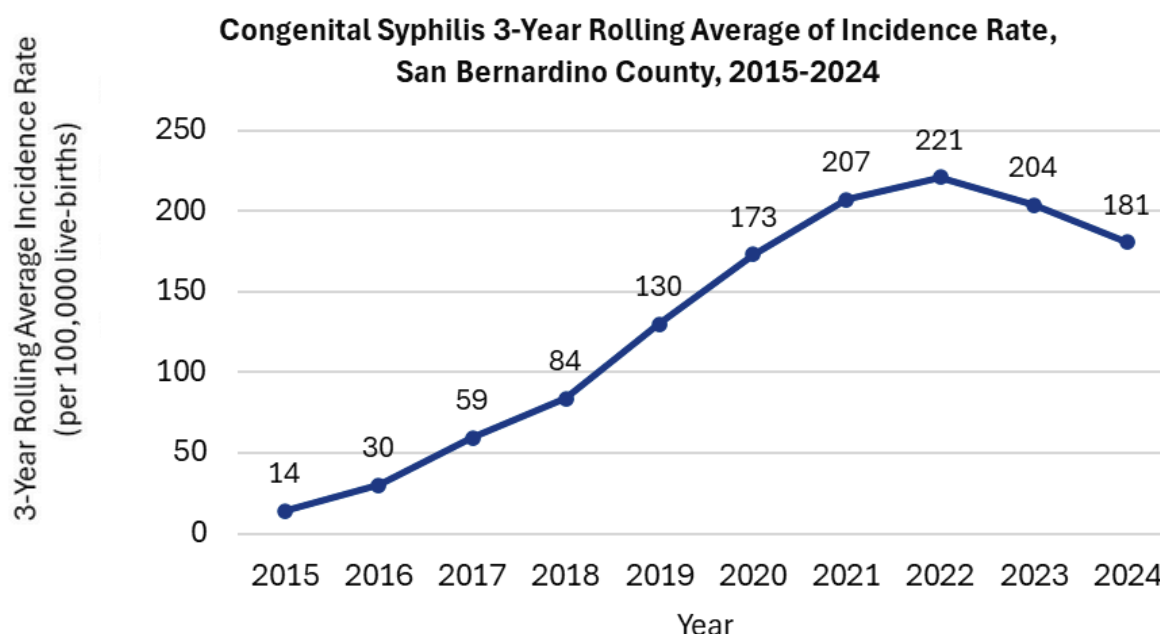
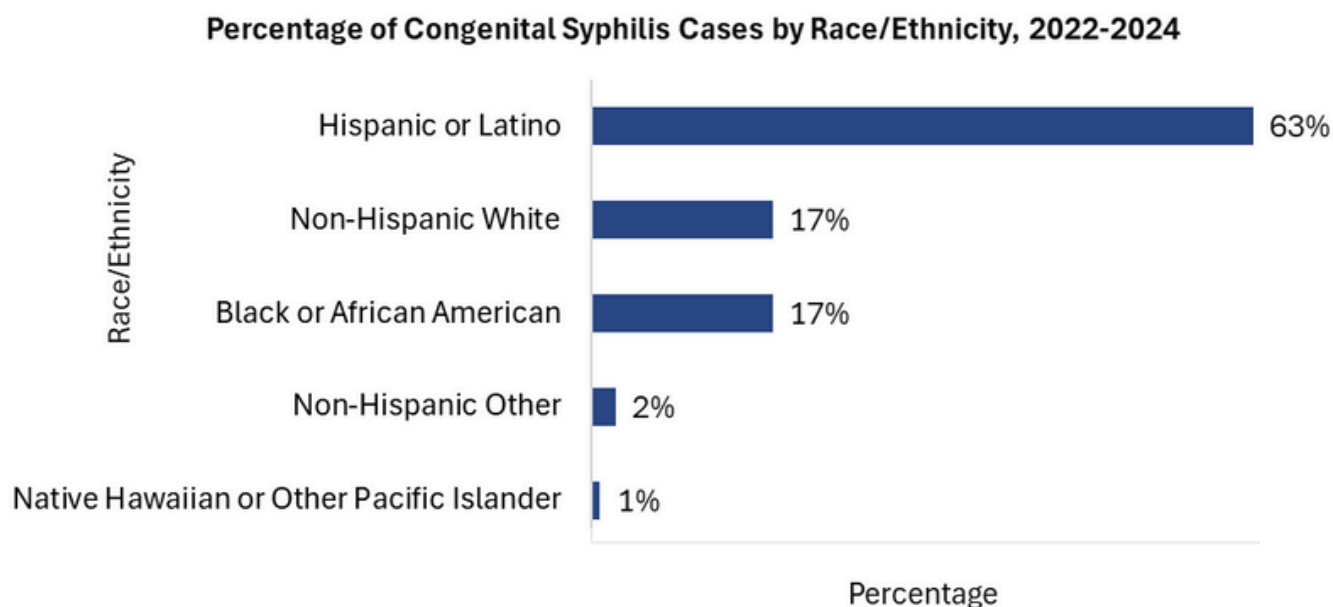


Congenital syphilis (CS) is an infection transmitted from a pregnant person to their child during pregnancy or delivery caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. CS can cause severe illness in infants, including premature birth, low birth weight, birth defects, blindness, and hearing loss. It can also lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death shortly after delivery. Between 2022 and 2024, there were **134 cases** in San Bernardino County. Eleven of the 134 cases (8%) were syphilitic stillbirth cases.



Congenital syphilis disproportionately affects Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American infants compared to non-Hispanic white infants.



## Percentage of congenital syphilis cases by region in San Bernardino County, 2022-2024



1% Mountain



35% High Desert



64% Valley

## Common risk factors found amongst the 134 CS cases reported in 2022 to 2024 included:



56% experienced lack of prenatal care



19% experienced inadequate treatment during pregnancy, where penicillin (BIC) treatment began <30 days before delivery



17% experienced inadequate treatment during pregnancy, where penicillin (BIC) treatment was not appropriate for stage of infection

## Of the 134 CS cases, 129 mothers were interviewed. Commonly reported risk factors among the mothers, included:



23% reported substance use, with 93% of those indicating methamphetamine use



12% had a co-infection with an STI

In 2024, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated syphilis screening recommendations and now recommend that **all pregnant persons, regardless of risk behaviors, should be screened for syphilis three times: (1) at confirmation of pregnancy or first prenatal encounter, (2) early in the third trimester (at approximately 28 weeks of gestation or as soon as possible thereafter), and (3) at delivery.**

Case Data Source: Data was exported from the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE) system.

Birth Data Source: California Department of Public Health, California Comprehensive Birth File (Dynamic), [2022-2024], Data Extracted, [June 24, 2025] (CCBF Field 201).

Data Source for Regions: [Home](#) | [MCAH Dashboard](#)

To learn more about San Bernardino County Communicable Disease Section, please scan the QR code.

