



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH**

Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information

Syphilis Report

April 1 - June 30, 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.

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Stages of Illness | 4 |
| Cuyahoga County Syphilis Case Counts by Stage Q2 2025 | 5 |
| Region 3 Syphilis Overview | 6 |
| Cuyahoga County Syphilis Breakdown by Month | 7 |
| Cuyahoga County Demographic Breakdown by Race | 8 |
| Cuyahoga County Demographic Breakdown by Age | 9 |
| Treatment Data | 10 |
| Prevention & Reduction Strategies | 11 |
| Notes & Limitations | 12 |

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.

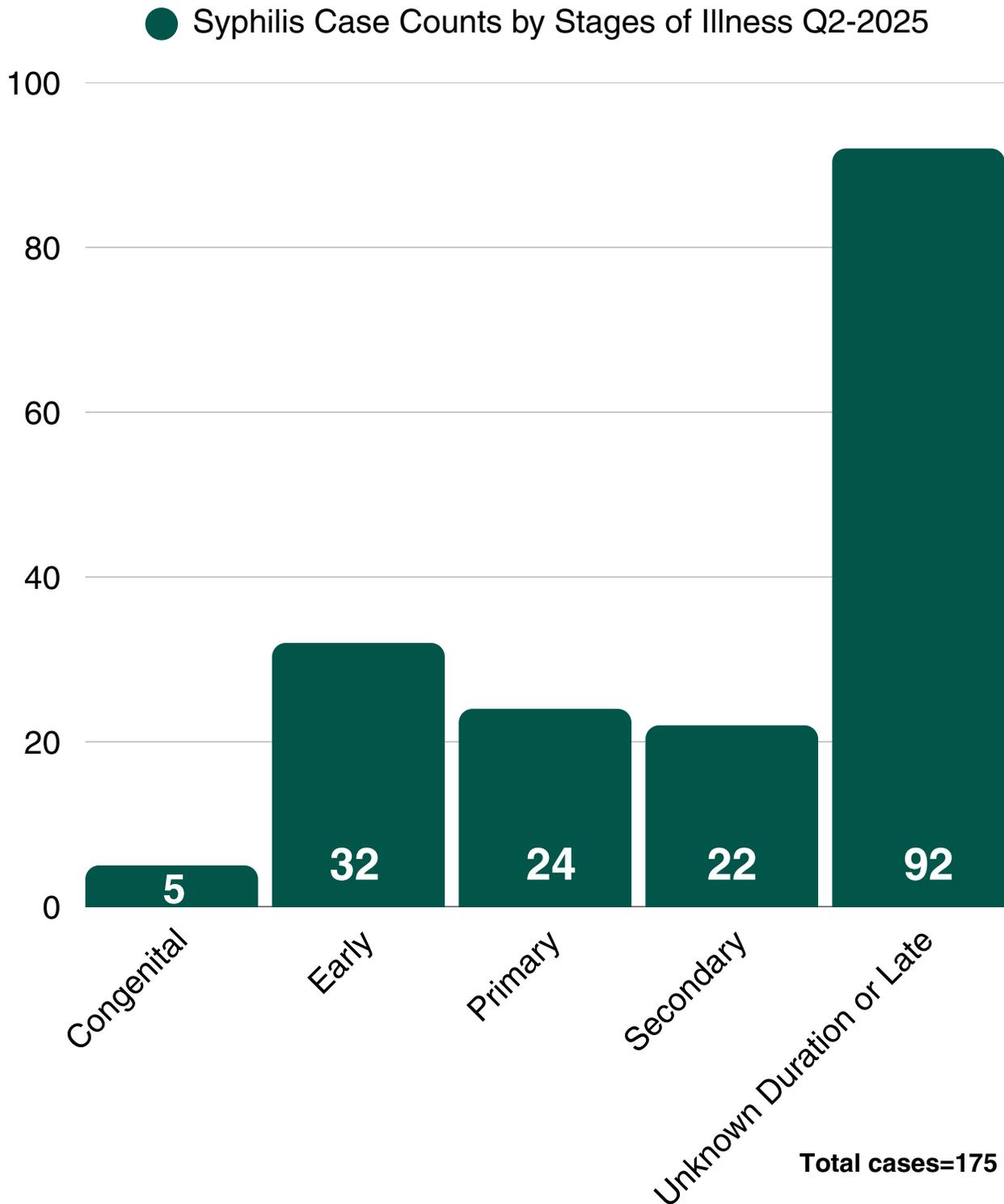
Congenital syphilis

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

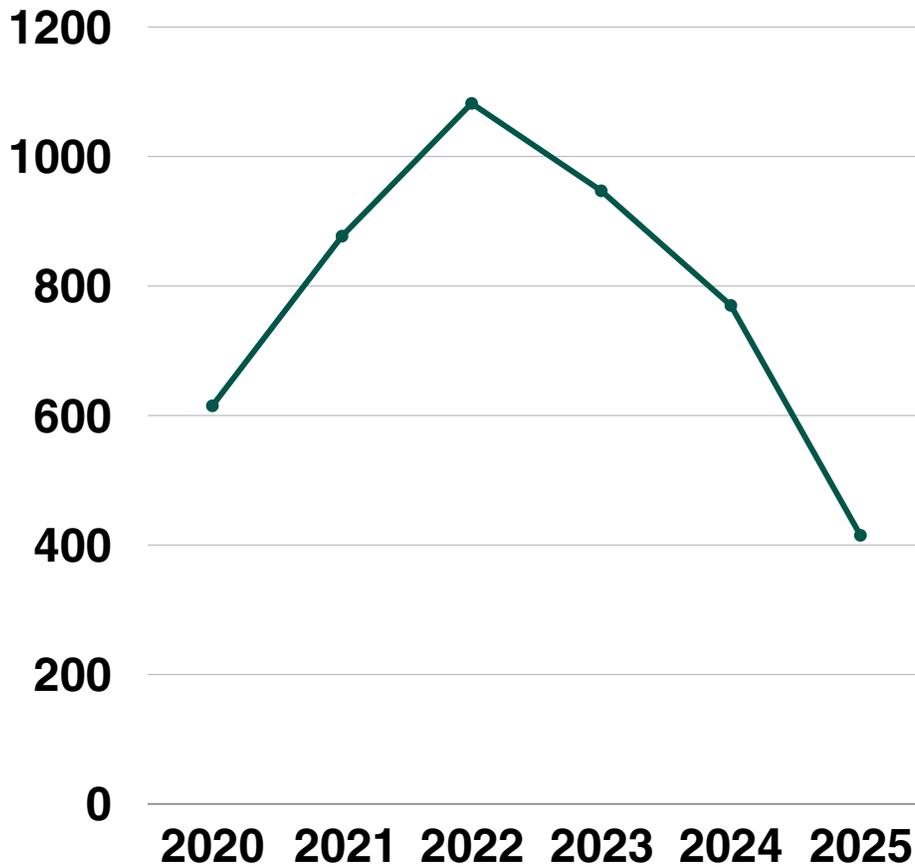


*Numbers are preliminary and subject to change

| Syphilis Overview: Region 3 Total | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Q2 2025* |
| 615 | 877 | 1082 | 947 | 770 | 415 |

This table and bar graph both depict all newly-diagnosed cases of syphilis for Region 3 from 2020 through quarters 1 and 2 of 2025.

