



BC Centre for Disease Control
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

HIV

Annual Report
2014

Contact Information

BC Centre for Disease Control
Clinical Prevention Services
655 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver BC V5Z 4R4
Phone: 604-707-5621
Fax: 606-707-5604
Email: CPSSurveillance@bccdc.ca

Date of publication: November 30, 2015
Report is available at www.bccdc.ca

Suggested citation:

BC Centre for Disease Control. (2015). HIV in British Columbia: Annual Surveillance Report 2014.
Retrieved from <http://www.bccdc.ca/util/about/annreport/default.htm>



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Summary of Trends

HIV

In 2014, the rate of new HIV diagnoses in BC was 5.6 (261 cases) per 100,000 population, a slight decrease from 5.8 (267 cases) in 2013.

- The highest rates of new HIV diagnoses were in Vancouver Coastal and Northern Health Authorities.
- Males continued to have higher rates of new HIV diagnoses than females.
- Trends by ethnicity have shifted over the past ten years with the percentage of new diagnoses among ethnicities other than Caucasian gradually increasing. In 2014, 45% of cases were Caucasian, 13% were Aboriginal peoples, and 10% were Asian. Over this time period, Aboriginal peoples have been disproportionately represented in BC's HIV epidemic, comprising 11-17% of all new HIV diagnoses while comprising approximately 5% of the total provincial population.
- The majority of new HIV diagnoses among Aboriginal peoples were in those who identify as First Nations. The number and rate of new HIV diagnoses among First Nations people have decreased over time and rates in males are comparable to rates in females.
- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) continued to comprise the greatest number of new HIV diagnoses in BC (58% of all new HIV diagnoses in 2014). Trends were elevated but stable with the greatest increase in new HIV diagnoses among MSM born after 1980. Over time, the proportion of new HIV diagnoses in MSM from ethnicities other than Caucasian has increased (37% in 2014).
- The number of new HIV diagnoses in people who inject drugs (PWID) continued to decrease (10% of all new HIV diagnoses in 2014) for both males and females. The decrease in new diagnoses among PWID since 2008 is the main driver of the overall provincial decrease in new HIV diagnoses.
- Overall, there was a slight decrease in new HIV diagnoses among people who acquire HIV through heterosexual contact (25% of all new HIV diagnoses in 2014). Within this category, 43% had an identified risk factor for HIV (e.g., partner known to be HIV positive or at higher risk, born/residing in an HIV endemic country).
- Five women were newly diagnosed HIV positive through prenatal screening in 2014. In 2014, 25 HIV positive women having live births accessed care at the Oak Tree Clinic, of which all were diagnosed before delivery and received antenatal HAART. In 2014, no infants acquired HIV from prenatal exposure.
- Late stage HIV infection decreased to 19% of new HIV diagnoses in 2014 from 27% in 2013.
- A total of 54 HIV positive immigrants arrived in BC in 2014; 33% were from countries where HIV is considered to be endemic.

AIDS

In 2013, the rate of AIDS case reports continued to decrease to 1.5 (68 cases) per 100,000 population.

- The rate of AIDS cases in males is decreasing for most ages. Females have a lower rate of AIDS cases than males and overall trends are stable.
- As with new HIV diagnoses, Aboriginal peoples continue to be disproportionately represented among AIDS cases in BC comprising 9% of new AIDS cases in 2013.

HIV by Region, Gender, and Age

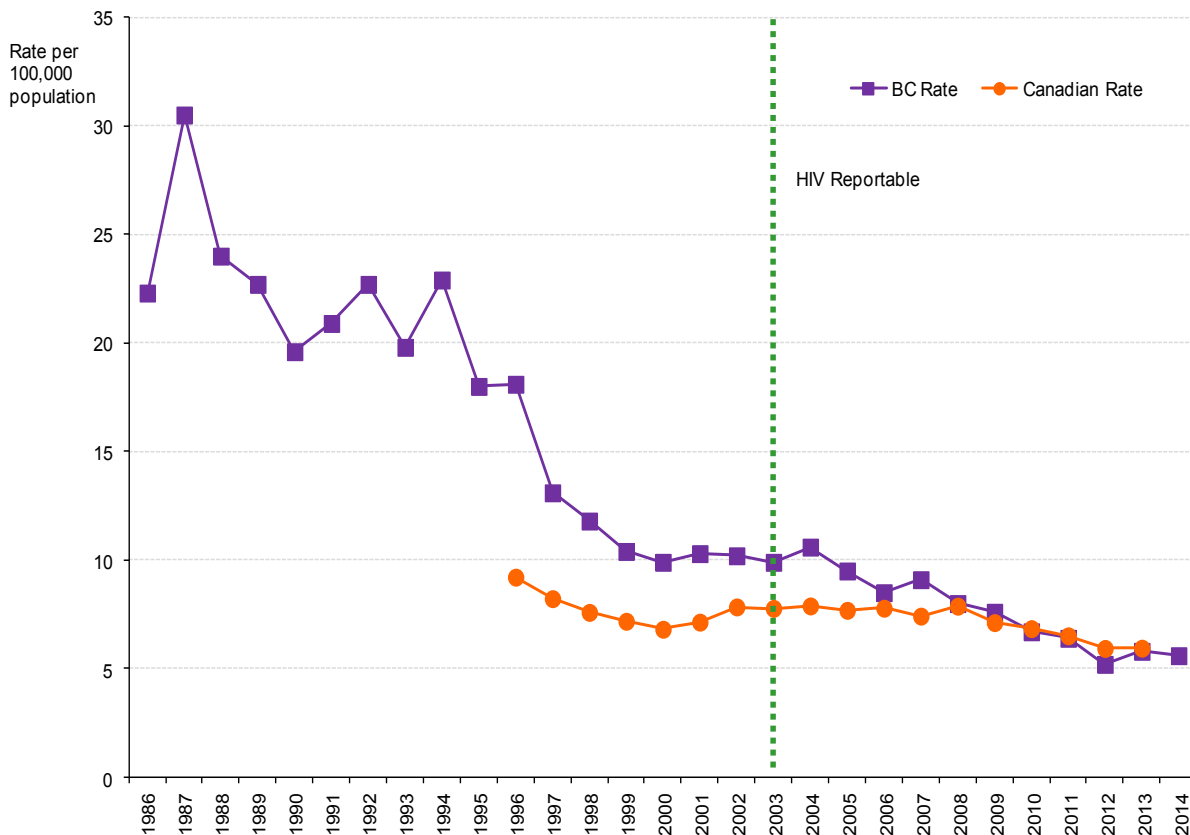
In 2014, the rate of new HIV diagnoses¹ in BC was 5.6 (261 cases) per 100,000 population, a slight decrease from 5.8 (267 cases) in 2013 (Figure 1).

The highest rates of new HIV diagnoses were in the Vancouver Coastal and Northern Health Authorities (Figure 3). More specifically, Vancouver, Northwest, and Northern Interior Health Service Delivery Areas (HSDAs) had the highest rates of new HIV diagnoses in 2014 (Figure 2). Recent trends in these regions have been influenced by increased testing efforts related to the provincial Seek and Treat for Optimal Prevention of HIV/AIDS (STOP HIV/AIDS) Project first launched in 2010.²

