

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and HIV - Mortality

Why Is This Important?

Without treatment, HIV infection will progress to AIDS, a condition defined by certain illnesses.¹ AIDS has declined steadily in Canada since 1993, largely as a result of the introduction to highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) in 1996.

Mortality in HIV positive individuals is not necessarily directly attributed to HIV infection or AIDS. The complications leading to death may be complex, and are incompletely reported ([About the Data](#)).

Many factors influence AIDS and HIV mortality rates including late diagnosis, late treatment, non-adherence to antiretroviral treatment, age, comorbidities, and ongoing risk behaviors. Age group and ethnicity may be markers of economic status, risk behaviors, awareness of treatment options, access to culturally sensitive health care, and cultural beliefs about illness.^{9,13}

In 2012, 19.2% of all AIDS cases in Canada were reported in Saskatchewan.^{5,6} AIDS is preventable and should not occur in people engaged in care.

References: [About the Data](#)

What Is Being Done?

[Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative](#)
[Positive Living Program](#)
[Westside Clinic](#)
[The Front Line](#)

To Learn More:

Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

Highlights

Since 2006 one in every six HIV positive individuals in Saskatoon Health Region has died.

- Of the 600 individuals reported HIV positive between 2006 and 2015, 16% (95) are deceased ([About the Data](#)). Forty percent of these deaths (38) were among individuals with AIDS reported (*not shown*).
- Among these 38 patients with AIDS who died, the median time from HIV diagnosis to AIDS was nine months (*not shown*).
- Since 2006, a total of 106 individuals were diagnosed with AIDS in the Region. Fourteen individuals were reported in 2015 (*Figure 1*).
- The Region's AIDS rate has decreased in the last five years but is still higher than the provincial rate (*Figure 1*).
- Of the 106 AIDS cases reported since 2006, 24% (25) were diagnosed with HIV within one year of AIDS, indicating HIV was diagnosed at an advanced stage of disease. See [HIV Treatment](#).
- In 2015, 50% of AIDS patients (7) had HIV reported within a year of their AIDS diagnosis. Of the 51 patients with HIV diagnosed in 2015, 14% (7) progressed to AIDS within a year.
- Age group and ethnicity among those who died reflects the epidemiology of HIV in our Region. Over half of the deaths were in individuals 30 to 44 years (*Figure 2*). Sixty-four percent were among First Nations individuals, 11% Metis and 22% white (*Figure 3*). See [AIDS – Ethnicity and Gender](#).

Figure 1: AIDS Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population, Saskatoon Health Region and Saskatchewan, 2011 to 2015

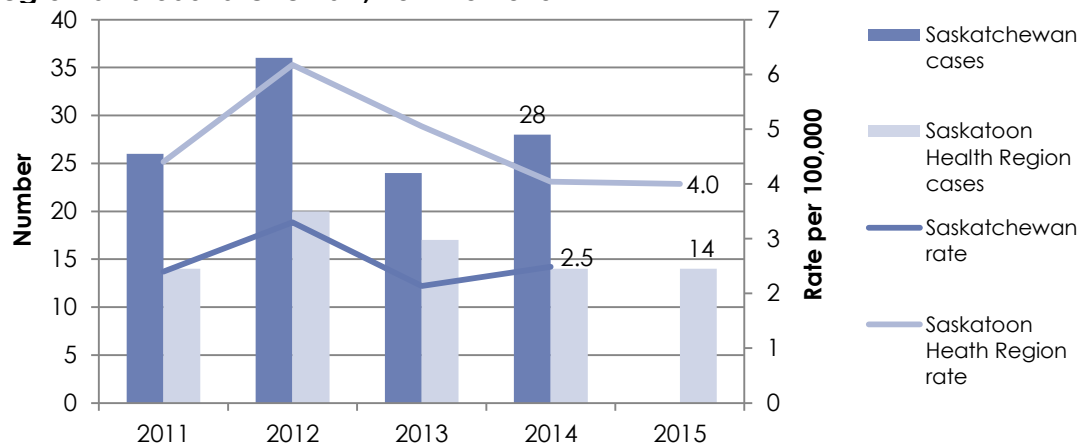


Figure 2: Percent HIV Mortality by Age Group, Saskatoon Health Region, 2006 to 2015

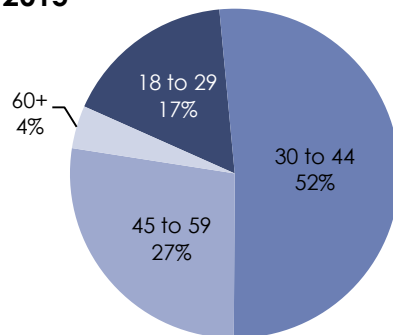
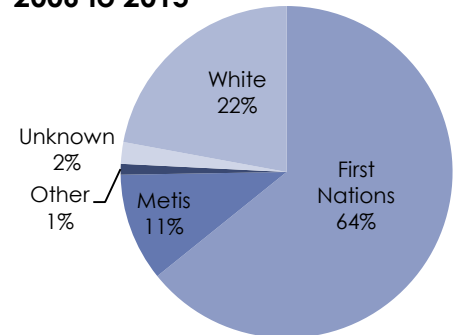


Figure 3: Percent HIV Mortality by Ethnicity, Saskatoon Health Region, 2006 to 2015



Source: iPHIS