

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. Population Health tests patients who may not have regular health providers and are considered high risk.

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](#)

[Population & Public Health](#)

[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 2016, the Region conducted 28,742 HIV blood tests (Figure 1), a 7% increase over last years and a 31% increase since 2012.
- In 2016, 14% of tests were done by clinics testing high risk populations (3017 standard tests and 935 point of care (POC) tests), and 86% (24790) by other health providers (Figure 1). Prenatal screens were not reported separately but were part of the other HIV testing category.
- Between 2011 and 2015, prenatal testing increased from 10% to over 20% of total HIV tests.
- Since 2012, standard HIV testing for high risk populations increased by 49% and has tripled for POC tests (Figure 1). In 2016, 31% of all tests given to high risk populations were POC tests (935) compared to 15% (305) in 2012.
- In 2016, 2542 male and 1340 female HIV tests were conducted in high risk populations (Figure 2). The percent of positive tests in high risk populations decreased from 1.3% in 2012 to less than 1% in 2016 (Figure 2).

Figure 1: HIV Tests, Saskatoon Health Region, 2012 to 2016

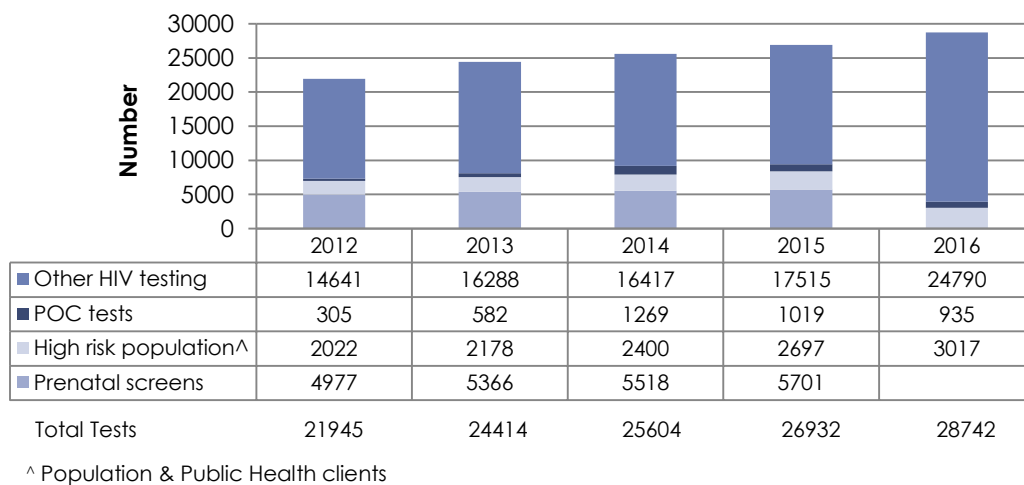
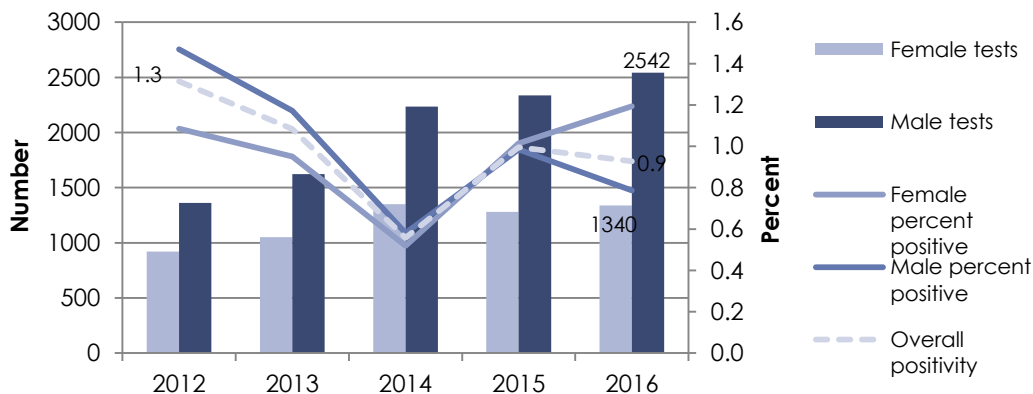


Figure 2: HIV Tests* for High-Risk Populations, Saskatoon Health Region, 2012 to 2016



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

Source: Population and Public Health, Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory