

# Communicable Diseases and Infection Control Updates

## What's New

### [Publication of the 2023-2024 Progress Report on Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections \(STBBI\)](#)

This Progress Report highlights key federal activities undertaken during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, including the renewal of the Government of Canada's STBBI Action Plan (2024-2030), the National Congenital Syphilis Conference, and key achievements from the 2019-2024 Five-Year Action Plan. All nine federal departments implicated in the Action Plan have contributed to the report. This Progress Report marks the fourth and final in its series for the 2019-2024 Action Plan.

### [New Data Blog: Stigma and discrimination among people who inject drugs, 2024](#)

The Tracks surveillance system monitors trends in HIV, hepatitis C and other STBBI prevalence and related factors among priority populations in Canada by implementing periodic, biobehavioural surveys. Tracks, in collaboration with provincial/territorial, regional and local public health partners, and community-based organizations and researchers, recently completed data collection for Phase 5 of the Tracks survey among people who inject drugs (PWID) which was conducted from 2023 to 2025 in seven provinces and one territory. Preliminary results from Tracks PWID Phase 5 include the following: most participants were between the ages of 25 and 54 years (86.2%), self-identified as white (55.4%) or Indigenous (45.6%). Many experienced stigma or discrimination in the 12 months prior to the survey (80.9%). The most common substances injected were methamphetamine (65.2%) and fentanyl (53.8%), which was similar with substances non-injected (methamphetamine 66.3%; fentanyl 61.9%). This data blog will be updated once analyses with additional data are completed.

### [Updated Dashboard! Explore the latest data from the Enhanced Surveillance of Antimicrobial-resistant Gonorrhoea \(ESAG\) system on Health Infobase.](#)

We are pleased to announce that the Enhanced Surveillance of Antimicrobial-resistant Gonorrhoea (ESAG) dashboard on the Health Infobase has been updated to include 2023 data (previously 2018 to 2022).

The ESAG dashboard is an interactive data tool that provides an overview of epidemiologic (e.g. demographic, risk factor characteristics), antimicrobial use appropriateness and antimicrobial susceptibility trends among antimicrobial-resistant gonorrhoea cases from five participating provinces and territories: Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Northwest Territories.

### **[Did you know that Notifiable Diseases Online now has up to 100 years of data?](#)**

It's true! Notifiable Diseases reporting has a long history dating back to the early development of public health systems in Canada. This year, with the addition of the 2023 dataset, we are pleased to present 100 years of historical data trends for selected Notifiable Diseases (ND), such as gonorrhoea, pertussis, poliomyelitis, syphilis and a few others that have been nationally notifiable since 1924.

The Canadian Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (CNDSS) monitors trends and patterns in ND at the national level. These data are submitted each year by provincial and territorial public health authorities to CNDSS. There are over 50 nationally notifiable diseases available to explore, and some have been under national surveillance since 1924 – that's 100 years of data to explore!

There are many options available with ND Online to explore data, such as simple pre-built charts, and custom charts that can be tailored to your information needs. Users can also produce large data extracts. Visit our website: [Notifiable Diseases Online \(canada.ca\)](https://notifiable-diseases-online.canada.ca)

### **[A scoping review of evidence relating to sexually transmitted and blood borne infections \(STBBI\) among transgender and non-binary people in Canada](#)**

A scoping review was conducted of the evidence from 2013 to 2023 relating to sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBI) prevalence, related factors and use of STBBI testing, treatment and prevention services among transgender and non-binary people in Canada. The screened knowledge products highlighted the difficulty of quantifying the prevalence of any STBBI among these populations. Most jurisdictions do not publish disaggregated STBBI prevalence data by gender. Almost no research has been conducted on STBBI in non-binary people. Transgender people may be less sexually active than other population groups, though this may vary between subgroups of the transgender population. Transgender people face many barriers to accessing healthcare, testing and treatment for STBBI. More public health surveillance and research, conducted in collaboration with transgender and non-binary communities across Canada, would help to better understand the burden of STBBI in these populations nationally.

## **What's Coming**

**[WEBINAR: Advancing public health through national hepatitis B & C estimates](#)**

To commemorate World Hepatitis Day, join us to learn how the Public Health Agency of Canada's 2021 national hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV) estimates data were used to promote public health messages and guide community-led advocacy.

Across three complementary presentations, you'll learn how data from different sources work together to provide a better picture of HBV and HCV in Canada; how data was used to create a successful social marketing campaign led by CATIE; and how Action Hepatitis Canada used data to develop indicators to monitor progress towards elimination targets and support planning & advocacy efforts.

Register in advance: [https://hc-sc-gc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hR3WMt\\_kSEmYym\\_rz7Ymjg](https://hc-sc-gc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hR3WMt_kSEmYym_rz7Ymjg)

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