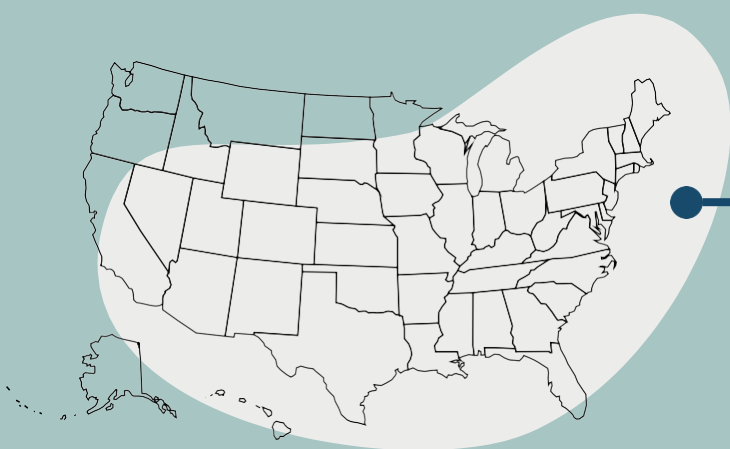


# Congenital Syphilis among American Indians/Alaska Natives

**Congenital Syphilis is currently on the rise in the United States, especially among American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in the Southwest.<sup>1</sup>**

## What is Congenital Syphilis?

**A disease that occurs when a mother with syphilis passes the infection on to her baby during pregnancy.<sup>2</sup>**



**In 2020, the United States had a reported total of 55 Congenital Syphilis cases among AI/AN.<sup>1</sup>**

**In 2020, Arizona accounted for almost half of all Congenital Syphilis cases nationwide among AI/AN with 25 reported cases.<sup>1</sup>**



## How does Congenital Syphilis affect the baby?

**Once the baby is born, it can cause:<sup>2</sup>**

- Deformed bones
- Severe anemia
- Enlarged liver and spleen
- Jaundice
- Brain and nerve problems



## How does Congenital Syphilis affect the mother?

**If Syphilis is left untreated, it can cause:<sup>2</sup>**

- Miscarriage
- Stillbirth
- The baby to be born early
- Low birth weight
- Death shortly after birth



## References

1. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., Tribal Epidemiology Center. *Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Surveillance among American Indians/Alaska Natives in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah from 2000-2020*. September 2022.
2. STD Facts - Congenital Syphilis. Published June 28, 2022. Accessed February 24, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/stdfact-congenital-syphilis.htm>.