

GOOD PRENATAL CARE

IS YOUR
FIRST LABOR
OF LOVE

MY PRENATAL
PROMISE

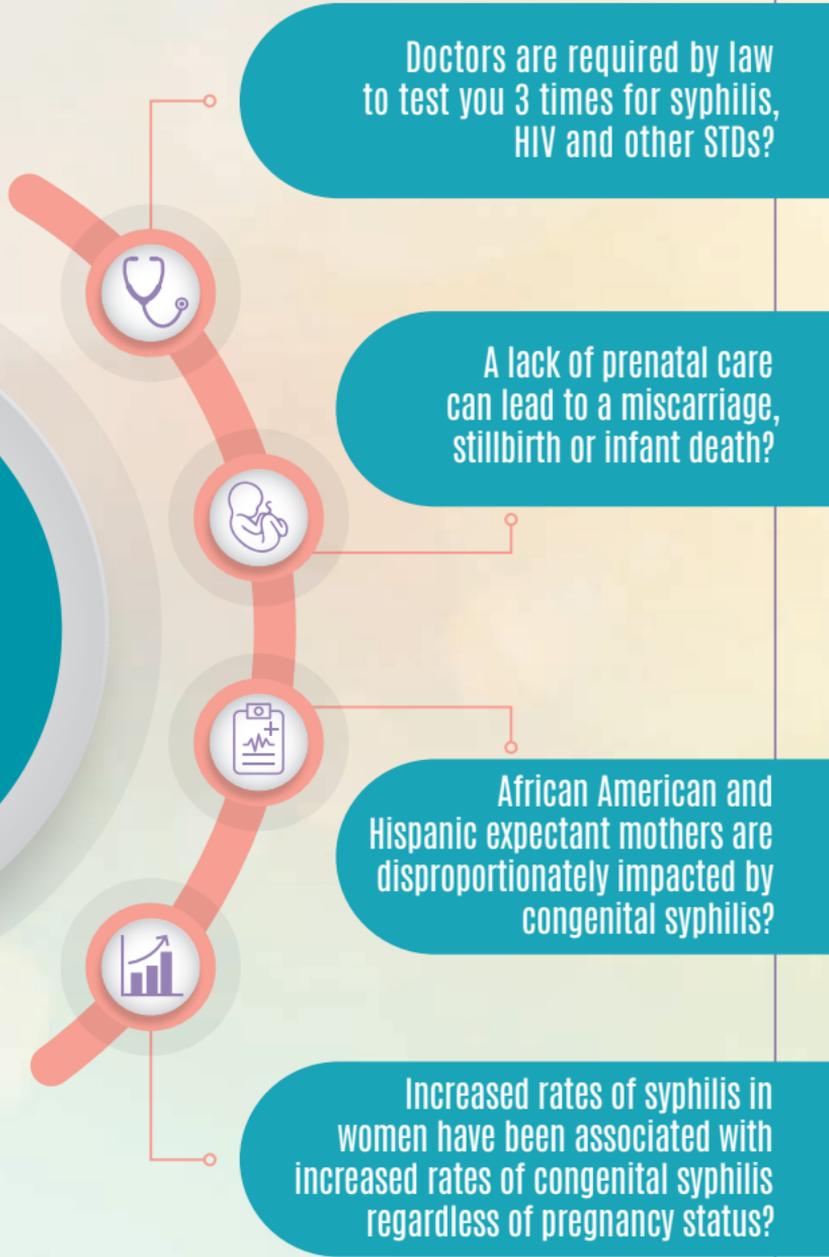


HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

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Did You Know ...



Doctors are required by law to test you 3 times for syphilis, HIV and other STDs?

A lack of prenatal care can lead to a miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death?

African American and Hispanic expectant mothers are disproportionately impacted by congenital syphilis?

Increased rates of syphilis in women have been associated with increased rates of congenital syphilis regardless of pregnancy status?

