

PREVENTION

To reduce your risk of syphilis, **practice safer sex** by using barrier methods like condoms. Limit your number of partners. **Avoid sharing needles or substance supplies.**

If you're pregnant, get screened for syphilis in your first trimester, again between 28 and 32 weeks, and once more at delivery.

Note: Doxy PEP is a medication that can prevent anal and oral transmission of syphilis and gonorrhea

TESTING

Blood tests and point-of-care tests (POCT) can screen for syphilis. The Blood test is most common. Your doctor or walk-in clinic can arrange this. Or visit ...

- SHA Community Wellness Bus
- Idylwyld Sexual Health Clinic
- Visit Sex Life Sask

Note: If you're pregnant, prenatal screening should include STBBI testing. Talk to your partners about testing and treatment, too.

TREATMENT

For pregnant individuals, the treatment involves 1 injection per week for 2 weeks. If the infection has persisted for over a year, it extends to 3 weeks. In cases with neurological issues, treatment may be given via IV in multiple doses. If newborns require treatment they receive IV penicillin for 10 days.

Taking Care of Your Sexual Health is Part of a Healthy Pregnancy

Sexually transmitted infections like syphilis can harm your pregnancy.
Get Tested. Get Treatment. Get Cured.

About Us

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LET'S TALK ABOUT SEXUAL
HEALTH & PREGNANCY:

Congenital Syphilis

Syphilis and congenital syphilis are sexually transmitted infections that can put your pregnancy and newborn's life at risk. There is a cure and there are ways to prevent it!

The Facts

What is Congenital Syphilis?

Congenital syphilis (CS) occurs when a person is pregnant, has an untreated syphilis infection and passes the infection to their baby. This can occur during pregnancy and childbirth.

How Does Syphilis Spread?

Syphilis can be spread from person to person or through objects::

- Oral, vaginal, or anal sex
- Shared needles
- Shared sex toys
- Pregnancy or childbirth
- Skin contact with a syphilis rash
- Deep kissing (especially when chancres/sores are present)

How Does it Impact Babies?

Babies with congenital syphilis may have symptoms at birth, including rashes and anemia, but they might show no symptoms.

If a baby shows no symptoms and does not receive treatment, it can result in neurological (brain) issues, hearing or vision problems, and facial and skeletal malformations.

The Data

Canada has had a **200% increase in CS from 2018-2023**

SK has 6x

the national average of early congenital syphilis

*rate per 100,000 live births

3 in 4

maternal syphilis cases will result in adverse pregnancy outcomes if they are untreated

Research also suggests a 26% risk of stillbirth or early pregnancy loss, a 16% risk of infant death, and a 14% risk of miscarriage.

*Data: Public Health Agency of Canada and National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease

The Impact

If syphilis is untreated during pregnancy it can lead to **pre-term birth, stillbirth or infant death. If CS is passed to the infant it can lead to health and development issues.** Babies with congenital syphilis may have symptoms at birth, including rashes and anemia, but they can show no symptoms.

If a baby shows no symptoms and does not receive treatment, it can result in neurological issues, hearing or vision problems, and facial and skeletal malformations.

