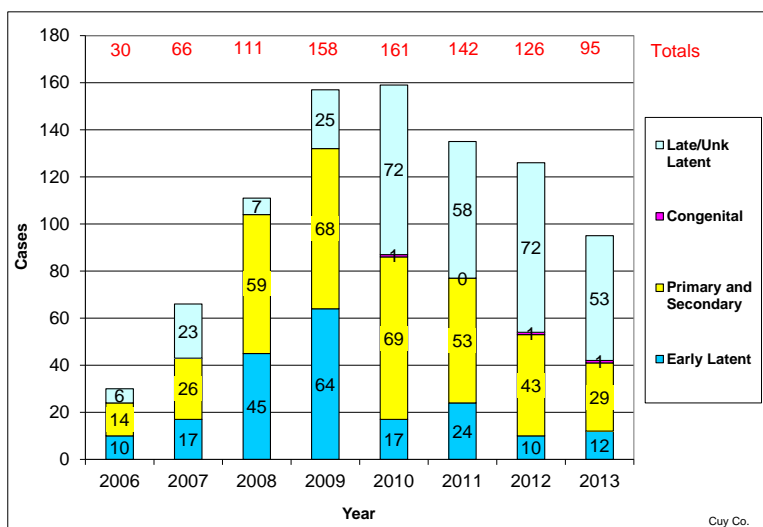


Syphilis in 2013 – Improving (decreasing) trends for Cuyahoga County and Cleveland

The three Ohio Counties with the most cases of total syphilis are:

- Hamilton (n=356, down from 438)
- Franklin (n=303, up from 284)
- Cuyahoga County (n=95, down from 126)

Total syphilis for **Cuyahoga County** by year. Stage of infection is noted in the segments.



Total syphilis for 2013 continues to decrease with **95 cases for Cuyahoga County** (shown in figure) and **57 cases for Cleveland** (not shown). From 2012 to 2013, total syphilis **rates dropped** 24.2% for Cuyahoga County and 19.6% for Cleveland. Overall, 60% of all syphilis cases in 2013 were to Cleveland residents, consistent with previous years.

Primary & Secondary Syphilis: Case counts for primary and secondary syphilis, the most infectious stages, continue to decrease, dropped from 43 (2012) to 29 (2013) in the County and from 26 to 19 in Cleveland. Note that nearly all of the Primary/Secondary Syphilis cases (26 of 29) are from Cleveland.

Congenital: Regrettably, a congenital case was reported in both 2012 and 2013. These are preventable.

Co-infection with HIV continues to be an issue. At least one third of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County cases of total syphilis were reported at diagnosis to be HIV positive. A further audit against the CDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Registry may reveal additional cases.

Of the 29 primary/secondary syphilis cases in Cuyahoga County, 27 of 29 (93%) were male. Among these males, 41% (n=11/27) were co-infected with HIV, similar to 2009-2012. Of the 26 primary/secondary syphilis cases in Cleveland, 17 of 19 (89%) were male. And among these males, 41% (n=7/17) were co-infected with HIV, similar to 2009-2012.

Action Plan: *We will continue to encourage the sharing of these findings with health systems, local clinical practices, and community prevention partners to promote risk reduction strategies for those at highest risk (i.e. males with HIV & multiple prenatal testing to all mothers).*