

# 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>9,13</sup>

In 2012, 19.2% of all AIDS cases in Canada were reported in Saskatchewan.<sup>5,6</sup> Presently, HIV rates in Saskatchewan are double the Canadian rate. 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](#)  
[Population & Public Health](#)  
[The Front Line](#)

## To Learn More:

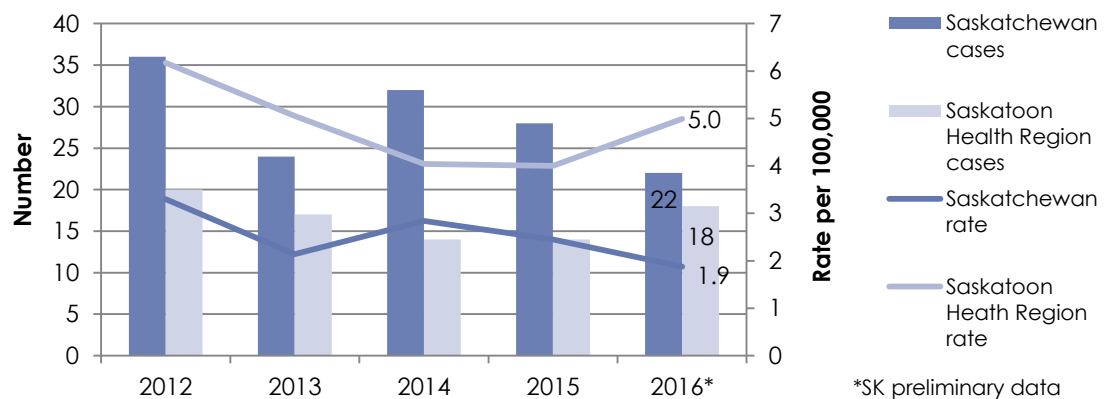
Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

## Highlights

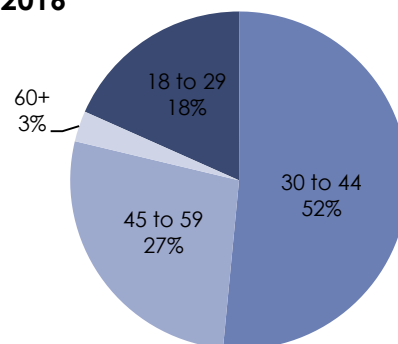
### Since 2007 one in every six HIV positive individuals in Saskatoon Health Region has died.

- Of the 597 HIV positive individuals reported between 2007 and 2016, 23% (136) are deceased ([About the Data](#)). Thirty-four percent of these deaths (46) were among individuals with AIDS reported (*not shown*).
- Among the 38 patients with AIDS who died, the median time from AIDS diagnosis to death was 22 months (*not shown*).
- Since 2007, a total of 119 individuals were diagnosed with AIDS in the Region. Eighteen individuals were reported in 2016 (*Figure 1*).
- The Region's AIDS rate has increased again and is still higher than the provincial rate (*Figure 1*). The reporting of AIDS, which requires identification of syndromic symptoms, is improving over time.
- Of the 119 AIDS cases reported since 2007, 43% (51) were diagnosed within one year of their HIV diagnosis, indicating HIV was diagnosed at an advanced stage of disease. See [HIV Treatment](#).
- In 2016, 26% of AIDS patients (4) were diagnosed within a year of their HIV diagnosis, an improvement over 2015 when 50% were diagnosed within a year of HIV. Of the 51 patients with HIV reported in 2015, 10% (5) progressed to AIDS within a year.
- The mortality of HIV and AIDS by age group and ethnicity reflects the epidemiology of HIV in our Region. Over half of the deaths were in individuals 30 to 44 years (*Figure 2*). Sixty-one percent were among First Nations individuals, 12% Metis and 20% white (*Figure 3*). See [AIDS - Ethnicity and Gender](#).

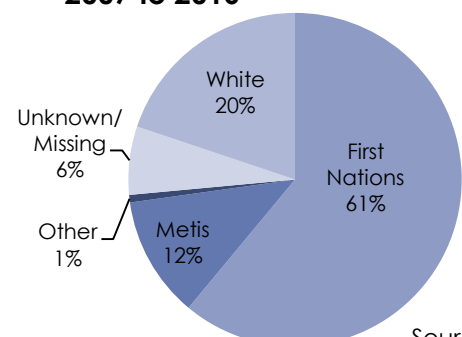
**Figure 1: AIDS Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population, Saskatoon Health Region and Saskatchewan, 2012 to 2016**



**Figure 2: Percent HIV Mortality by Age Group, Saskatoon Health Region, 2007 to 2016**



**Figure 3: Percent HIV Mortality by Ethnicity, Saskatoon Health Region, 2007 to 2016**



Source: iPHIS