

# Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

## Prenatal Testing and Babies Born to HIV Positive Mothers

### Why Is This Important?

Prenatal testing is key to identifying mothers at risk of transmitting HIV to their infants. Prenatal testing ensures mothers know their HIV status, are aware of the appropriate treatment to remain healthy, and have access to anti-retroviral treatment as part of their birth plans.

As rates of HIV have increased in Saskatchewan, the number of HIV positive women in child-bearing years has also increased. Perinatal, or mother-to-infant, transmission of HIV is preventable if mothers receive adequate prenatal care and HIV antiretroviral treatment during labour and delivery.

### What Is Being Done?

[Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative](#)

[Positive Living Program](#)

[Westside Clinic](#)

[Front Line](#)

[Pediatric Care](#)

[Formula Program](#)

[Prenatal Support](#)

[Monitoring Baby](#)

[Child Apprehensions](#)

### To Learn More:

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

[Luvlynn's Story](#): A personal story of living with HIV in our Region.

[It's Different Now](#):

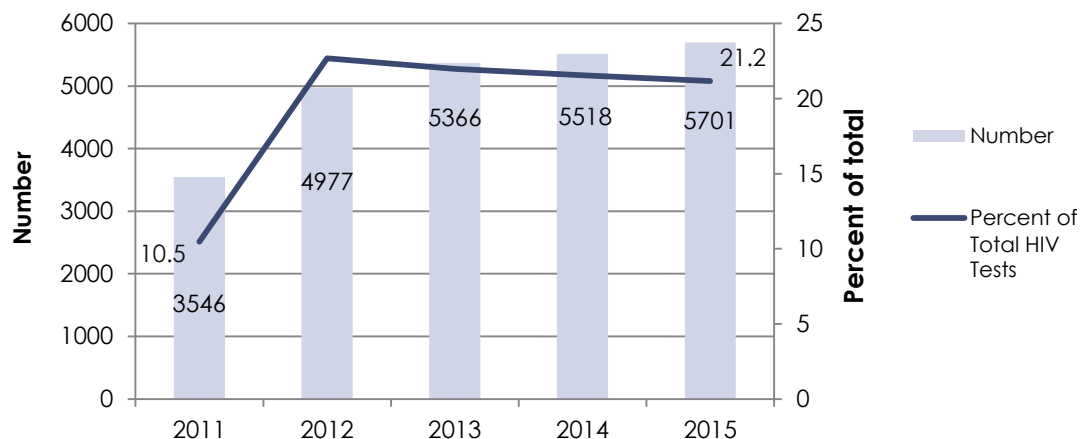
Government of Saskatchewan video

### Highlights

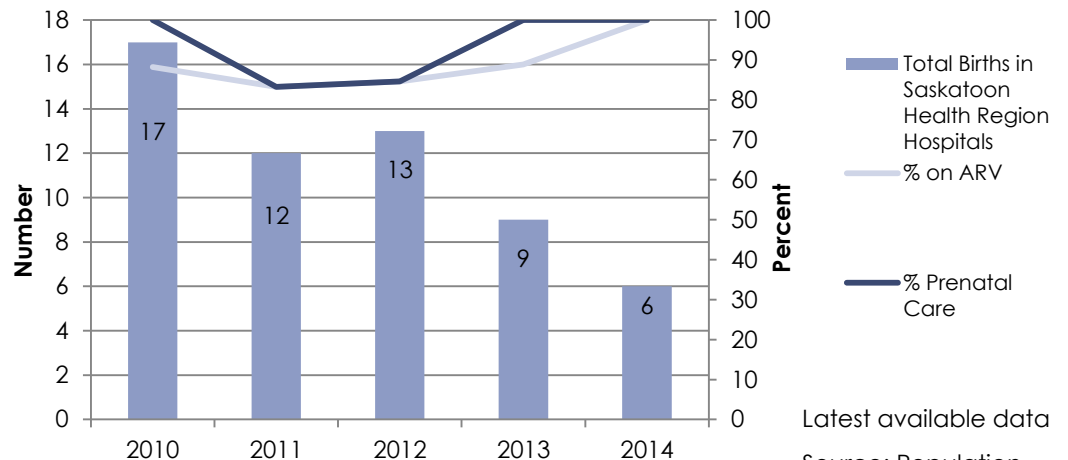
#### Increased prenatal care and treatment has prevented perinatal HIV transmission since 2011.

- More women are being screened for HIV during pregnancy. Prenatal testing increased by 60% between 2011 and 2015 (Figure 1) to 5,701 tests.
- Prenatal testing increased from 10.5% of the total HIV tests in 2011 to 21.2% in 2015 (Figure 1). For overall HIV by testing sector see [HIV testing](#).
- Since 2004, three cases of perinatal HIV transmission have been reported. No cases have been reported since 2011 (See [About the Data](#) for reporting parameters).
- Sixty-five babies were born to HIV positive mothers between 2009 and 2014 (confirmation of status requires 18 months follow-up). This represents under half of all the babies born to HIV mothers in Saskatchewan (not shown).
- Of the 6 babies born to HIV positive mothers in 2014, 100% received prenatal care and 100% received antiretroviral treatment (ARV) (Figure 2); all were confirmed HIV negative at 18 months of age.

**Figure 1: Prenatal Tests and Percentage of Total HIV Testing, Saskatoon Health Region, 2011 to 2015**



**Figure 2: Babies Born to HIV Positive Mothers, Saskatoon Health Region, 2009 to 2014**



Latest available data  
Source: Population and Public Health