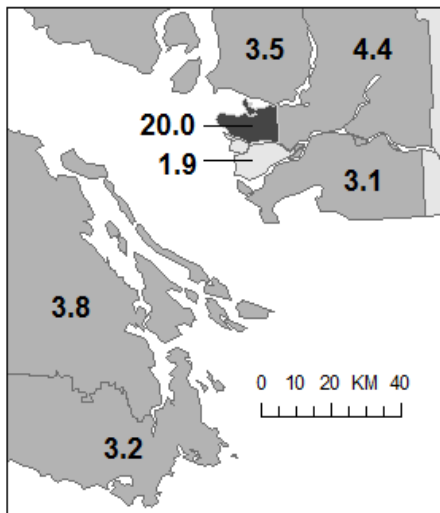
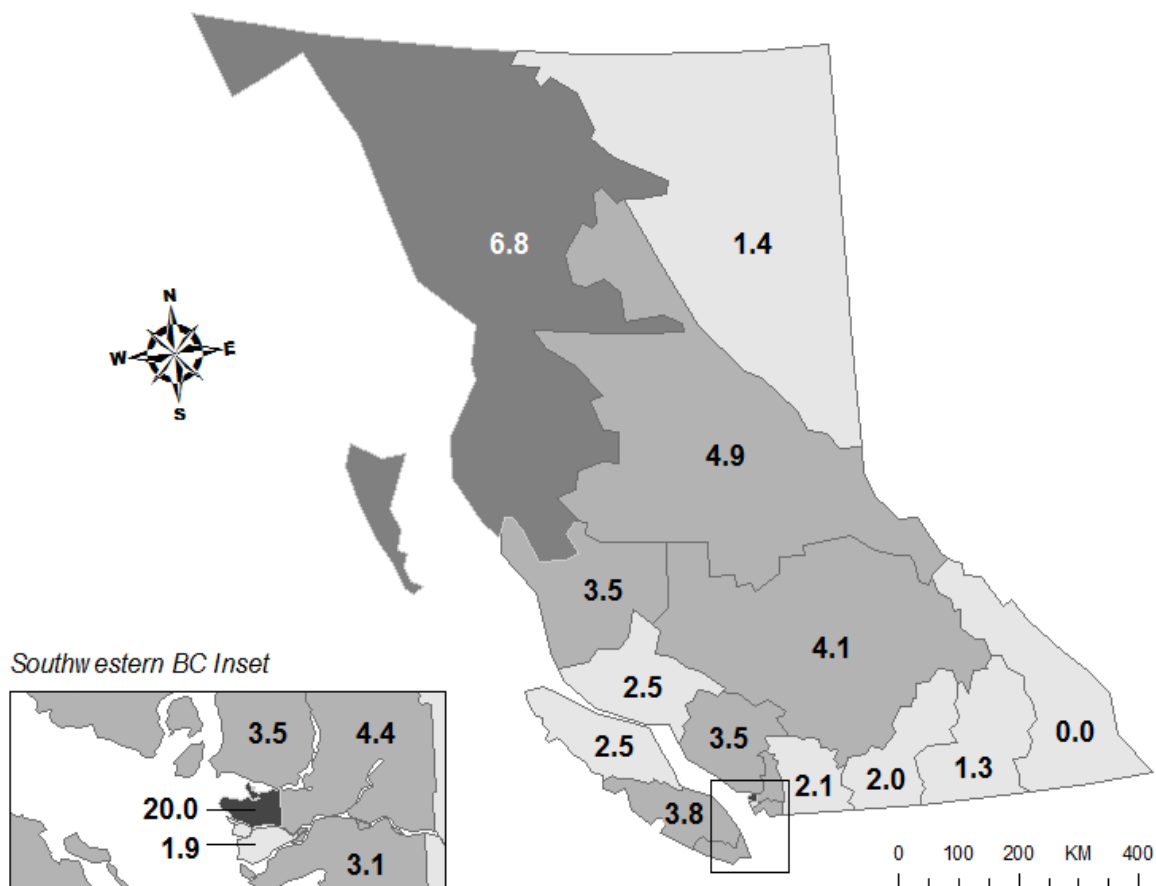
Rates of new HIV diagnoses among both males and females show a general decreasing trend over the past ten years (Figure 4). The rate among males decreased to 9.4 (215 cases) in 2014 from 10.3 (235 cases) per 100,000 population in 2013 while the rate among females increased in 2014 to 1.9 (44 cases) from 1.4 (32 cases) per 100,000 population in 2013.

The rate of new HIV diagnoses continues to be higher among males than females. In 2014, the highest rates among males were in those 25-39 years old and among females in those 30-39 years old (Figure 5).

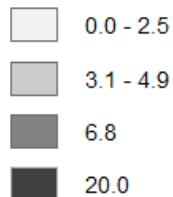
1. New HIV diagnoses in BC and Canada, 1986 to 2014



