

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) – Testing

Why Is This Important?

The HIV test is a simple blood test. When people know their HIV status, they can get the treatment they need to stay healthy and avoid passing HIV on to others. The only way to know your HIV status is to [get tested](#).

In Saskatoon Health Region, HIV testing is ordered by health care providers in primary care clinics, prenatal care clinics, physician offices, community health centres, sexual health clinics, and hospitals.

Expanding testing and screening practices and introducing new rapid tests (point of care or POC tests) allows early identification of HIV before disease has progressed. Early antiretroviral treatment improves health outcomes and allows HIV to be managed as a chronic disease. With treatment, it is possible to live a long and healthy life with HIV.¹

References: [About the Data](#)

What Is Being Done?

[Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative](#)

[Positive Living Program](#)

[Westside Clinic](#)

[Front Line](#)

[Testing Success](#)

To Learn More:

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

[It's Different Now:](#)

Government of Saskatchewan video

[HIV Testing](#)

Highlights

More people are getting tested for HIV than ever before.

- In 2015, the Region conducted 26,932 HIV blood tests (*Figure 1*), a 65% increase over the total of 16,236 tests conducted in 2011 (*not shown*).
- In 2015, an estimated 21% of tests (5701) were done by prenatal care providers; 14% of tests were done by clinics testing high risk populations (2697 standard tests and 1019 point of care (POC) tests), and 65% (17515) by other health providers (*Figure 1*).
- Since 2011, prenatal testing increased from 10% to over 20% of total HIV tests. See [HIV Prenatal Testing and Babies Born to HIV Positive Mothers](#).
- Since 2011, standard HIV testing for high risk populations increased by 59% and has almost quadrupled for POC tests (*Figure 1*). In 2015, 27% of all tests given to high risk populations were POC tests (1019) compared to 3% (264) in 2011.
- In 2015, 2337 male and 1281 female HIV tests were conducted in high risk populations (*Figure 2*). The percent of positive tests in high risk populations decreased from 1.6% in 2011 to 1% in 2015 (*Figure 2*).

Figure 1: HIV Tests, Saskatoon Health Region, 2011 to 2015

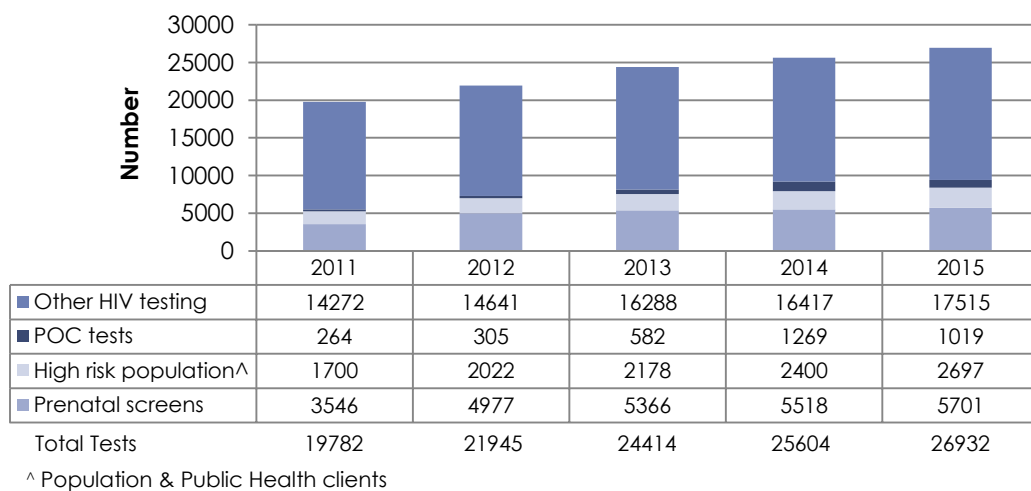
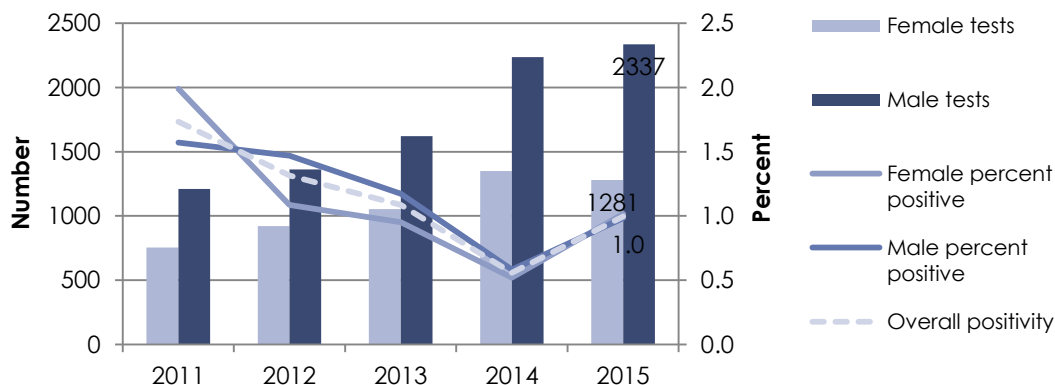


Figure 2: HIV Tests* for High-Risk Populations, Saskatoon Health Region, 2010 to 2015



*Standard & POC tests combined by Population and Public Health, Saskatoon Health Region

Source: Population and Public Health, Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory