

Indiana P&S Syphilis Cases, 2007-2009

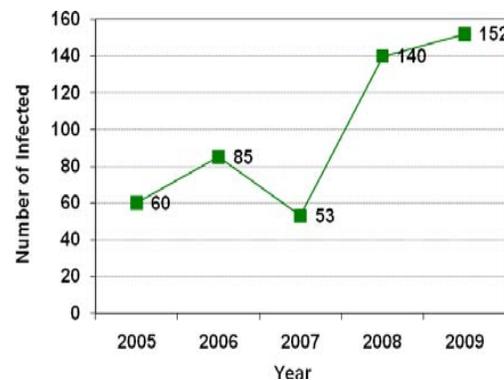
Background: In the United States, health officials reported over 36,000 cases of syphilis in 2006, including 9,756 cases of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis. In 2006, half of all P&S syphilis cases were reported from 20 counties and 2 cities; and most P&S syphilis cases occurred in persons 20 to 39 years of age. The incidence of P&S syphilis was highest in men 35 to 39 years of age.

Between 2005 and 2006, the number of reported P&S syphilis cases increased 11.8 percent. P&S rates have increased in males each year between 2000 and 2006 from 2.6 to 5.7. In 2006, 64% of the reported P&S syphilis cases were among men who have sex with men (MSM).¹⁻³

Methods: The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Division of HIV/STD produces a Semi-Annual HIV/STD report and Epidemiologic Profile annually. The two reports include data on HIV/AIDS, STDs, Hepatitis, TB, etc. They can be found at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/23266.htm>. Findings from these reports in combination with a 2008 data match between HIV and STD were used to better understand P&S syphilis in Indiana. Persons living with HIV or AIDS as of the end of 2008 were compared with new 2008 syphilis reports.

Recent Trends: Indiana has seen similar trends among reported P&S syphilis from 2007 to 2009. In 2007, there were approximately 53 reported cases of P&S syphilis. Since 2007, the number of reported cases has increased to 140 cases in 2008 and 152 cases in 2009. *See Figure 1.* Most P&S syphilis cases occurred in the 20-39 age range.

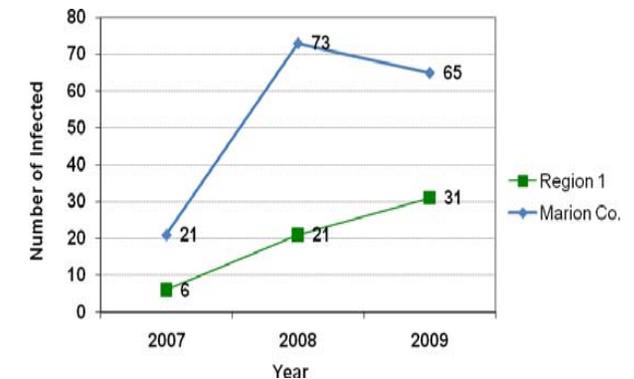
Figure 1: Indiana Syphilis Cases by Year of Report



Among these cases the majority of P&S syphilis reports were received from the northern and central part of Indiana. Marion County alone made up 40% (21) of the cases in 2007, 52% (73) in 2008, and 43% (65) in 2009. The second highest was in Region 1: Jasper, LaPorte, Lake, Newton, Porter, and Pulaski and comprised 11% (6) of the cases in 2007, 15% (21) in 2008, and 20% (31) in

2009. In comparison, Marion County and Region 1 both show a similar percentage increase (71%) from 2007 to 2008. *See Figure 2.*

Figure 2: Indiana Syphilis Cases by Year and Location of Report



Reports by Race were reviewed for 2008 and 2009 based on locality. For 2008, 57% of cases in Region 1 were among Blacks compared to 36% in Marion County. Whites showed a similar pattern with 64% of the cases in Marion County and 33% of the cases in Region 1. In 2009, cases were highest among Blacks in both Region 1 (61%) and Marion County (46%) when compared to Whites (35%, 37%). This shows a different picture when compared to P&S syphilis reports in 2008. *See Figure 3 & 4.*