2. New HIV diagnoses in BC by health service delivery area, 2014



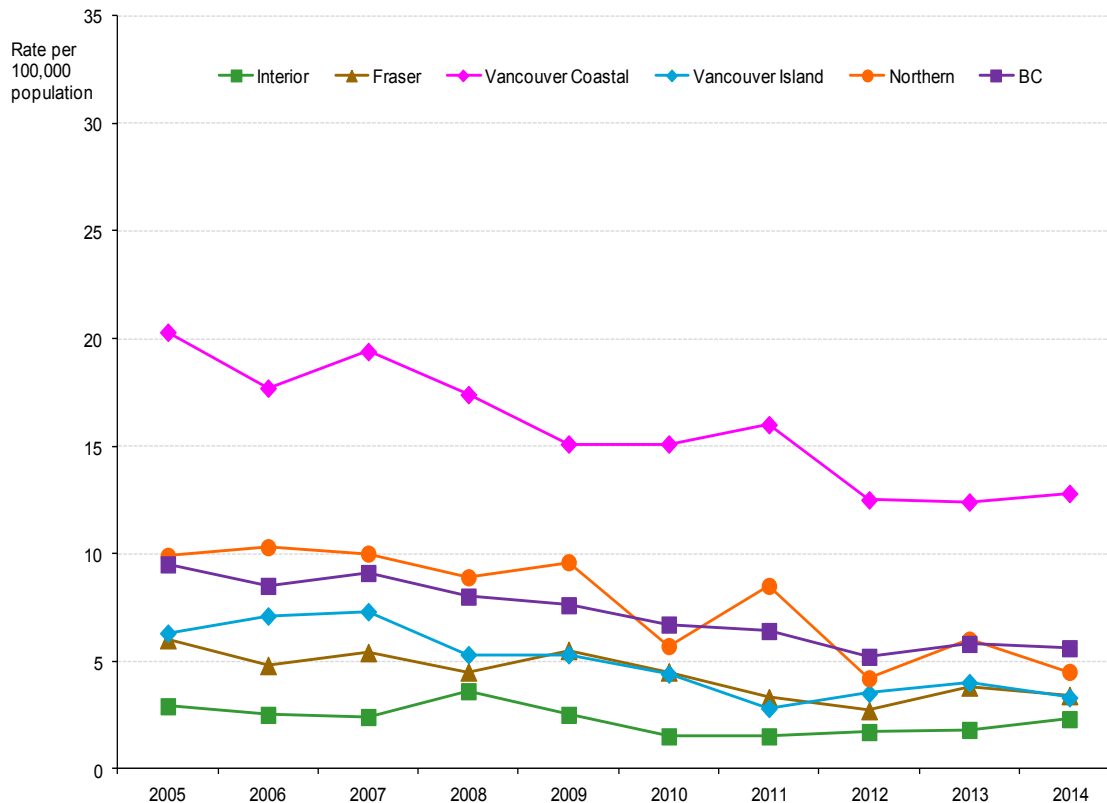
Rate per 100,000 population by HSDA



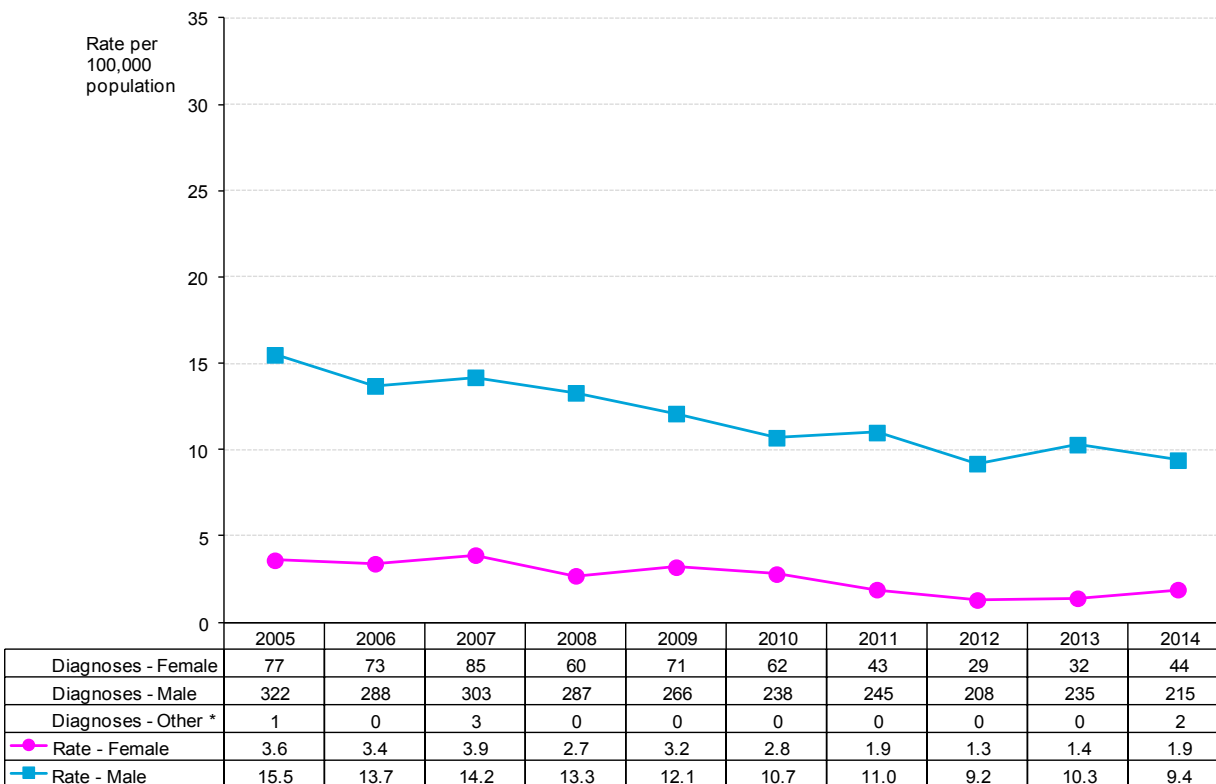
ID	Health Service Delivery Area	Cases	Rate
11	East Kootenay	0	0.0
12	Kootenay Boundary	1	1.3
13	Okanagan	7	2.0
14	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	9	4.1
21	Fraser East	6	2.1
22	Fraser North	28	4.4
23	Fraser South	24	3.1
31	Richmond	4	1.9
32	Vancouver	132	20.0
33	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	10	3.5
41	South Vancouver Island	12	3.2
42	Central Vancouver Island	10	3.8
43	North Vancouver Island	3	2.5
51	Northwest	5	6.8
52	Northern Interior	7	4.9
53	Northeast	1	1.4

