

Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board

Assembly Bill 192

**Assembly Bill 192; Revises provisions governing the testing of pregnant women for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)**

Whereas:

Cases of congenital syphilis in Nevada have increased from 8 cases in 2015 to 41 cases in 2019

Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Analytics

**Congenital Syphilis Counts by Vital Status and Year  
Nevada Residents, 2015-2020\***

*\*2020 data are preliminary and subject to changes.*

Year	Vital Status			
	Alive	Stillborn	Unknown	Total
2015	8	0	0	8
2016	11	0	1	12
2017	21	0	0	21
2018	34	0	0	34
2019	39	2	0	41
2020	39	1	1	41

Congenital syphilis is an entirely preventable disease, however the incidence of congenital syphilis in the United States (U.S.) has nearly quadrupled between 2015 and 2019, leading to an increase in severe health consequences and fetal deaths ([www.ncsddc.org/new-cdc-data-show-number-of-babies-born-with-syphilis-nearly-quadrupled-in-the-last-5-years/](http://www.ncsddc.org/new-cdc-data-show-number-of-babies-born-with-syphilis-nearly-quadrupled-in-the-last-5-years/) ).

Whereas:

Gaps in testing and treatment during the mother's pregnancy occurred in more than three-fourths (77%) of the cases in the U.S. in 2019 ([www.ncsddc.org/new-cdc-data-show-number-of-babies-born-with-syphilis-nearly-quadrupled-in-the-last-5-years/](http://www.ncsddc.org/new-cdc-data-show-number-of-babies-born-with-syphilis-nearly-quadrupled-in-the-last-5-years/) )

Whereas:

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of all babies born with congenital syphilis in the U.S. were Black or Hispanic, accentuating significant disparities in testing and treatment ([www.ncsddc.org/new-cdc-data-show-number-of-babies-born-with-syphilis-nearly-quadrupled-in-the-last-5-years/](http://www.ncsddc.org/new-cdc-data-show-number-of-babies-born-with-syphilis-nearly-quadrupled-in-the-last-5-years/) )

Whereas:

Other sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis B and hepatitis C are also known to contribute to a variety of poor pregnancy outcomes and medical complications for infants if left untreated. This underscores the importance of increasing access to maternal prenatal STD testing and treatment, especially for populations experiencing health inequities.

Be it resolved that:

The MCHAB recommends supporting the revisions to Assembly Bill 192 as it relates to provisions governing the testing of pregnant women for certain STDs including syphilis.