



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH**

Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information

Syphilis Report

January 1-March 31, 2025

Syphilis Background



The Cuyahoga County Board of Health monitors newly reported cases of syphilis across six northeast Ohio counties: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina. This surveillance is intended to identify trends and high-risk populations in order to inform targeted interventions.

Comprehensive demographic and risk factor data are collected from patients to better understand the local epidemic and to develop effective strategies for reducing the further spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the region. Health officials actively contact patients to encourage their sexual partners to undergo testing, treatment, and prevention services.

It is crucial to emphasize that the information shared by patients is self-reported, ensuring a level of comfort and honesty in responses, while confidentiality is rigorously upheld to protect individual privacy and foster trust in the public health process.

Through these initiatives, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health enhances community health and safety.

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Stages of Illness

Primary stage

During this stage, a single sore or multiple sores may be visible. The sore is located at the spot where syphilis entered your body.

Secondary stage

Skin rashes and/or sores may appear in the mouth, vagina, or anus. The rash can be visible when a primary sore is healing or several weeks after a sore has healed.

Early latent

Duration of infection is less than or equal to one year.

Latent stage

At this stage, there are no visible signs or symptoms. Without treatment, syphilis can remain inside the body for years.

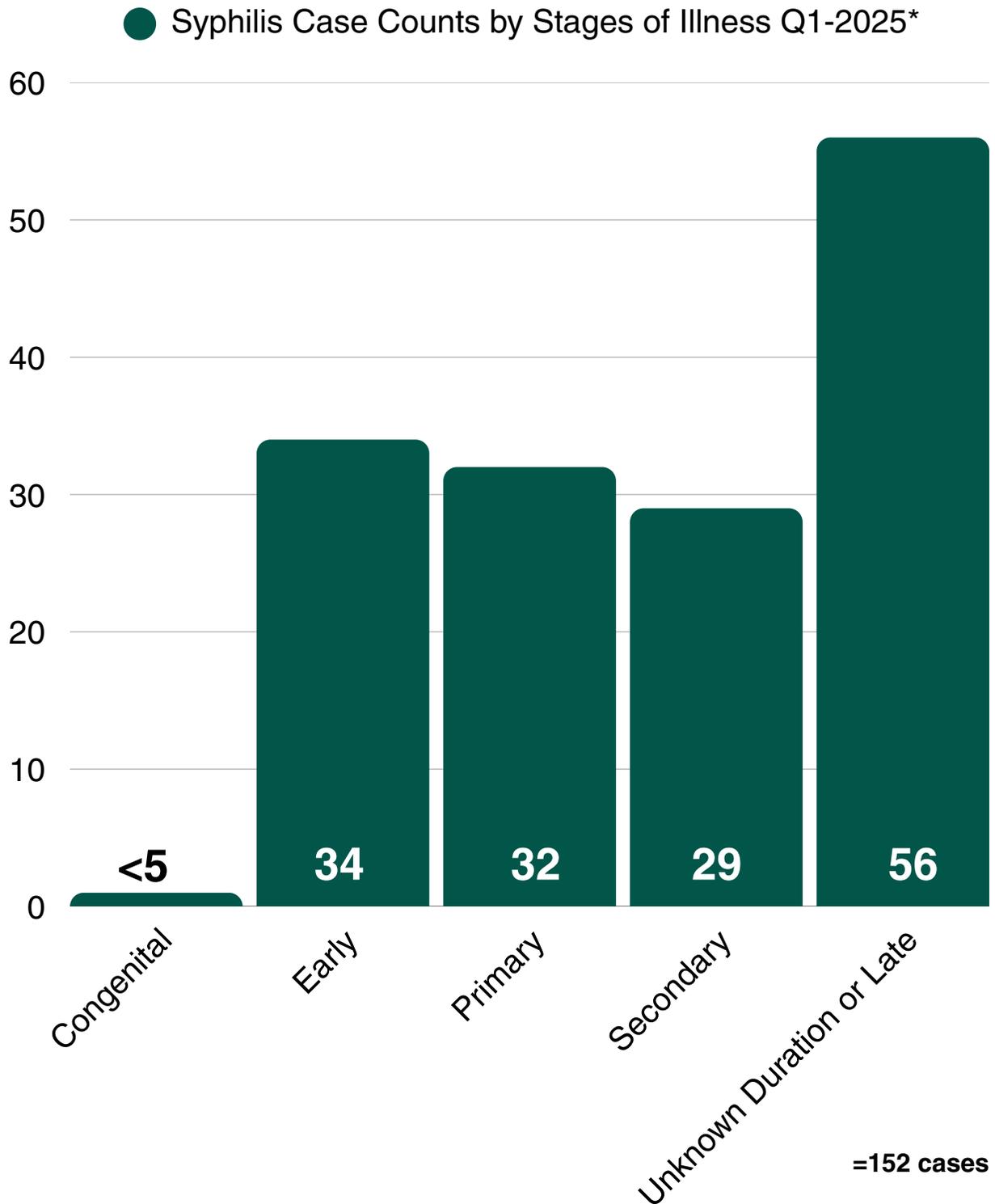
Congenital syphilis

Pregnant people can transmit syphilis to their unborn babies, who become infected through the placenta, which is the organ that provides nutrients and oxygen in the womb. Infection also can happen during birth.

