2020 STD Update
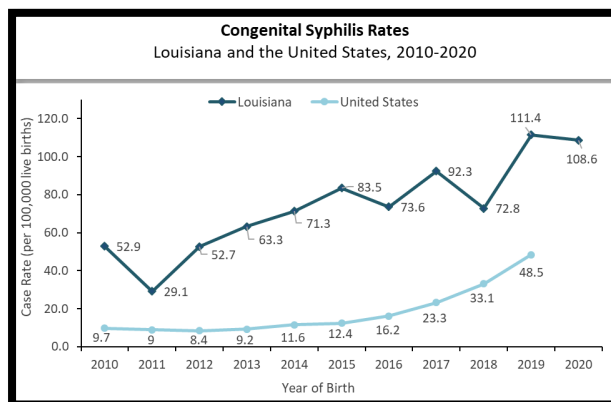# Congenital Syphilis, Louisiana

A case of congenital syphilis (CS) occurs when a pregnant women living with inadequately treated syphilis passes the infection on to her infant in utero or during delivery. This may result in stillbirth, death of the newborn, or significant future health and developmental problems. Congenital syphilis can be prevented by early detection of maternal syphilis and treatment that begins at least 30 days before delivery. Below are CDC recommended treatments for different stages of syphilis during pregnancy.

Stage of Syphilis	Recommended Treatment
Primary, Secondary, or Early Non-Primary Non-Secondary Syphilis	2.4 M units benzathine penicillin (1 dose)
Unknown/Late Latent	7.2 M units benzathine penicillin (3 doses at 1 week intervals)

Louisiana and the United States

- In 2020, Louisiana had 108.6 cases per 100,000 live births (63 cases). From 2019 to 2020, there was a 2.5% decrease in the Louisiana congenital syphilis rate.

- 63 cases of congenital syphilis were reported in 2020 for a case. This represents a 7% decrease in the number of cases when compared to 2019 (68).

Congenital Syphilis Rates
Louisiana and the United States, 2010-2020

Louisiana

In 2020, there were a total of 63 cases of congenital syphilis in Louisiana:

- **71%** of cases occurred in four regions of Louisiana: New Orleans (Region 1), Alexandria (Region 6), Shreveport (Region 7) and Monroe (Region 8).
- **79%** of mothers were Black, **17%** were White and **4%** were Hispanic/Latina.
- **76%** of mothers were under the age of 30 at the time of delivery.
- **89%** of mothers received timely prenatal care that began at least 2 months prior to delivery. Among them,
    - **32%** did not receive a test at their first prenatal care visit.
    - **25%** did not receive a third trimester test.

Region	2020 Case Count	Percentage of Cases
Region 1 - New Orleans	6	9.5%
Region 2 - Baton Rouge	5	7.9%
Region 3 - Houma	4	6.3%
Region 4 - Lafayette	3	4.8%
Region 5 - Lake Charles	2	3.2%
Region 6 - Alexandria	9	14.3%
Region 7 - Shreveport	15	23.8%
Region 8 - Monroe	15	23.8%
Region 9 - Hammond/Slidell	4	6.3%
Total	63	100%

A total of four cases of congenital syphilis were reported from Region 3 in 2020.

- 50% of mothers were multiracial, 25% were Black and 25% were White.
- 75% of mothers were between the ages of 20 and 29 at delivery and 15% were 30 years of age or older.
- 100% of mothers received timely prenatal care that started more than 60 days before delivery.

Testing and Treatment for Region 3 Congenital Syphilis Cases, 2020					
Case Number	Timely Prenatal Care	Timely Syphilis Test*	Timely Re-Test**	Any Third Trimester Test***	Adequately Treated During Pregnancy†
1	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
2	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Total	100% Timely Prenatal Care	100% Timely Test	50% Timely Re-test	100% Third Trimester Test	50% Adequately Treated During Pregnancy

Provider Information

The table below contains information about Prenatal Care Providers and Delivery Hospitals in Region 3 that had at least one case of congenital syphilis in 2020.

Prenatal Care	Number of Cases	Percent
Advanced OBGYN Houma	1	25%
Private Provider††	1	25%
South Louisiana Medical Associates	1	25%
Women's Health Specialists	1	25%
Delivery Hospital	**Number of Cases**	**Percent**
East Jefferson Medical Center	1	25%
Terrebonne Medical Center	3	75%

*A timely syphilis test is defined as a test that was performed at least 45 days prior to delivery. It is the first test during pregnancy.
**A timely re-test is defined as at least one additional test at least 45 days prior to delivery performed after the first test during pregnancy.
***A syphilis test that was performed between 27 weeks gestation and delivery. Tests performed on the day of delivery are not considered third trimester tests.
†While some women may have been adequately treated for their stage of syphilis, they may have initiated treatment less than 30 days before delivery or could have been re-infected after treatment was initiated.
†† General designation for individual OBGYN providers