Five-Year Syphilis Incidence: Region 3

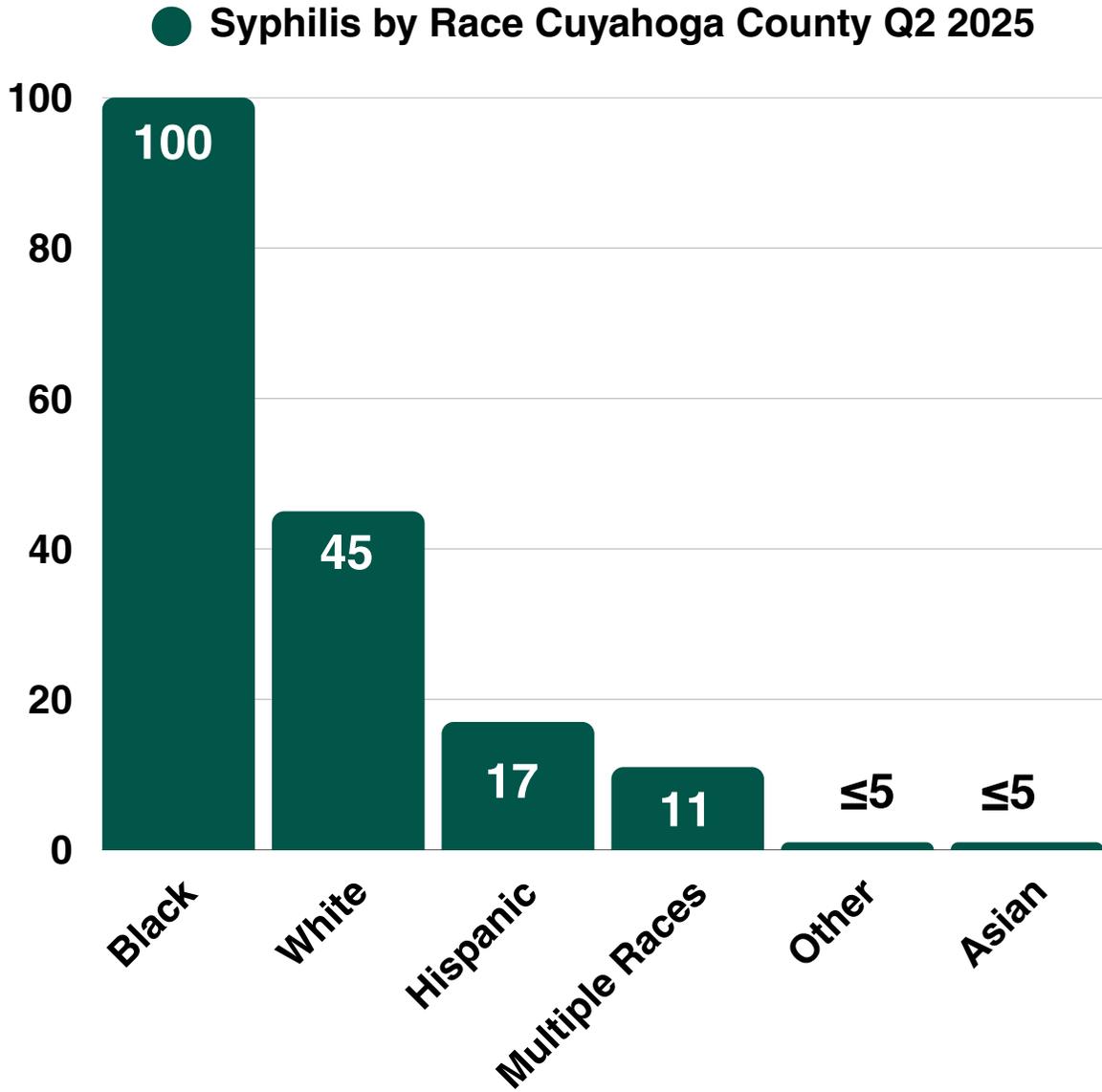


This line graph displays Region 3 syphilis cases from 2020 - quarters 1 and 2 of 2025. The data is preliminary and subject to change.*

| Cuyahoga County Syphilis by Month | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Month | 2024 | 2025 |
| January | 51 | 62 |
| February | 45 | 52 |
| March | 65 | 38 |
| April | 59 | 63 |
| May | 43 | 56 |
| June | 43 | 56 |
| July | 61 | |
| August | 53 | |
| September | 58 | |
| October | 53 | |
| November | 43 | |
| December | 24 | |
| Total | 598 | 175 |

