

Communicable Diseases and Infection Control Updates

What's New

[HIV in Canada Surveillance Highlights Infographic for 2023](#)

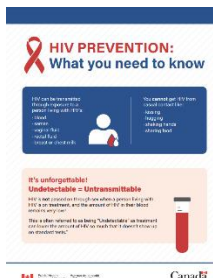
The 'HIV in Canada: 2023 Surveillance Highlights' infographic has been published on Canada.ca

- Key highlights of the national HIV surveillance data for 2023 are presented, including the national HIV diagnosis rate, the national male and female diagnosis rates by age group, a geographic rate breakdown, distribution of diagnoses by exposure category, and updated perinatal HIV surveillance data.
- There were 2,434 new diagnoses cases in 2023, representing a 35.2% increase from 2022.
- The 2023 national diagnosis rate was 6.1 per 100,000 population, an increase from the rate in 2022 (4.7 per 100,000). Among males, the diagnosis rate was 8.1 per 100,000 and among females the diagnosis rate was 3.9 per 100,000.

[A report on the estimates of HIV incidence and prevalence and Canada's progress on meeting the 95-95-95 HIV targets in 2022 is now available on Canada.ca](#)

An estimated 65,270 people were living with HIV in Canada at the end of 2022. Among those living with HIV, an estimated 89% were diagnosed. Of those diagnosed, 85% were estimated to be on treatment and an estimated 95% of persons on treatment had a suppressed viral load.

[New infographic! HIV prevention: What you need to know](#)



This infographic provides a general overview and introduction to the range of HIV prevention methods available. It can be used in community or public settings to raise awareness about HIV prevention.

[Register now! Treatment as empowerment: Advancing HIV care with U=U](#)

Check out this free and accredited online course, developed through a collaboration between the Public Health Agency of Canada and the University of British Columbia Continuing Professional Development unit. This self-paced course explores how HIV treatment can prevent new infections, a concept often known as Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U), and how to effectively share the U=U message to patients in a clear and stigma-free manner.

[K-12 Biosafety and Biosecurity Curriculum and AMR](#)

With increased accessibility to life sciences research, many students are exposed to microbiology-based topics and projects at a younger age. The K-12 Biosafety and Biosecurity Curriculum is developed to encourage teachers to introduce biosafety and biosecurity in classrooms. The entire project has been designed to align with provincial curriculum standards to seamlessly fit into health, sciences and even cross-curricular subjects through arts and languages.

The curriculum also includes content on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) related pathogens that can cause infection. This project compliments AMR initiatives by integrating key concepts of antimicrobial stewardship into engaging and practical learning experiences for students. Through its alignment with provincial standards and a wide variety of interactive and educational tools, the curriculum helps students understand the importance of AMR, responsible antimicrobial use and fosters awareness about preventing infections. Teachers and parents looking to use the materials can access them through the Centre for Biosafety's [PHAC Training Portal](#) in the Resources for K-12 Students and Teachers folder.

If you have any questions regarding these courses, please feel free to reach out to the Biosafety Learning and Knowledge team at trainingandlearning-formationapprentissage@phac-aspc.gc.ca.

[Mpox Communications Toolkit](#)



To help increase awareness of mpox and how individuals can protect themselves and others, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has developed a toolkit with resources to help you share information with your networks.

You can download ready-to-use content that can be re-purposed, or re-posted to suit your needs. Choose from social media posts, social media images, factsheet information, and more awareness resources.

[Access the toolkit](#)

[Release of the revised national case definition for hepatitis C](#)

The national case definition for hepatitis C, revised in September 2024, is now available on Canada.ca. It aims to improve alignment between jurisdictions on

the reporting of hepatitis C infections; enable jurisdictions and PHAC to better measure, report, and respond to trends in hepatitis C infections (including perinatal infections); and provide a more accurate national picture of hepatitis C trends to help measure progress towards the 2030 hepatitis C elimination targets.

What's Coming

[Results from the Tracks survey among 2SGBTQ+ people](#)

Since 2002, the Public Health Agency of Canada through its Tracks surveillance system monitors trends in HIV, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) prevalence and associated factors among key populations in Canada. It does so by implementing periodic, cross-sectional, bio-behavioural surveys (questionnaire and biological sample) to collect enhanced surveillance data. Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) is one of the key populations disproportionately affected by STBBI.

Data collection for Phase 3 of the Tracks survey among the GBMSM population was completed this past summer. Inclusion criteria was expanded to include non-binary people, transgender men two-spirit people. From June to September 2024, a total of 4,881 eligible participants were recruited in-person at 43 events (e.g., Pride festivals, Pow Wows, community dinners or picnics, bars, etc.) in 19 cities across all provinces.

Preliminary results from the Tracks GBMSM Phase 3 survey were recently presented at Summit 2024 in Vancouver BC. Small group discussions followed where attendees provided context for key findings, possible gaps and ways of communicating findings to different stakeholders. Building on this feedback, a report and other knowledge products will be developed in the upcoming months to present data from this survey in order to inform policies and programs.

[Join the Communicable Disease and Infection Control Webinar mailing list](#)

PHAC leads the Communicable Disease and Infection Control (CDIC) Webinar Series, which showcases projects, publications, epidemiological data, community organizations and more. It's attended by government representatives, public health professionals, community-based organizations, community members, health care professionals, academics and researchers. If you are interested in registering for these webinars, please contact CDIC Webinars / Webinaires LMTI (PHAC/ASPC) cdic.webinars-webinaires.lmti@phac-aspc.gc.ca

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