Late (tertiary) syphilis

For many people, symptoms don't progress past the latent stage. The infection may cure itself or symptoms are too mild to notice.

2025 Total Syphilis case counts by stages

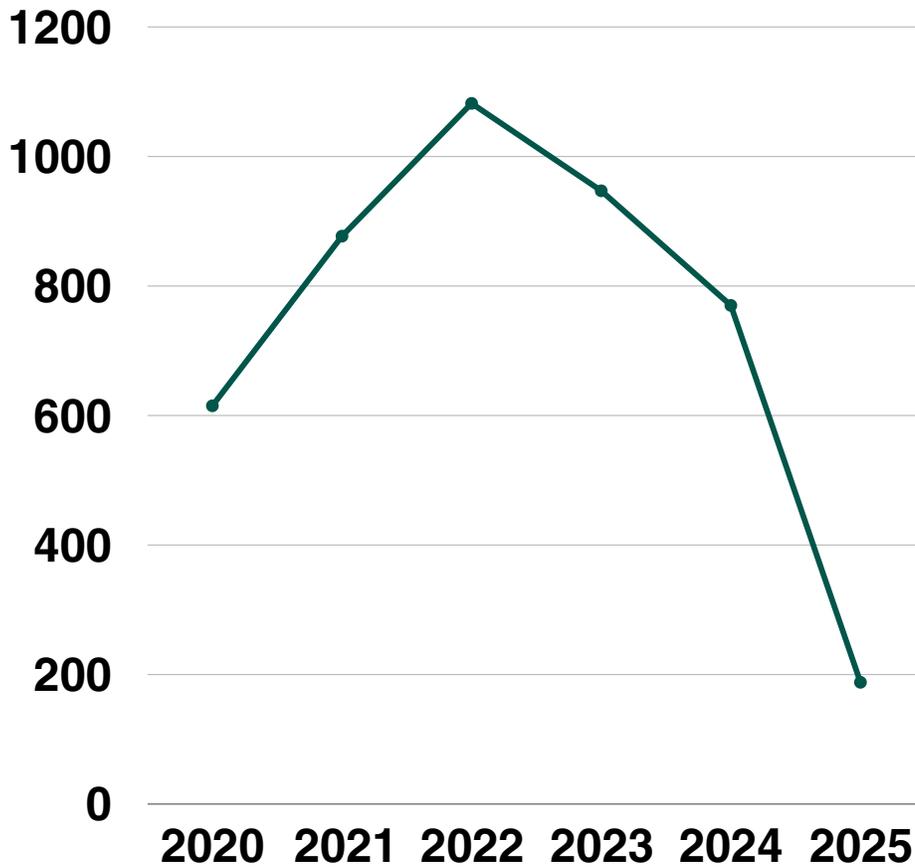


*Numbers are preliminary and subject to change

Syphilis Overview: Region 3 Total					
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Q1 2025*
615	877	1082	947	770	188

This table and bar graph both depict all newly-diagnosed cases of syphilis for Region 3 from 2020 through quarter 1 of 2025.

