

Summary of Provincial and Saskatoon Health Region HIV Strategies

In 2010/11, Saskatchewan's HIV Strategy was launched in response to substantial increases in new cases of HIV in the province. The strategy forms the framework for current and planned efforts to address HIV/AIDS issues in Saskatchewan, building on the current knowledge and providing an outline to steps to address issues fueling the epidemic. A provincial leadership team was convened to provide guidance to the Regional Health Authorities in implementing the strategy.

In 2010, Saskatoon Health Region launched a Regional HIV Strategy to help operationalize specific goals for HIV prevention, treatment and support.

[Saskatchewan's HIV Strategy](#)

and

[Saskatoon Health Region HIV Prevention Treatment and Support Strategy](#)

The initiatives of the HIV strategies included:

- expansion of HIV testing to high risk populations;
- increased HIV prevention and expansion of harm reduction services;
- coordination of Public Health and HIV care providers for special supports to increase linkage of patients to HIV care and treatment;
- coordination and integration of care with tuberculosis and hepatitis C care;
- intensive case management;
- prenatal care of HIV positive mothers and testing and treatment in labor and delivery;
- programs to de-stigmatize HIV and increase community awareness of HIV;
- education and capacity building among health care professionals;
- multidisciplinary care teams and other supports to improve retention of HIV patients in care;
- increasing addictions treatment and methadone-assisted therapy; and,
- increased surveillance and the use of lean tools and processes for target setting and quality improvement.

Achievements of the HIV strategies include:

- successful multidisciplinary, interagency case management processes;
- HIV testing increased more than 50% above the 2009 baseline;
- the development and implementation of provincial labour and delivery guidelines for HIV+ mothers;
- a formula program for HIV+ mothers since breastfeeding is a risk for transmission;
- free condom distribution expanding to new locations serving at-risk populations;
- improved needle exchange rates;
- an emphasis on peer programming;
- community-based organizations addressing the HIV epidemic in various ways including outreach, housing coordination,, public education and testing; and,
- educational opportunities for health care providers and the general public.

A full report on the achievements of the Saskatoon Health Region's HIV Prevention, Treatment and Support Strategy is outlined in the [HIV Strategy Report 2012-13](#) and [HIV Strategy Report 2013-14](#).