Rates calculated with population estimates released by BC Stats

3. New HIV diagnoses in BC by health authority, 2005 to 2014

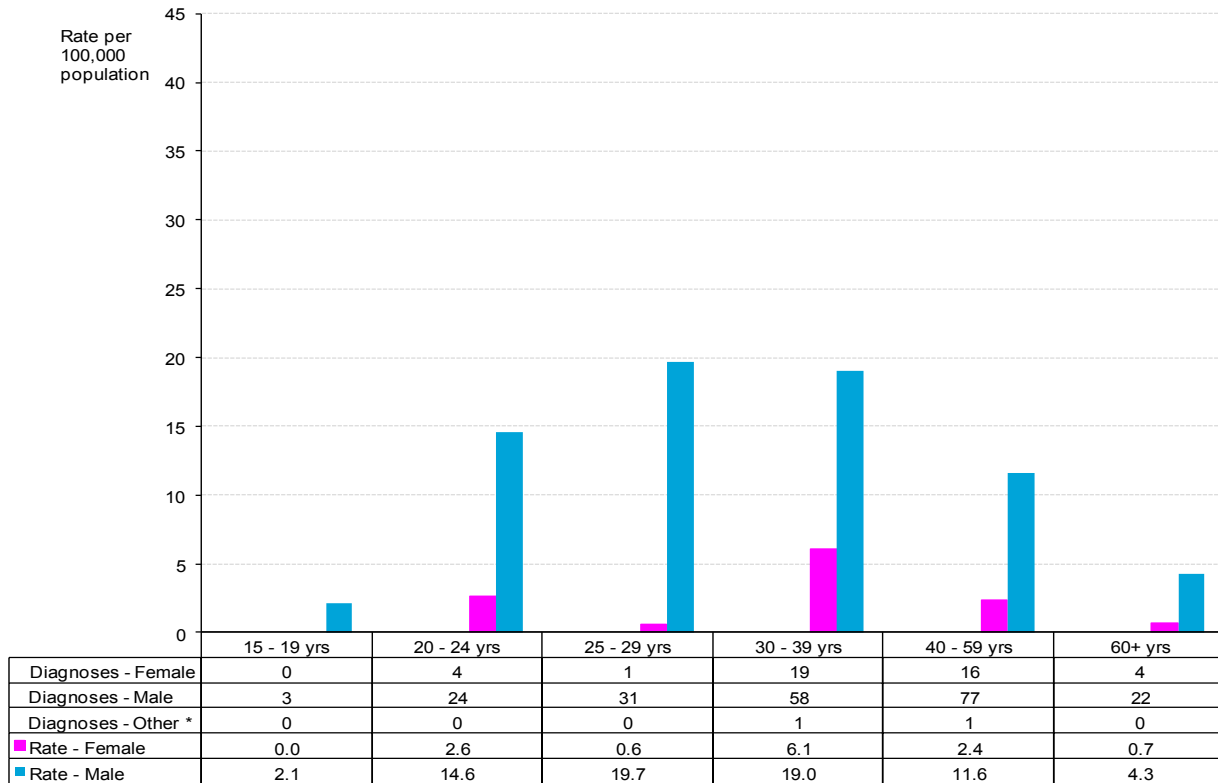


4. New HIV diagnoses in BC by gender, 2005 to 2014



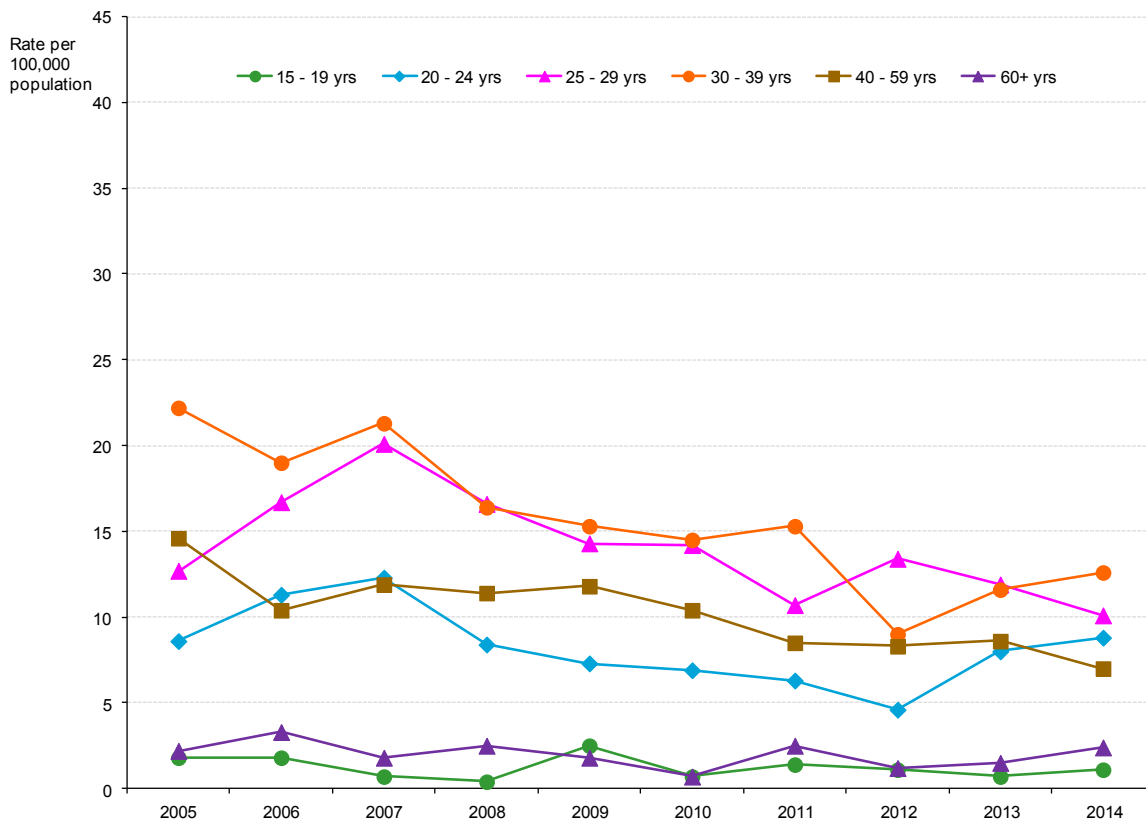
* Other - transgender and gender unknown