Five-Year Syphilis Incidence: Region 3

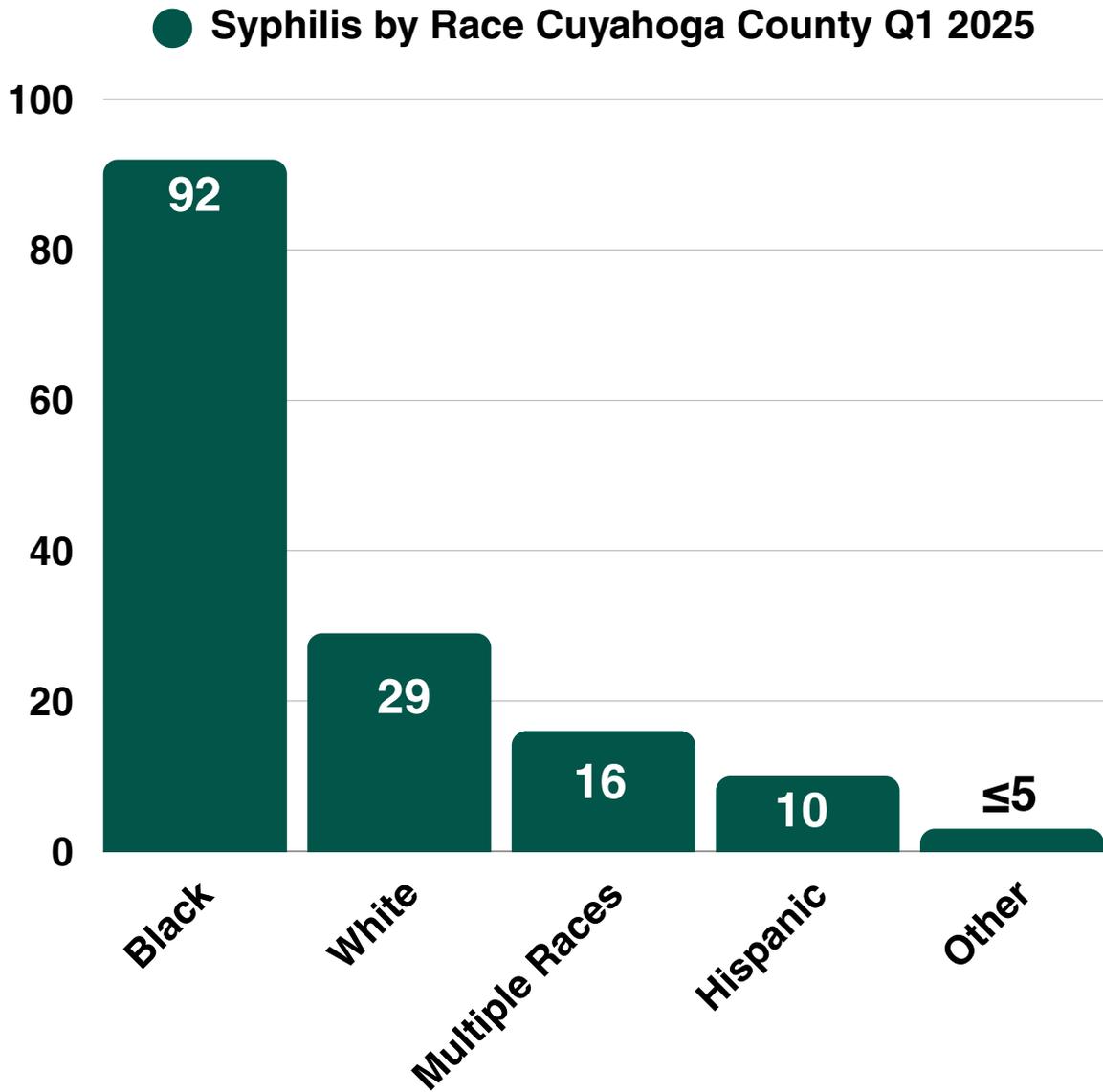


*This line graph displays Region 3 syphilis cases from 2020 - quarter 1 of 2025, and data is preliminary and subject to change.

Cuyahoga County Syphilis by Month		
Month	2024	2025
January	51	62
February	45	52
March	65	38
April	59	
May	43	
June	43	
July	61	
August	53	
September	58	
October	53	
November	43	
December	24	
Total	598	152

