

CDC'S SURVEILLANCE FOR EMERGING THREATS TO MOTHERS AND BABIES

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)

Why We're Here

Pregnant people and babies are uniquely susceptible to infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and environmental hazards. Rapid data collection among these populations is essential to inform public health action. CDC detects the impact of known and emerging health threats during pregnancy, like COVID-19, congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV), hepatitis C, syphilis, and Zika.



About **5%** of babies born to pregnant people with **Zika** had birth defects related to the infection.



Cases of congenital syphilis have **increased 254%** from 2016 to 2020.



About **6%** of infants born to people with hepatitis C infection during pregnancy also develop hepatitis C.



People with **COVID-19** during pregnancy are at increased risk for stillbirth and for delivering a **preterm infant**.



Approximately **16,000 infants** were born with congenital CMV infection in 2020.

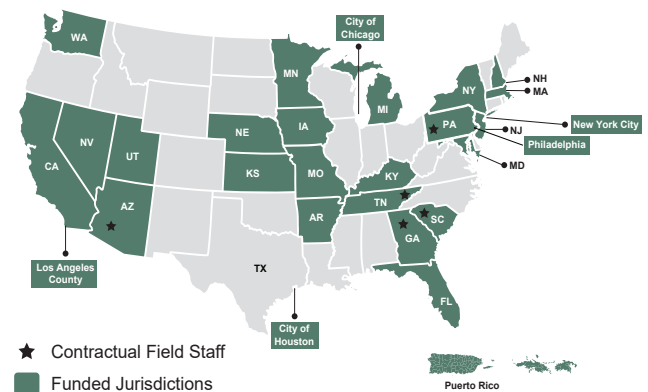
What We Do

CDC provides national and global leadership on surveillance of known and emerging threats to pregnant people and their infants by capturing information during pregnancy and collecting data through early childhood. This approach leverages existing infrastructure to contribute evidence-based, actionable information to improve lives and serve as a preparedness network for new threats that emerge. CDC and health departments

- Inform clinical guidance for pregnant people and infants affected by these emerging infectious diseases;
- help connect families to medical and social services for recommended care; and
- ensure public health is prepared to meet the needs of pregnant people and infants during emergencies.

Tracking: CDC funds 29 state, local, or territorial health departments to detect the impact of health threats on pregnant people and babies through the Surveillance of Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies Network (SET-NET). CDC placed skilled contractual field staff at health departments with high burden to support local and state surveillance activities.

Partnerships: CDC works with public health and clinical partners to enhance the utility of the surveillance network.



CDC Is Making a Difference

Surveillance of Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies

- provided valuable information during the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the risk of infection during pregnancy;
- showed that Zika virus infection during early pregnancy may be more likely to cause birth defects, and that there is a similar frequency of birth defects between mothers with and without Zika symptoms; and
- helped state and local jurisdictions identify communities at increased risk so they can tailor their education and outreach.



For more information visit,
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/set-net/