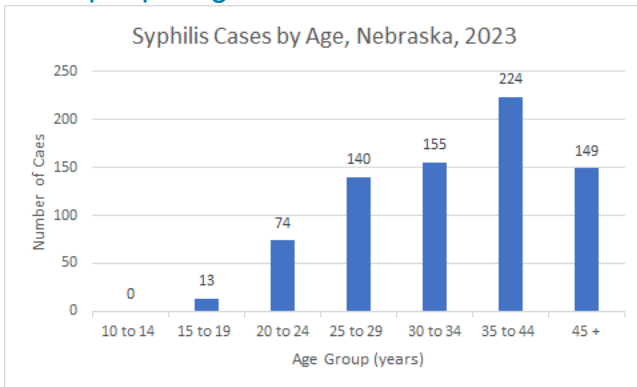


Syphilis in Nebraska

- Last year, there were 755 reported cases of syphilis across the state- a 17%+ increase from 2022.
- In the last 5 years, Nebraska has seen syphilis cases rise 239%.
- **Syphilis is preventable AND curable.**

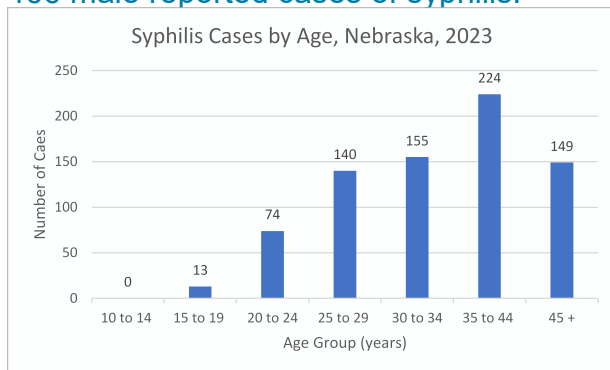
By Age:

- The highest number of syphilis cases were seen in the 35-44 and 30-34 age ranges.
- This is different from other STIs, where almost half (46%) of new infections happen in people aged 15-24.



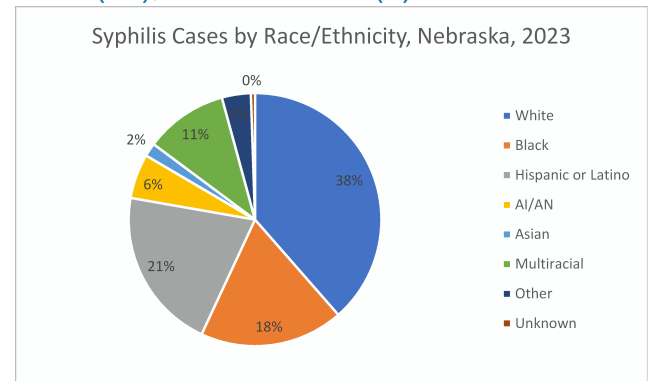
By Sex:

- Last year, there were 289 female and 466 male reported cases of syphilis.



By Race/Ethnicity:

- In 2023, syphilis cases by race were as follows: White (291 cases), Black (139), Hispanic or Latino (157), AI/AN (43), Asian (13), Multiracial (80), Other (28), and Unknown (4).



Congenital Syphilis:

- Congenital syphilis (CS) is a serious infection in newborns that occurs when a pregnant woman with syphilis passes the infection to her baby. It can cause severe health problems or even death if left untreated.
- In the past decade, the U.S. has seen an alarming 937% increase in CS cases.

Prevention:

- Sexually active people can get syphilis through vaginal, anal, or oral sex with a partner who has syphilis.
- If you are sexually active, reducing or eliminating sexual partners and using condoms the right way every time you have sex is important for prevention.
- Infection develops in stages (primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary). Each stage can have different signs and symptoms. It's important to get regular STI testing to know your status and protect yourself.

Congenital Syphilis (CS) Fact Sheet Continued

October 2024

- Syphilis can be passed to a pregnant person's baby at any point during pregnancy.
- If partner(s) aren't cured, it can be contracted again.
- It's recommended that all pregnant people are tested for syphilis three times during pregnancy. Once during an initial visit, at 28 weeks, and at delivery.

Rising Risk:

- Though preventable and curable, over 10 times as many babies were born with syphilis in 2022 than in 2012.
- Timely testing and treatment during pregnancy could have prevented almost 9 in 10 (88%) cases in 2022.
- 2 in 5 (40%) people who had a baby with syphilis did not get prenatal care.
- Not all babies born with CS show immediate signs or symptoms.



CS Can Cause:

- Miscarriage
- Stillbirth
- Prematurity
- Low birth weight
- Death shortly after birth

Babies Born with CS Can Have:

- Deformed bones
- Blindness
- "Snuffles" (copious nasal secretions)
- Rash and peeling skin
- Deafness
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin or eyes)
- Severe anemia
- Brain and nerve problems (e.g. paralysis, seizures)
- Enlarged liver and spleen
- Meningitis
- Developmental delays



"Helping People Live Better Lives"

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