

Bloodborne Infection - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Why Is This Important?

HIV is a virus that affects the immune system. Without treatment, HIV can progress to a symptomatic, life-threatening acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). HIV transmission occurs through exposure to blood and body fluids from an HIV-infected person, including blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk. An HIV positive mother can pass the virus to her baby before or during childbirth, or through breastfeeding.

In the early stages many people with HIV infection have no symptoms. In Canada it is estimated that one in five people currently infected do not know they are HIV positive.¹ With treatment, HIV is now managed as a chronic disease, allowing HIV positive individuals who are on antiretroviral treatment to live long and healthy lives.

What Is Being Done?

[What's Being Done in Saskatoon Health Region to Reduce STIs and Bloodborne Illness?](#)

[Saskatchewan HIV Strategy](#)

[HIV Front Line](#)

To Learn More:

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

[Maggie's Story \(YouTube\)](#): a personal story of HIV by an individual living in our Region.

[HIV Report](#)

Highlights

After a steady decrease, HIV began to increase again in 2015.

- HIV rates increased in Saskatoon Health Region between 2004 to 2009, peaking at 31.3 per 100,000 population in 2009, more than four times the national rate (Figure 1).
- HIV cases totaled 45 in 2016, with 27 cases in males and 18 in females (Figure 2).
- The Region's 2016 HIV rate decreased slightly to 12.5 per 100,000 from 14.6 per 100,000 the previous year.
- Rates vary by age group, with the highest rates in the 25 to 29 year-old age group for both genders. See [case and rates by gender and age group](#).
- The leading primary HIV transmission risk in 2016 was injection drug use (68.9%). Unprotected heterosexual sex (22.2%) and sex between men (4.4%) were the next highest risks. See [HIV transmission risks](#).
- A total of 597 confirmed cases of HIV have been reported in our Region since 2007 (not shown). Twenty-three percent (135) of these individuals are now deceased (cause of death not necessarily HIV-related). See [About the Data](#).
- Since 2007, 119 cases of AIDS have been reported (not shown). Fifty-three percent (63) are deceased.
- It is estimated that of the 597 individuals diagnosed with HIV since 2007, 66% (397) have been infected with hepatitis C (not shown).

Figure 1: HIV Rates per 100,000 Population, Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatchewan, and Canada, 2007 to 2016

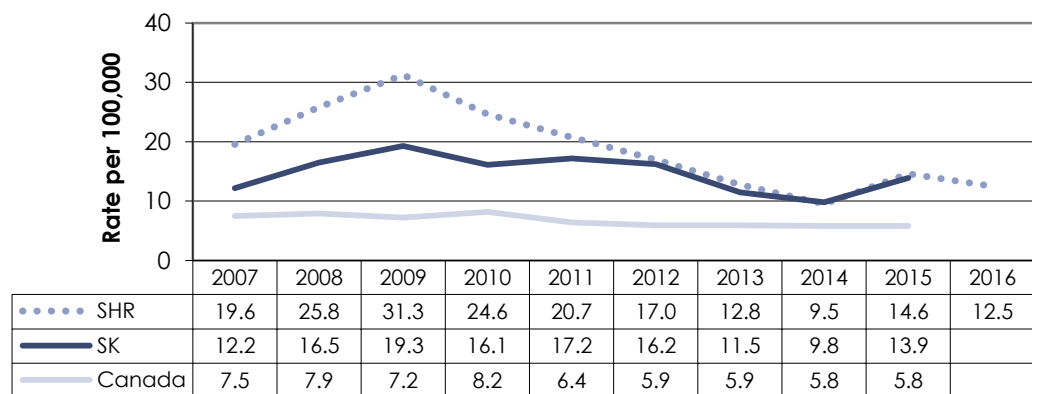
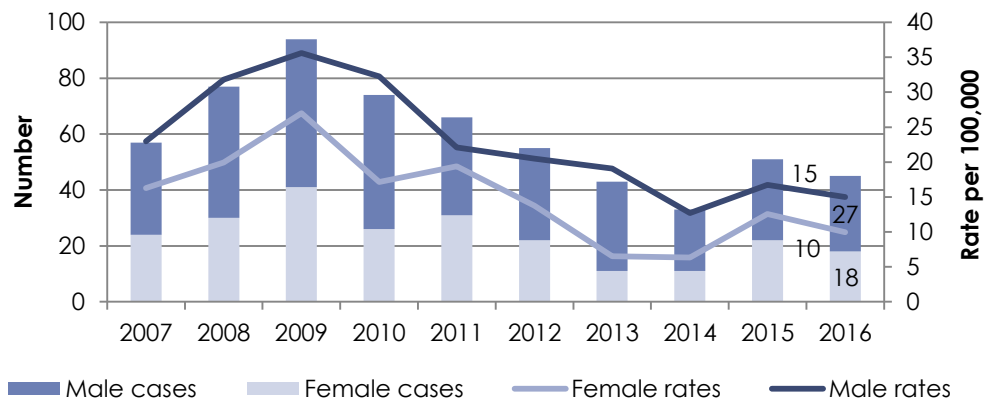


Figure 2: HIV Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population by Gender, Saskatoon Health Region, 2007 to 2016



Source: iPHIS