

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](#)
[Population & Public Health](#)
[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 2007, more than half of HIV positive children were diagnosed before the age of sixteen.

- Twelve HIV positive children (under 18 years of age) were reported from 2007 to 2016. Sixty-seven percent were female (*not shown*).
- Forty-two percent of children were 16 to 17 years-olds, 8% were under 12 year olds, and 33% were 13 to 15 years old. (*Figure 1*).
- One third of 13 to 15 year-olds reported heterosexual sex, one third IDU and one third endemic country as the primary transmission risk (*Figure 2*).
- Over half of 16 to 17 year-olds reported heterosexual sex and 20% 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](#).
- Children diagnosed under one year of age were infected through mother to child (perinatal) transmission (*Figure 2*). Since 2007, two perinatal transmissions have been reported (*not shown*).

Figure 1: Pediatric HIV by Age Group at Diagnosis, Saskatoon Health Region, 2007 to 2016

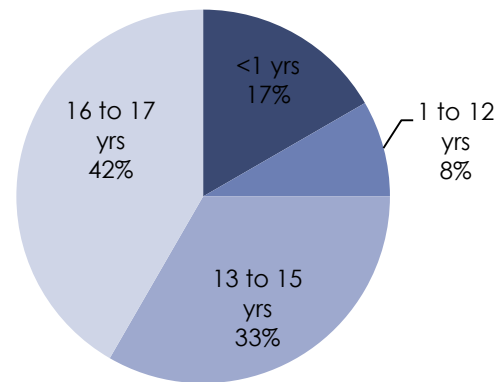
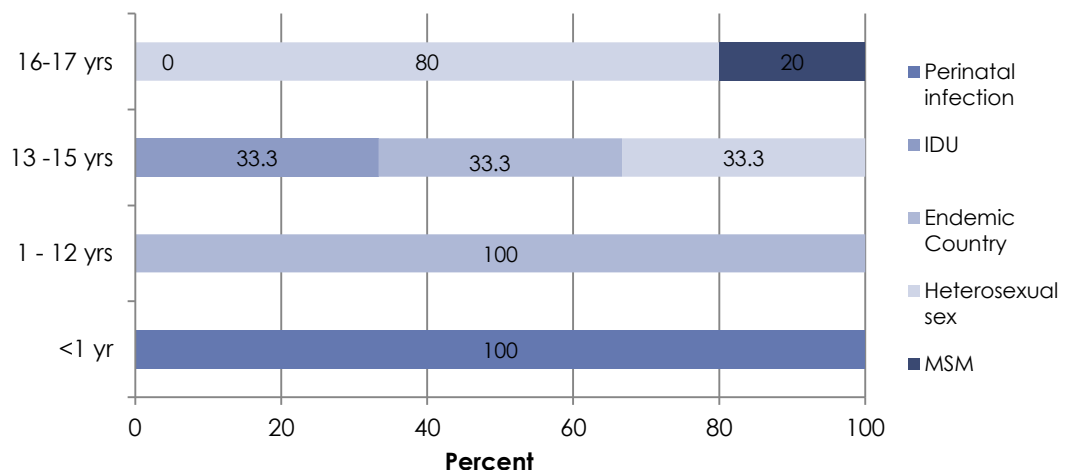


Figure 2: Pediatric HIV by Primary Transmission, Saskatoon Health Region, 2007 to 2016



Source: iPHIS