

Supplemental Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Program Funding for Enhanced Congenital Syphilis Response

Background

In 2016, there were 628 cases of congenital syphilis (CS) reported to CDC, a 28% increase from 2015. CS can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, early infant death, or severe illness in those infants who survive. However, congenital syphilis is entirely preventable through coordinated action involving healthcare providers, public health departments, and the pregnant women they serve.

CDC Response

The CDC published a [Syphilis Call to Action](#)¹ outlining activities to control the further spread of syphilis among adults and prevent congenital syphilis among infants. In addition to the Call to Action, the Division of STD Prevention recently funded nine project areas² to strengthen local capacity to address congenital syphilis.

Quick Facts

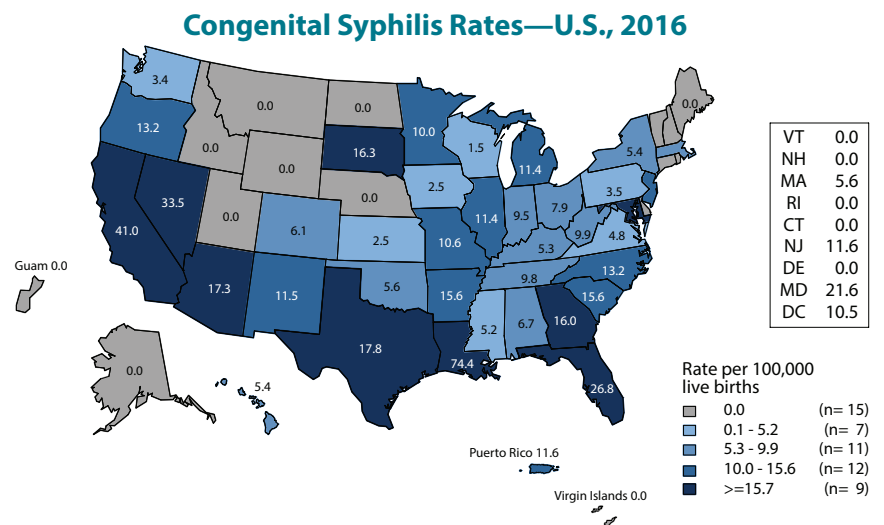
Project Timeline: Through December 2018

Total Award Amount: \$4 million

Number of Awards: 9

The nine funded project areas accounted for 70% of all US congenital syphilis cases in 2016

Project Areas	2016 Cases
California (excluding Los Angeles & San Francisco)	172
Texas	71
Florida	59
Louisiana	48
Los Angeles	32
Georgia	21
Maryland (including Baltimore)	16
Chicago	11
Ohio	11
U.S. Total	628



Key Activities

- Implement strategies to improve collection of data on congenital syphilis cases
- Implement strategies to improve pregnancy status verification among women with syphilis and prospective data collection for pregnant women
- Develop or strengthen Congenital Syphilis Morbidity and Mortality Case Review Boards
- Routinely match infant birth and death records with syphilis surveillance data to detect unreported cases of congenital syphilis and strengthen congenital syphilis case report data
- Strengthen partnerships with local health care organizations, community organizations, state and local maternal and child health programs, and Medicaid programs
- Participate in a congenital syphilis special interest group to work collectively on program activities and inform CDC program guidance on congenital syphilis prevention and control

For more information

Please contact Jennifer Fuld (jfuld@cdc.gov) or Lauren Taylor (ltaylor4@cdc.gov)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/syphiliscalltoactionapril2017.pdf>

²To be eligible for funding, the project area must have reported 14 or more congenital syphilis cases to CDC in 2015