5. New HIV diagnoses in BC by age group and gender, 2014

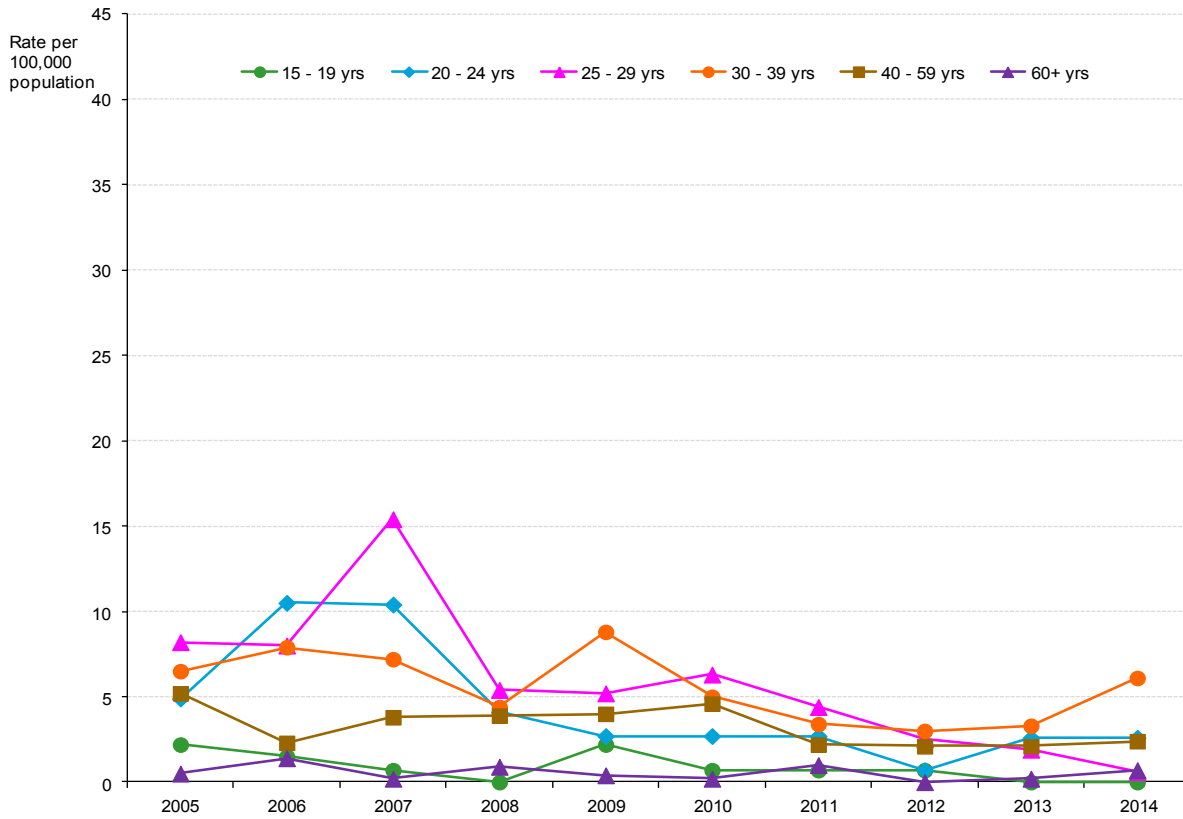


* Other - transgender and gender unknown

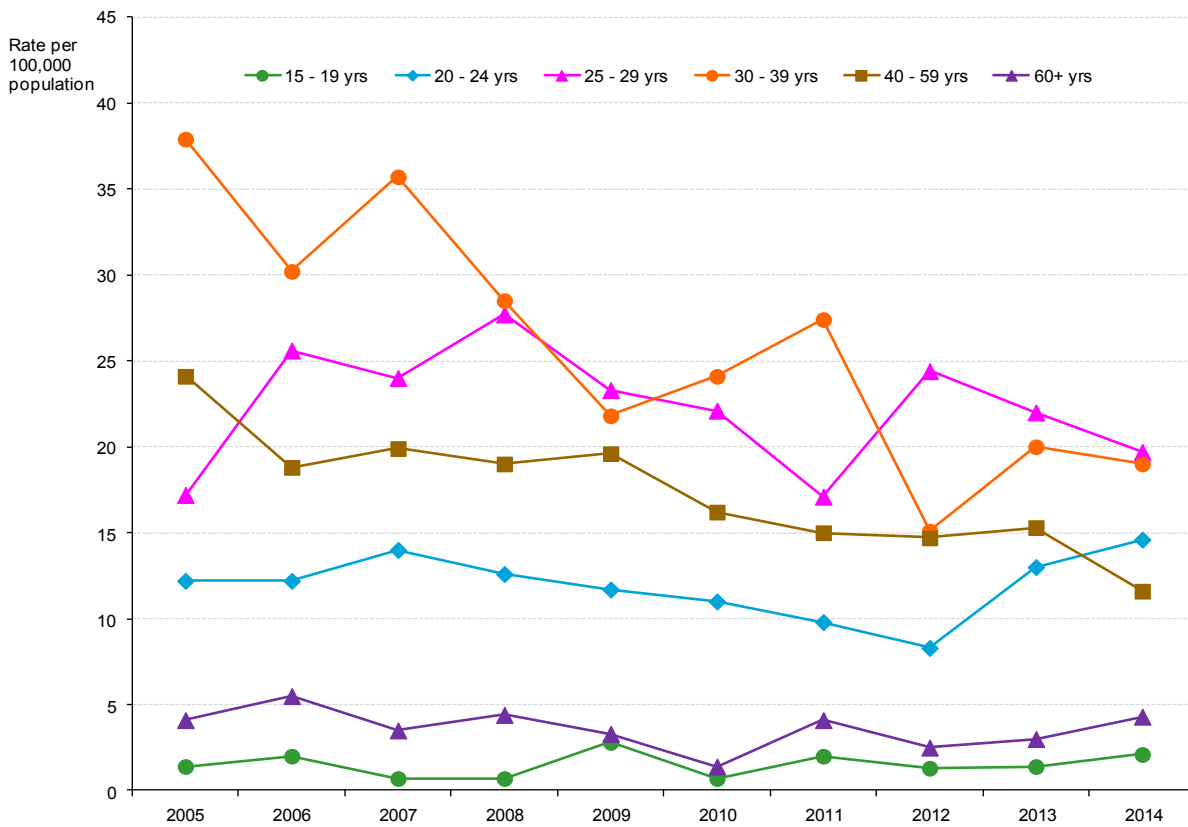
6. New HIV diagnoses in BC by age group - total, 2005 to 2014



7. New HIV diagnoses in BC by age group - female, 2005 to 2014



8. New HIV diagnoses in BC by age group - male, 2005 to 2014



HIV by Ethnicity

Over the past ten years, the proportion of reported ethnicities among people newly diagnosed with HIV in BC has shifted. The percentage of new diagnoses among Caucasian people has gradually decreased while the percentage of diagnoses among Asian people has increased with the proportion of most other ethnicities remaining relatively stable.

