

Cases of congenital syphilis (CS) have risen in Michigan over the past several years and may lead to significant illness and even death for the infant. Treating an infant with CS typically involves 10 days of inpatient intravenous therapy and can cost thousands of dollars. Fortunately, **congenital syphilis can be prevented through routine testing of pregnant women** following CDC guidelines: [Syphilis During Pregnancy - STI Treatment Guidelines \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/syphilis-pregnancy) and [Congenital Syphilis - STI Treatment Guidelines \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/congenital-syphilis).

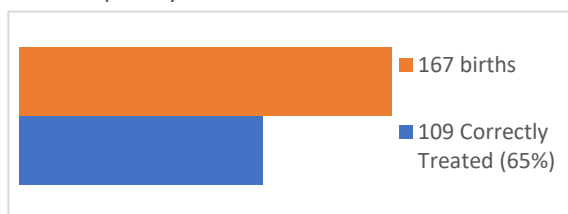
Steps to prevent and treat congenital syphilis (CS)	What is Michigan doing about it?
Test pregnant women for syphilis.	Public Act 538 of 2018 requires health care providers test for syphilis at the first prenatal visit, and again early in the third trimester.
Treat syphilis during the pregnancy.	Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) staff assist providers in ensuring that treatment for pregnant women is available and accessible.
Test infant for syphilis at birth.	MDHHS verifies that each mother was treated. If not, MDHHS ensures that the infant is treated.

How common is syphilis among women?

The number of women of child-bearing age (15-44 years), and the number of pregnant women, with any stage of syphilis have more than tripled since 2018 (**Figure 1**).

In 2024, 189 pregnant women were diagnosed with syphilis. As shown in **Figure 2**, 65% of women received the recommended treatment, potentially preventing 109 cases of congenital syphilis in infants in that year.

Figure 2: Syphilis treatment among pregnant women (2024)



Congenital Syphilis:

Despite current prevention efforts, in 2024, there were 58 cases of CS in newborns (**Figure 4**). This represents a four-fold increase in the number of diagnoses since 2017.

Figure 4: Michigan congenital syphilis diagnoses

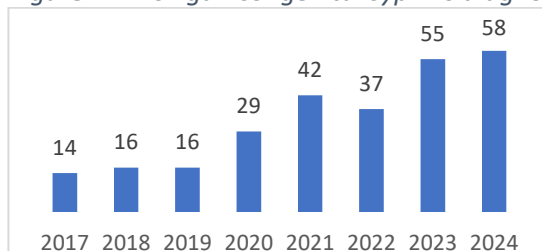
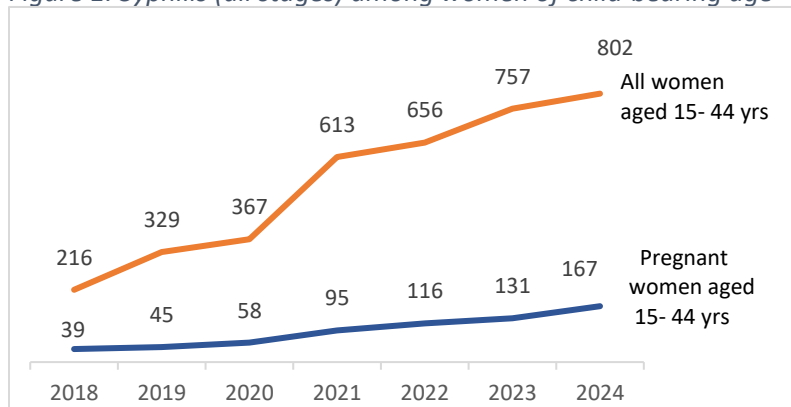


Figure 1: Syphilis (all stages) among women of child-bearing age



Has testing among women increased?

Yes. While testing has increased among Medicaid enrollees since 2017, just 61% of women received prenatal screening in the third trimester (**Figure 3**).

Figure 3: Syphilis screening during 3rd trimester among Medicaid enrollees who are pregnant

