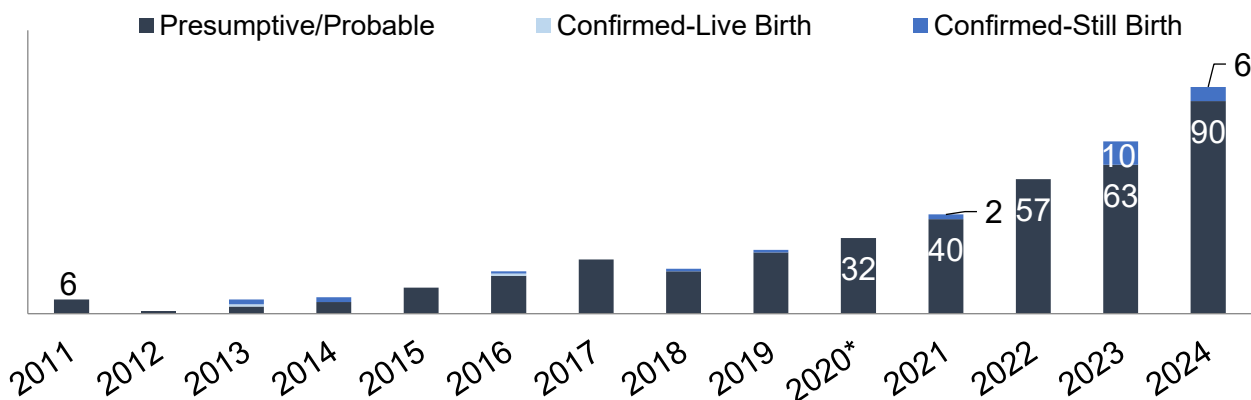




Congenital Syphilis in North Carolina, 2024

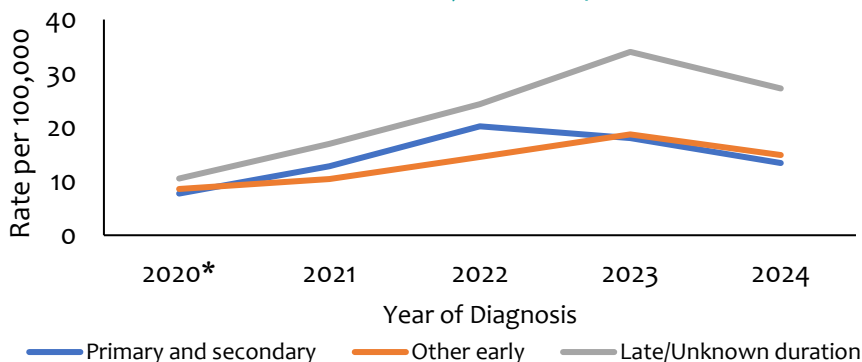


Congenital syphilis cases increased 32% in 2024



Syphilis decreased in 2024 but remains high in women 14-44

Syphilis Rates among Women aged 14-44 by Syphilis Stage
North Carolina, 2020-2024

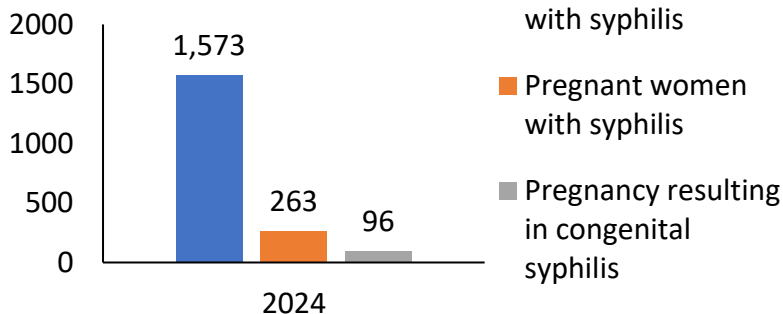


In 2024, 802 women aged 14-44 were diagnosed with primary, secondary, or other early syphilis, and 771 were diagnosed with late/unknown duration syphilis.

Women aged 14-44 with Syphilis of Any Stage, NC

2024

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, 2025).

Contact Us:
North Carolina DHHS
Communicable Disease Branch
Phone: (919) 733-3419

Mailing Address: Communicable Disease Branch Epidemiology Section
1902 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1902
Prepared by the HIV/STD/Hepatitis Surveillance Unit
Created on 9/10/2025



Congenital Syphilis in North Carolina, 2024



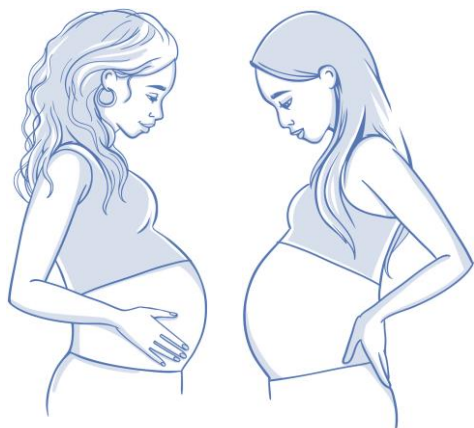
Syphilis testing during pregnancy is required for ALL women in NC

- 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

- 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.

Prenatal care but incomplete syphilis testing during pregnancy

- Ensure **ALL** required testing is performed during pregnancy – 3 tests for everyone.
- Treat per the CDC guidelines.

Exposed newborn is not appropriately evaluated or treated at birth

- 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.