

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) - Pediatric HIV

Why Is This Important?

Pediatrics encompasses children under 17 years of age. Children represent one of our most vulnerable age groups. Children infected with HIV will require life-long treatment and monitoring. Children of all age groups face stigmatization.

Adolescents who contract HIV may experience special challenges. Adolescents continue to be vulnerable socially and economically. A growing body of research reveals a link between violence and young people's risk for HIV.² Sex and age influences risk behavior. In 2009, the [Saskatoon Enhanced Street Youth Study](#) found that 5% (one in 20) of street-involved youth were HIV positive. Discomfort and stigma were the second most frequently reported barriers to youth accessing health services, after location of service.³

References: [About the Data](#)

What Is Being Done?

[Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative](#)

[Positive Living Program](#)

[Westside Clinic](#)

[Front Line - Pediatric Care](#)

To Learn More:

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

[Maggie's Story](#): A personal story of HIV and sex trade by a person living with HIV in our Region.

[Front Line - Stigma with Child HIV](#)

Highlights

Since 2006, over half of HIV positive children were diagnosed between ages 16 and 17 years.

- Sixteen HIV positive children (under 18 years of age) were reported from 2006 to 2015. Sixty-three percent were female (*not shown*).
- Fifty-six percent of children were 16 to 17 years-olds, 6% were 1 to 12 year olds, 25% were 13 to 15 years old, and 13% were infants under 1 year (*Figure 1*).
- Fifty percent of 13 to 15 year-olds reported heterosexual sex as the primary transmission risk, and 50% reported injection drug use (IDU) (*Figure 2*).
- Over half of 16 to 17 year-olds reported IDU, 22% heterosexual sex and 22% male sex with men (*Figure 2*) as primary risks. See also [Primary Risk by Age](#).
- Children diagnosed between one and 12 years of age were from HIV endemic countries (*Figure 2*). See [About the Data](#).
- All children diagnosed under one year of age were infected through mother to child (perinatal) transmission (*Figure 2*). See also [HIV - Prenatal Testing and Babies Born to HIV Positive Mothers](#).

Figure 1: Pediatric HIV by Age Group at Diagnosis, Saskatoon Health Region, 2006 to 2015

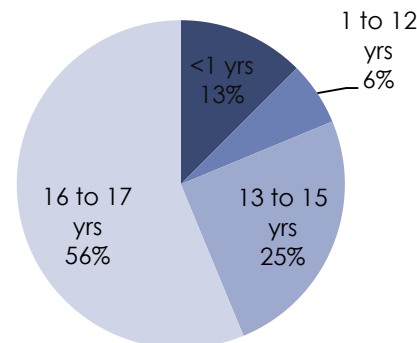
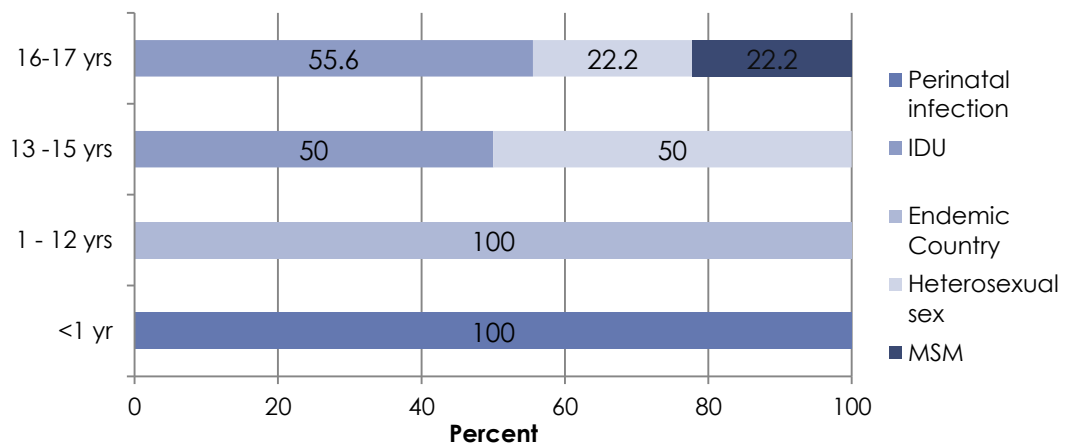


Figure 2: Pediatric HIV by Primary Transmission, Saskatoon Health Region, 2006 to 2015



Source: iPHIS