

2012 to 2016 saw increase in syphilis among pregnant women

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(HealthDay)—From 2012 to 2016, there was a 61 percent increase in

syphilis cases among pregnant women, with no traditional behavioral risk factors reported among half of these women, according to a study published online Dec. 4 in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Shivika Trivedi, M.D., from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and colleagues analyzed U.S. national case report data from 2012 to 2016 to calculate trends among [pregnant women](#) with syphilis. They also examined the number of pregnant women in this population reporting high-risk behaviors.

The researchers observed a 61 percent increase in the number of syphilis cases among pregnant women during 2012 to 2016, from 1,561 to 2,508; this increase was noted for all races and ethnicities, for all women aged 15 to 45 years, and across all U.S. regions. Forty-nine percent of pregnant women with syphilis did not report any of 15 queried risk factors, including high-risk sexual behaviors and drug use, in the previous year. A history of a sexually transmitted disease and more than one sex partner in the [previous year](#) (43 and 30 percent, respectively) were the most commonly reported risk behaviors.

"We hope that these data and the continued collection of surveillance data, including [risk factors](#), may help guide the evolution of future public health interventions so they are tailored to the socioeconomic factors and behaviors of this population," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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