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Figure 3: 2008 Indiana Syphilis Cases by Race and Location of Report

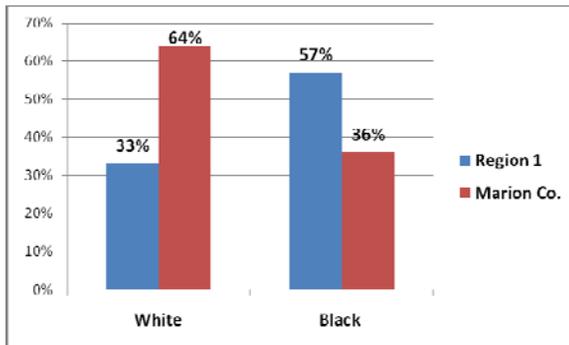
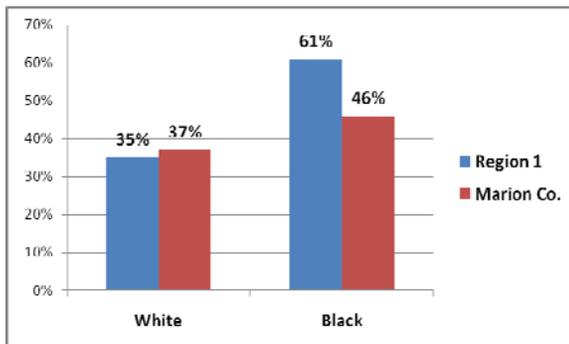


Figure 4: 2009 Indiana Syphilis Cases by Race and Location of Report

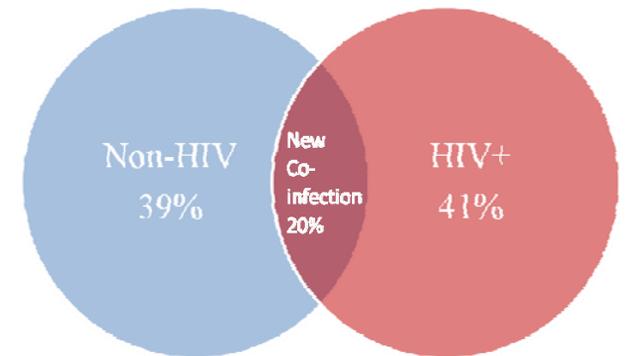


HIV & P&S syphilis: P&S syphilis among persons with HIV also was of interest in Indiana, especially among MSM. Of the 140 cases in 2008 a total of 85 (61%) reports were among males with HIV. A total of 78 (92%) cases, self-identified as MSM. This is very similar to that given by the CDC. The majority of cases were found among men in the 30-49 age range.

Approximately, 20% (17) of the HIV+ males with P&S syphilis were newly diagnosed with HIV in the same year. *See Figure 5.* An estimated 65% of those newly diagnosed with HIV were residing in Marion County. Only 5% were from Region 1. HIV newly diagnosed cases resulted in a similar percentage (47% vs. 47%) of those found in the 20 to 29 and 30 to 49 age groups.

Overall, Black males represented 28% of the HIV+ male P&S syphilis cases. Whites represented approximately 65% of the cases. Of the 28% of Black males, 100% of those with HIV identified as MSM. Approximately, 89% of White males with HIV and P&S syphilis identified as MSM. The remaining risk categories identified were IDU and no identified risk (NIR). The majority of persons identified as MSM with P&S syphilis were from Marion County (72%) with only 4% found in Region 1.

Figure 5: 2008 Indiana Syphilis Cases among Males by HIV Status



References:

1. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually transmitted diseases treatment guidelines 2006.](#) MMWR 2006;55(no. RR-11).
2. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2006.](#) Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, November 2007.
3. K. Holmes, P. Mardh, P. Sparling et al (eds). Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 3rd Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1999, chapters 33-37.