

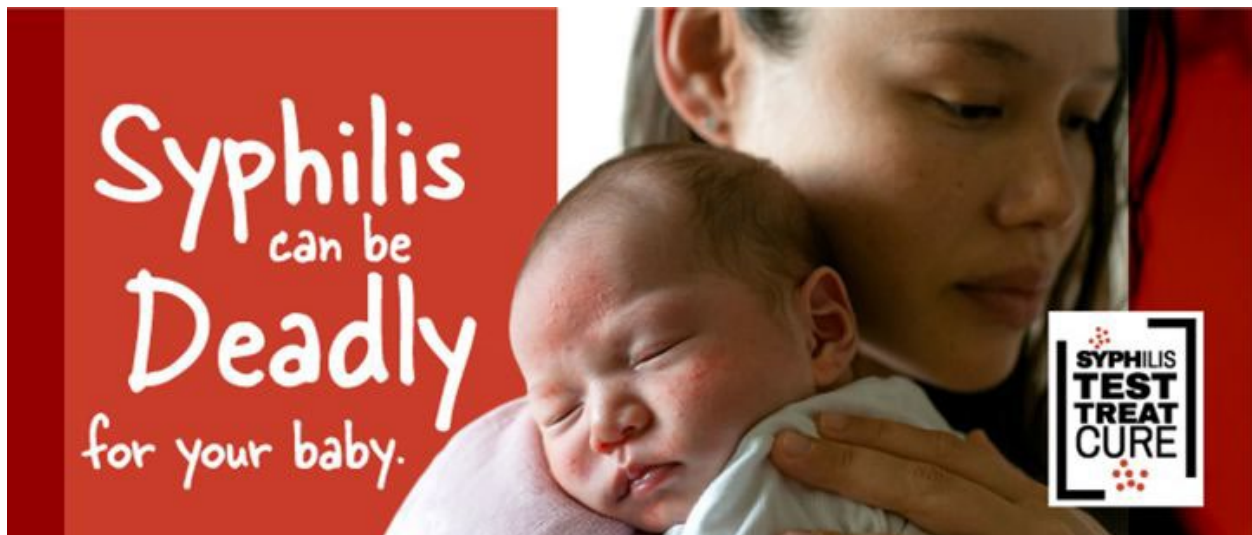
Diseases Fact Sheet - Syphilis - Congenital

South Dakota Department of Health

Office of Disease Prevention Services - 605-773-3737 -(1-800-592-1861 in South Dakota only)

This material is provided for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for medical care. We are not able to answer personal medical questions. Please see your health care provider concerning appropriate care, treatment or other medical advice.

What is it?



Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI), usually spread through skin-to-skin contact, typically during sex. Syphilis has been called "the great imitator" because its symptoms are similar to other infections and diseases. Additionally, its symptoms can be so mild that you may not notice that you have them.

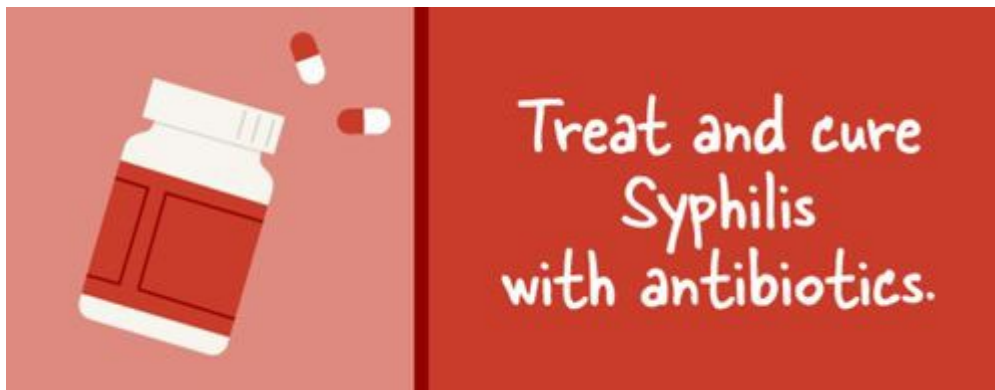
How common is congenital syphilis?

Cases have more than tripled in recent years, and providers across the country are very concerned about the growing number of cases in the United States. It is important to ensure you get tested for syphilis if you are pregnant.

What can happen when syphilis goes untreated?

Even though symptoms may disappear, untreated syphilis can damage your brain, nerves, eyes, blood vessels, liver, bones, and joints. Syphilis in pregnant women can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant death. Babies who survive can have irreversible damage to the skin, bones,

joints, eyes, ears, and brain. There are ways pregnant moms can protect their babies from syphilis. A simple blood test can detect syphilis, and antibiotics treat and cure the disease. Early detection and treatment are essential to help prevent devastating lifelong health consequences. If you are pregnant, talk to your medical provider about getting tested for syphilis during your first prenatal visit, early in your third trimester, and at delivery. It's also very important to reduce your risk of getting an STI during pregnancy by talking to your partner(s) about STI testing and using condoms.



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https://gettested.cdc.gov/search_results