

# Syphilis in Nevada

## 2023 Nevada HIV & STI Rankings

- #5 for new human immunodeficiencyvirus (HIV) diagnoses 16.7 per 100,000 population (2022 data)
- #6 for congenital syphilis, 232 per 100,000 live births
- #10 for primary and secondary syphilis, 22.7 per 100,000 population
- #12 for gonorrhea, 204.7 per 100,000 population
- #19 for chlamydia, 493.6 per 100,000 population

Nevada has consistently ranked in the top 10 for primary and secondary syphilis (most infectious stages), mostly among the top five states since 2013. Congenital cases have consistently ranked among the top five states since 2014. The decrease in case rate ranking has occurred as other states are experiencing an increase in cases.

If a person has a sexually transmitted infection (STI), they are 3-to-5 times more likely to acquire HIV if exposed.

## Congenital Syphilis (CS)

- Up to 40% of babies born to individuals with untreated syphilis, may be stillborn or die from the infection as a newborn
- Early signs of syphilis in babies are:
  - rash
  - red skin lesions
  - heavy nasal discharge called “snuffles”
  - bone lesions
- Most infants show no signs or symptoms at birth, then develop symptoms 2 weeks to 3 months later
- 

## Trends Among Maternal Cases

- Polysubstance Use
- Unstable housing or unhoused
- Inconsistent or no prenatal care
- Late entry into prenatal care
- Reinfection during pregnancy
- Transactional sex
- Present for care at emergency departments
  - Missed opportunities for intervention
- Criminal justice system involvement or partner involvement
- Lower health literacy



CS cases increased 1,825% from 2014 - 2023



82% of the CS cases were asymptomatic in 2022



60% of mothers had no prenatal care



40% of mothers indicated substance use during pregnancy



4 stillbirths in 2020; 1 in 2021, 4 in 2022



44% of CS cases were diagnosed at time of delivery

## Interventions

- Offer low-barrier prenatal services
- Follow testing law for testing pregnant people ([NRS 442.010](#))
- Providers offering HIV and STI testing to everyone aged 15-64 ([NRS 441a.315](#))
  - Offer point-of-care syphilis testing
  - All **sexually active people aged 15 to 44 years** in the following counties should be offered **syphilis tests because of high levels of syphilis infections:**

Clark County  
Churchill County

Douglas County  
Humboldt County

Lyon County  
Nye County  
Washoe County