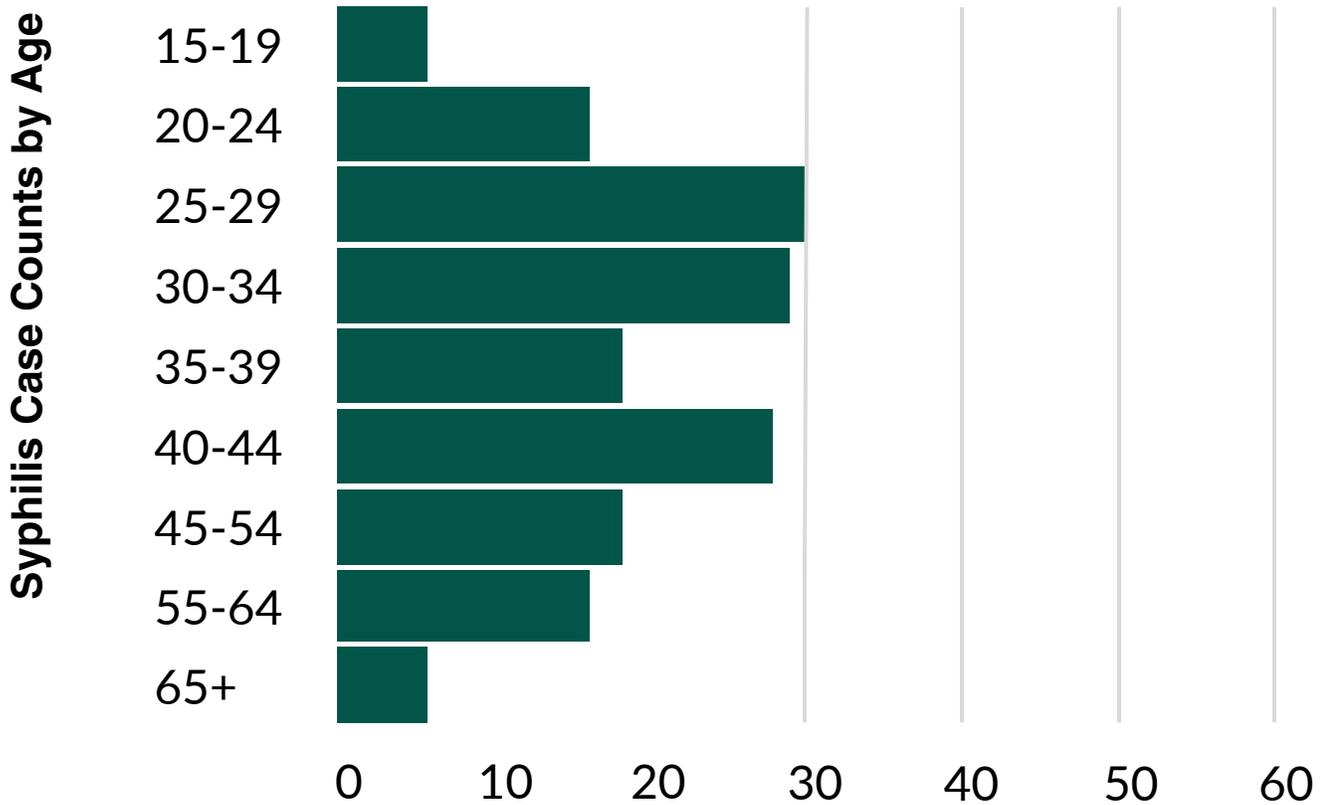
The highest number of new cases (**62**) occurred in January 2025*.

Cuyahoga County Demographic Background



=152 cases

Cuyahoga County Demographic Background



Sex at birth:
27% female
73% male

53% of new cases had a previous history of an STI

27% of new cases were HIV-positive

25-29 most affected age group

Cuyahoga County Data Trends

For the first quarter in 2025, a total of 132 (87%) individuals were treated for syphilis in Cuyahoga County out of 152 that were diagnosed. The distribution of cases across different racial and ethnic groups revealed significant disparities.

The largest group of individuals treated were:

Black/African American, accounting for 82 cases, or approximately 54% of the total.

White individuals made up the second-largest group, with 23 cases, representing about 15% of the total.

Multi-racial individuals accounted for 14 cases, or roughly 9%.

20 individuals in Cuyahoga County were diagnosed with syphilis but did not receive treatment. Of these individuals, 9 were Black, accounting for 6% of the untreated cases. White individuals made up 6 of the untreated cases, or approximately 4%.

Syphilis and HIV Co-infection Cuyahoga Data

In 2024, Cuyahoga County reported 151 new cases of HIV. Notably, 21% of these individuals were diagnosed with both HIV and syphilis, a concerning trend that reflects the dual diagnosis of these infections over the past five years at high rates. Among the individuals newly diagnosed with HIV, the majority—59%—were African American/Black, while 24% were White. This data highlights the ongoing need for targeted public health interventions and comprehensive care strategies to address the intersection of HIV and syphilis, especially within these communities most affected.

Prevention & Reduction Strategies

Open Communication



Discuss sexual history, boundaries, and preferences with partners.

Use Protection



Always use condoms or dental dams during oral, vaginal, and anal sex to reduce the risk of STIs and HIV.

Regular Testing



Get tested for STIs regularly and encourage your partner to do the same.

PrEP



For those at higher risk for HIV, talk to a healthcare provider about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as an additional preventive measure.

Notes & Limitations

- Data is retrieved from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) and is self-reported by the patient at the time of diagnosis.
- Sex: refers to the sex of a client that is reported in ODRS. In some instances, Sex could indicate sex assignment at birth or current gender identity.
- Race: Other Race includes those who classified race as “Other.”
- Ethnicity: The United States Office of Management and Budget specifies that race and Hispanic origin (also known as Ethnicity) are two separate and distinct concepts. Clients who report themselves as being Hispanic/Latinx can be of any or multiple races.



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