A case of congenital syphilis occurs when a mother is inadequately treated for syphilis prior to delivery. This may result in stillbirth, death of the newborn, or significant future health and development problems. Congenital syphilis can be prevented through early maternal testing and treatment initiated at least 30 days before delivery.

Louisiana reported 68 cases of congenital syphilis

56% of cases were in the Monroe, New Orleans and Shreveport regions

Louisiana ranked 5th in the U.S. for congenital syphilis case rates

Louisiana had over 2x the national rate of congenital syphilis

Stage of Syphilis

- Primary, Secondary, or Early Non-Primary Non-Secondary
- Unknown or Late Latent Duration

Recommended Treatment

- 2.4 M units benzathine penicillin in a single dose
- 7.2 M units benzathine penicillin across three doses at 7 day intervals

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Black mothers have the highest rate of congenital syphilis in Louisiana which is due to a variety of barriers including racism, health access and stigma.

72% of mothers were Black, 22% were White, and 6% were Latina.

Two congenital syphilis cases resulted in stillbirth and both occurred with Black mothers.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that pregnant women attend 14 or more prenatal care visits.

Only 25% of mothers had the recommended number of visits

68% of mothers were under the age of 30 at the time of delivery

79% of mothers were engaged in prenatal care at least 2 months before delivery

Among them:

- 21% did not have a syphilis screening at least 45 days before delivery
- 30% did not have any syphilis screening conducted during their third trimester