

Patient Demographic Variables Influencing Trends in Maternal and Neonatal Syphilis and Impact of Point of Care Testing

Morgan McCord, Madeline Sehr, MPH; Karen Hampanda, PhD, MPH

Background & Methods



Colorado congenital syphilis epidemic

4-fold ↑ maternal syphilis,
2016 to 2022

7-fold ↑ congenital syphilis,
2018 to 2023



Retrospective chart review



University of Colorado
Health System



2019-2024

Prelim Results

N = 144



Positive
syphilis test



14-50 y/o

Demographics

White	56.9%
Black or African American	13.2%
More than one race	8.3%

Comorbidities

Anxiety	31.3%
Depression	29.2%
Chronic HTN	15.3%
HIV	13.2%

Pregnancy-Related

Prior poor obstetric outcome	34.0%
Tobacco use	24.3%
Gestational HTN	18.1%
Herpes	44.1%
Cannabis Use	41.2%
Opioid Use	41.2%

Limitations

- Single-center study
- Incomplete charts
- Small sample size
- Generalizability

Future Directions

Expand cohort:
Safety-net hospital



Complete data
analysis

Disclosures

No conflicts
of interest

Conclusion: These findings highlight the need for targeted interventions to improve early screening, strengthen access to comprehensive prenatal care, and address structural barriers to care are critical to reducing maternal and congenital syphilis in Colorado and similar high-risk regions.