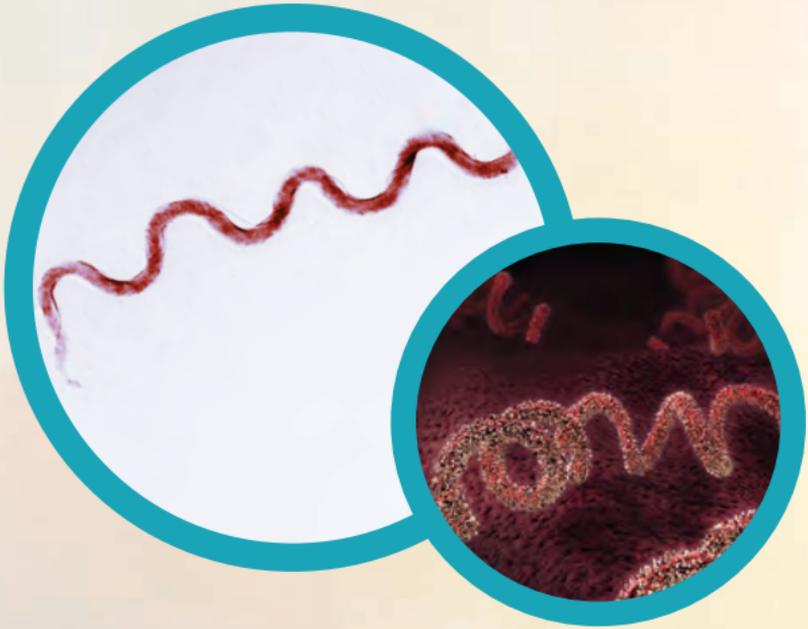
GOOD PRENATAL CARE

requires a mother's love and patience, so make the nine months count. Prevent congenital syphilis and protect your baby by making prenatal care priority No. 1.

KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.



WHAT IS SYPHILIS?



SYPHILIS IS A BACTERIAL, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION (STI) THAT PROGRESSES IN STAGES.

The disease is curable and progression of the disease is preventable, but if left untreated it can cause cardiovascular and neurological diseases and blindness. Syphilis causes genital ulcers, which increase the likelihood of sexual HIV transmission two- to five-fold.

UNTREATED, SYPHILIS CAN BE TRANSMITTED FROM A PREGNANT WOMAN TO HER FETUS.

How is Syphilis Spread?

SYPHILIS IS PASSED FROM PERSON TO PERSON THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT WITH A SYPHILIS SORE OR LESION.

These occur mainly on the external genitals, vagina, anus, or in the rectum. Sores also can occur on the lips and in the mouth. Transmission of the organism occurs during vaginal, anal or oral sex. Pregnant women with the disease can pass it to the fetus they are carrying. Syphilis cannot be spread by toilet seats, door knobs, swimming pools, hot tubs, bath tubs, shared clothing or eating utensils.



How is Syphilis Diagnosed?



A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER CAN DIAGNOSE SYPHILIS WITH THE APPROPRIATE BLOOD TESTS.

If syphilis bacteria are present in the sore, they will show up with a characteristic appearance.

A blood test is another way to determine whether someone has syphilis. Shortly after infection occurs, the body produces syphilis antibodies that can be detected by an accurate and inexpensive blood test. A low level of antibodies will stay in the blood for months or years, even after the disease has been successfully treated. Because untreated syphilis in a pregnant woman can infect and possibly kill her developing baby, every pregnant woman should have a blood test for syphilis.

WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH
SYPHILIS CAN TRANSMIT SYPHILIS
TO THEIR UNBORN CHILD.

DURING THEIR FIRST
PRENATAL VISIT

1ST

DOCTORS
ARE
REQUIRED
TO TEST
EXPECTANT
MOMS

DURING THE THIRD
TRIMESTER NO EARLIER THAN
28 WEEKS GESTATION

2ND

3RD

AT DELIVERY

WHAT IS CONGENITAL SYPHILIS?



**WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH SYPHILIS CAN
TRANSMIT SYPHILIS TO THEIR UNBORN CHILD.**

Congenital syphilis is syphilis present in the mother's uterus and occurs when a child is born to a mother with syphilis. Women with untreated or inadequately treated latent syphilis still have a 23 percent chance of an adverse pregnancy outcome.

IF LEFT UNTREATED, CONGENITAL SYPHILIS CAN CAUSE POOR PREGNANCY OUTCOMES, INCLUDING LOWER EXTREMITY ABNORMALITIES, MISCARRIAGES, PREMATURE BIRTHS, STILLBIRTHS OR DEATH IN NEWBORNS. SOME INFANTS WITH CONGENITAL SYPHILIS HAVE SYMPTOMS AT BIRTH, BUT MANY DEVELOP SYMPTOMS LATER.

IF THE MOTHER IS TREATED EARLY DURING PREGNANCY, BUT HER PARTNER IS NOT, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF RE-INFECTION OCCURRING, THEREFORE, PUTTING YOUR UNBORN CHILD AT RISK.

TALK

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR AND ASK ABOUT SYPHILIS TESTING



TEST

GET TESTED EARLY AT YOUR FIRST PRENATAL VISIT, DURING YOUR THIRD TRIMESTER NO EARLIER THAN 28 WEEKS GESTATION AND AT DELIVERY.



TREAT

GET TREATED RIGHT AWAY IF DIAGNOSED WITH SYPHILIS, AND MAKE SURE YOUR PARTNER IS TREATED, TOO.



WHAT IS PRENATAL CARE?



PRENATAL CARE IS PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE FOR PREGNANT MOTHERS AND SHOULD BE A CENTRAL PART OF PRE- AND POST-FAMILY PLANNING. PRENATAL CARE HAS A DUAL PURPOSE OF

1. Ensuring regular check-ups are conducted so that doctors may treat or prevent potential health problems throughout the course of the pregnancy.
2. Promoting healthy lifestyle practices for the safety and benefit of both mother and child. In addition, postnatal care is required primarily during the first six weeks following childbirth.

CONGENITAL SYPHILIS IS A GROWING PROBLEM IN HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of female syphilis cases rose by 32 percent between 2017 and 2018. Consequently, the number of congenital syphilis cases among pregnant mothers in Houston/Harris County more than doubled from 2017 (47 cases) to 2018 (104 cases) – a 121 percent increase. In Harris County, women ages 18-34 accounted for 92 percent of all syphilis cases from 2017 to 2018.

2017

2018

32%

RISE IN FEMALE
SYPHILIS CASES

INCREASE FROM 47 TO 104
CASES AMONG HOUSTON/HARRIS
COUNTY PREGNANT MOTHERS

121%

92%

WOMEN AGES 18-34
ACCOUNTED FOR ALL
SYPHILIS CASES

ALSO, DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD:



THE NUMBER OF WOMEN AGES 35-44 WHO DELIVERED AN INFANT WITH CONGENITAL SYPHILIS INCREASED FROM 6 PERCENT TO 11 PERCENT.



AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTHERS HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR 58 PERCENT AND 66 PERCENT OF INFANTS BORN WITH CONGENITAL SYPHILIS IN HARRIS COUNTY FROM 2017 TO 2018, RESPECTIVELY.



HISPANIC MOTHERS HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR 38 PERCENT AND 20 PERCENT OF INFANTS BORN WITH CONGENITAL SYPHILIS IN HARRIS COUNTY FROM 2017 TO 2018, RESPECTIVELY.

MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, TEXAS REPORTED 421 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SYPHILIS CASES AMONG WOMEN IN 2018, A 38 PERCENT INCREASE FROM 2017. INCREASED RATES OF SYPHILIS IN WOMEN HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RATES OF CONGENITAL SYPHILIS REGARDLESS OF PREGNANCY STATUS.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SYPHILIS CASES

TEXAS
INCREASED
RATES
REPORTED

421

38%

INCREASE FROM
2017 TO 2018

FACTS ABOUT STIs



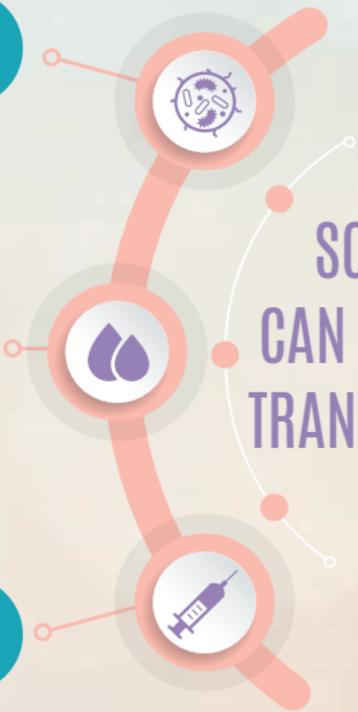
**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs)
ARE SPREAD THROUGH SEXUAL CONTACT –
SPECIFICALLY THROUGH VAGINAL, ANAL
OR ORAL SEX.**

Many STIs have no obvious symptoms. A person with an STI may seem healthy – and still transmit the illness to a sexual partner.

By skin-to-skin contact
with infected sores

Through contact with
blood or other bodily fluids

By sharing needles
or syringes



SOME STIs
CAN ALSO BE
TRANSMITTED

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT SEXUALLY ACTIVE PEOPLE GET TESTED FOR STIs BEFORE HAVING SEX.

If you are unable to use a male latex condom, inquire about polyurethane or synthetic latex male or female condoms.

Ask your physician, health care provider or the Houston Health Department about testing for syphilis, HIV and other STIs.

Prevention of STIs



**AVOIDING SEX IS
THE ONLY SURE WAY
TO PREVENT CONTRACTING
AN STI THROUGH SEX.**

Another option is to use a male or female latex or polyurethane condoms to help protect against HIV and other STIs.

If you are sexually active, reduce your risks by knowing if your partner is practicing safe sex and make sure she or he is:

- 1ST** NOT INFECTED
- 2ND** HAS NO OTHER SEX PARTNERS
- 3RD** DOES NOT INJECT DRUGS

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT SEXUALLY ACTIVE PEOPLE GET TESTED FOR STIs BEFORE HAVING SEX.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO USE A MALE LATEX CONDOM, INQUIRE ABOUT POLYURETHANE OR SYNTHETIC LATEX MALE OR FEMALE CONDOMS.

ASK YOUR PHYSICIAN, HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR THE HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT ABOUT TESTING FOR SYPHILIS, HIV AND OTHER STIs.



HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT CENTERS

THE HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT WELCOMES EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF HEALTH INSURANCE. CONTACT ANY OF OUR HEALTH CENTERS TO SCHEDULE A VISIT OR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

NORTHSIDE HEALTH CENTER

8504 SCHULLER ROAD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77093

832-395-9100

MONDAY: 8:30 AM - 6 PM
TUESDAY - THURSDAY: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH: 7 AM - 11 PM
FRIDAY: 7:30 AM - 12 PM
CLOSED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

SHARPSTOWN HEALTH CENTER

6201 BONHOMME ROAD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77036

832-395-9800

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 7:30 AM - 4 PM
CLOSED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

SUNNYSIDE HEALTH CENTER

4605 WILMINGTON STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051

832-395-0206

MONDAY: 8:30 AM - 6 PM
TUESDAY - FRIDAY: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM
CLOSED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

About Us

The Houston Health Department (HHD) has provided traditional public health services for more than 180 years, seeking to use innovative methods to market the community's present and future needs.

Our mission is to work in partnership with the community to promote and protect the health and social well-being of all Houstonians and the environment in which they live. HHD is now the first health department in Texas and the second among the largest U.S. cities to earn national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).



HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

NOTES

NOTES

MY PRENATAL PROMISE





HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT



To learn more, visit [MyPrenatalPromise.com](https://www.MyPrenatalPromise.com)