

# EMERGING THREATS Newsletter

April 2026



## Emerging Threats to Infants and Children

### STI AWARENESS: CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

Congenital Syphilis has been increasing across the United States. It occurs when a pregnant woman has syphilis, and the infection passes to the baby via the placenta during pregnancy or through exposure to an infected lesion at the time of delivery. The infection can be transmitted more than once during pregnancy if the pregnant woman is re-exposed to an untreated partner. Without proper treatment congenital Syphilis can lead to serious health problems. Early testing and timely treatment are critical.

To address this emerging threat, AAP chapters from Arizona and Arkansas along with their respective CDC Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies Network (SET-NET) sites from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arkansas Department of Health have partnered to increase awareness and education in their states.

Through these collaborative initiatives, teams developed clinician- and family-focused resources, including social media graphics, educational handouts, podcasts, webinars, and webpages for enduring access. Teams reported positive outcomes from these partnerships, including expanded professional networks and a broader reach of congenital syphilis prevention messaging.

[Arkansas Congenital Syphilis Resource Page](#) ; [Arizona AAP: ID Training Center](#)

## FEATURED NEWS

### STI Awareness Week: Campaign Resources

This STI Awareness week, utilize [CDC's communication resources](#) and AAP's [Congenital Syphilis Toolkit](#) to increase awareness and education around sexually transmitted infections. Learn more about screening, testing and treatment recommendations with AAP's interactive [Congenital Syphilis Evaluation and Treatment Guide](#).



### AAP NEWS: Congenital Syphilis

New findings from CDC scientists [available here](#) show one in three infants most likely to have congenital syphilis do not receive a full course of treatment, and only 30% of infants with a reactive blood test at birth received the recommended follow-up testing the first few months after birth. The AAP updated its resources on congenital syphilis and created a new clinician toolkit; [access it here](#).

- For more information regarding Bicillin® L-A shortage visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/director-letters/bicillin-update.html>



### Resources Available to Support Collaboration to Promote Child Development and Language Acquisition

The American Academy of Pediatrics Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Provider Education Center (EHDI PEC) recently published recorded didactic sessions from a 6-part Extension of Community Health Outcomes (ECHO) project hosted in 2025/2026. Sessions are focused on supporting collaboration across providers within the EHDI system to promote optimal child development and language acquisition. Session topics include understanding the role of an audiologist, making effective referrals, caring for D/HH children with co-occurring conditions, and strengthening partnerships with early intervention systems for better outcomes.



### **New Educational Opportunity from MotherToBaby: Cannabis Use in Pregnancy and Breastfeeding: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know**

**Date: 4/20/26 at 12pm EST**

This free, healthcare provider-focused webinar will explore the latest evidence on cannabis exposure during pregnancy and lactation, helping providers counsel patients with clarity and confidence.

We encourage you to register and share with your professional networks:

<https://momtobaby.org/420webinar2026>