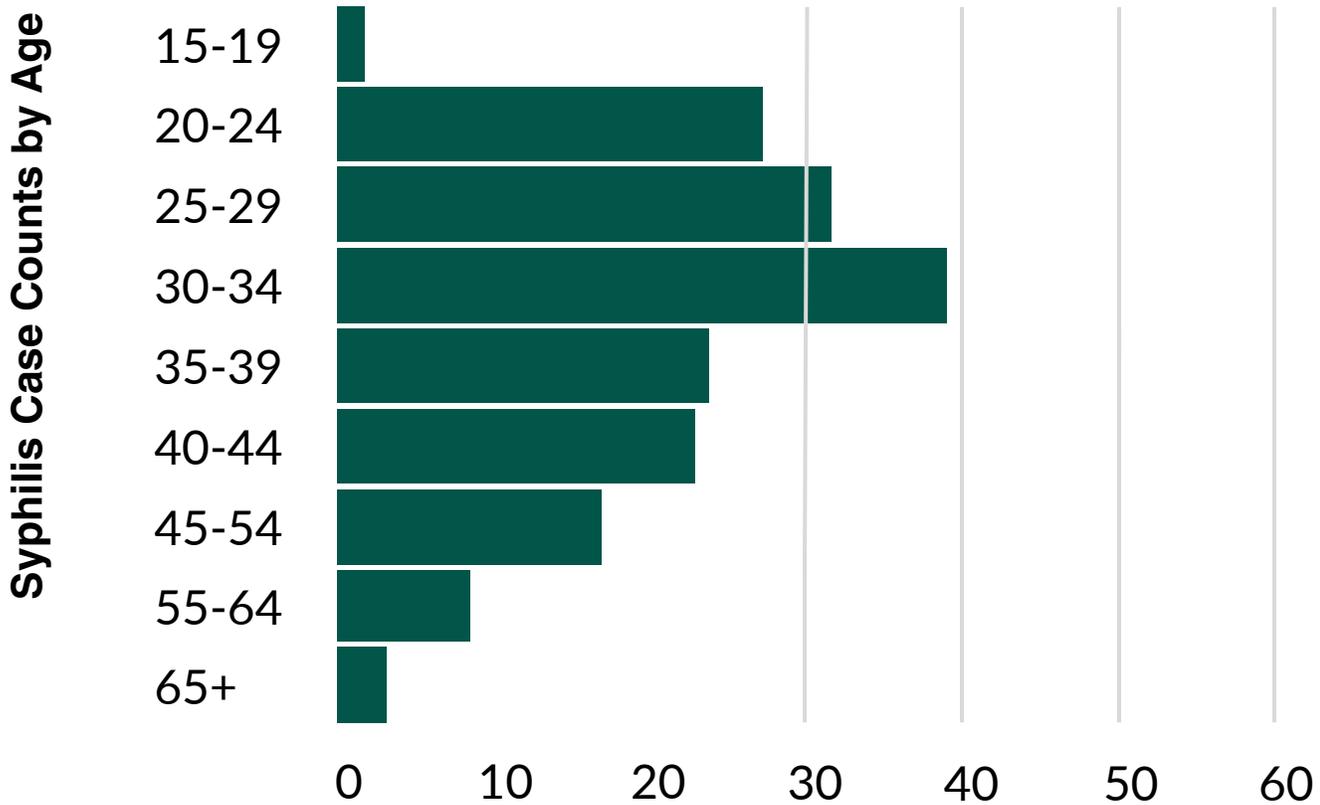
The highest number of new cases (**63**) occurred in April 2025.*

Cuyahoga County Demographic Background



Total Cases=175

Cuyahoga County Demographic Background



Sex at birth:
35.4% female
64.6% male

55% of new cases had a previous history of an STI

22% of new cases were HIV-positive

30-34 most affected age group

Cuyahoga County Data Trends

For the second quarter in 2025, a total of 123 (70%) individuals were treated for syphilis in Cuyahoga County out of 175 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 78 cases, or approximately 45% of the total.

White individuals comprised the second-largest group, with 33 cases, representing about 19% of the total.

Multi-racial individuals accounted for 7 cases, or roughly 4%.

34 individuals in Cuyahoga County were diagnosed with syphilis but did not receive treatment. Of these individuals, 13 were Black, accounting for 38% of the untreated cases. White individuals made up 10 of the untreated cases, or approximately 29%. Hispanic and Multi-racial individuals accounted for a combined 29% of untreated cases.

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. 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



Clarence Williams, MPH
cwilliams@ccbh.net

www.ccbh.net
216.201.2000