Similar to previous years, in 2014 most new HIV diagnoses were among people of Caucasian ethnicity (118 cases, 45.2%) followed by peoples of Aboriginal (35 cases, 13.4%) and Asian (26 cases, 10.0%) ethnicity (Table 9). Over this time period, Aboriginal peoples have been disproportionately represented in BC's HIV epidemic, consistently comprising approximately 11-17% of new HIV diagnoses while representing only about 5% of the total provincial population.³ This disparity is particularly pronounced for Aboriginal women who comprise 34.1% (15 cases) of new HIV diagnoses among females in 2014 (Table 10).

At the time of this report, the ethnicity of 35 (13.4%) individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in 2014 is unknown. There is an expected delay in the collection of this information. The proportion of individuals having unknown ethnicity will likely decrease by the time of next year's report.

9. Percentage of new HIV diagnoses in BC by ethnicity - total, 2005 to 2014

Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>No. Diagnoses</i>	400	361	391	347	337	300	288	237	267	261
Caucasian	66.0	62.9	62.1	55.3	53.1	59.7	53.1	57.4	58.1	45.2
Aboriginal	15.0	15.5	16.1	13.5	16.9	13.0	15.3	12.7	11.2	13.4
Asian	4.8	4.7	4.3	8.9	7.7	9.7	11.5	12.7	10.1	10.0
South Asian	3.5	2.8	3.1	2.3	2.1	2.7	5.2	3.4	3.4	8.4
Hispanic	4.0	4.2	4.9	6.6	6.5	3.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	5.0
Black	4.3	4.2	2.6	4.9	6.8	5.3	4.5	3.0	2.6	3.4
Other *	0.5	1.1	1.5	2.6	2.1	2.3	1.4	2.5	0.7	1.1
Unknown	2.0	4.7	5.4	5.8	4.7	4.0	4.9	4.2	9.7	13.4

* Other - Arab/West Asian and other/mixed ethnicity

10. Percentage of new HIV diagnoses in BC by ethnicity - female, 2005 to 2014

Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>No. Diagnoses</i>	77	73	85	60	71	62	43	29	32	44
Caucasian	51.9	30.1	42.4	41.7	43.7	37.1	32.6	34.5	40.6	27.3
Aboriginal	35.1	38.4	38.8	35.0	23.9	33.9	37.2	37.9	37.5	34.1
Asian	1.3	2.7	2.4	3.3	2.8	6.5	4.7	6.9	9.4	4.5
South Asian	2.6	9.6	4.7	1.7	1.4	3.2	4.7	0.0	6.3	13.6
Hispanic	0.0	1.4	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.6	2.3	3.4	0.0	0.0
Black	6.5	9.6	4.7	13.3	15.5	9.7	11.6	13.8	3.1	4.5
Other *	2.6	2.7	2.4	1.7	1.4	3.2	2.3	3.4	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.0	5.5	3.5	3.3	11.3	4.8	4.7	0.0	3.1	15.9

* Other - Arab/West Asian and other/mixed ethnicity

11. Percentage of new HIV diagnoses in BC by ethnicity - male, 2005 to 2014

Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>No. Diagnoses</i>	322	288	303	287	266	238	245	208	235	215
Caucasian	69.6	71.2	68.0	58.2	55.6	65.5	56.7	60.6	60.4	48.4
Aboriginal	9.9	9.7	9.9	9.1	15.0	7.6	11.4	9.1	7.7	9.3
Asian	5.6	5.2	5.0	10.1	9.0	10.5	12.7	13.5	10.2	11.2
South Asian	3.7	1.0	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.5	5.3	3.8	3.0	7.4
Hispanic	5.0	4.9	5.6	8.0	8.3	3.8	4.5	4.3	4.7	6.0
Black	3.7	2.8	2.0	3.1	4.5	4.2	3.3	1.4	2.6	3.3
Other *	0.0	0.7	1.3	2.8	2.3	2.1	1.2	2.4	0.9	1.4
Unknown	2.5	4.5	5.6	6.3	3.0	3.8	4.9	4.8	10.6	13.0

* Other - Arab/West Asian and other/mixed ethnicity

New HIV Diagnoses among Aboriginal Peoples

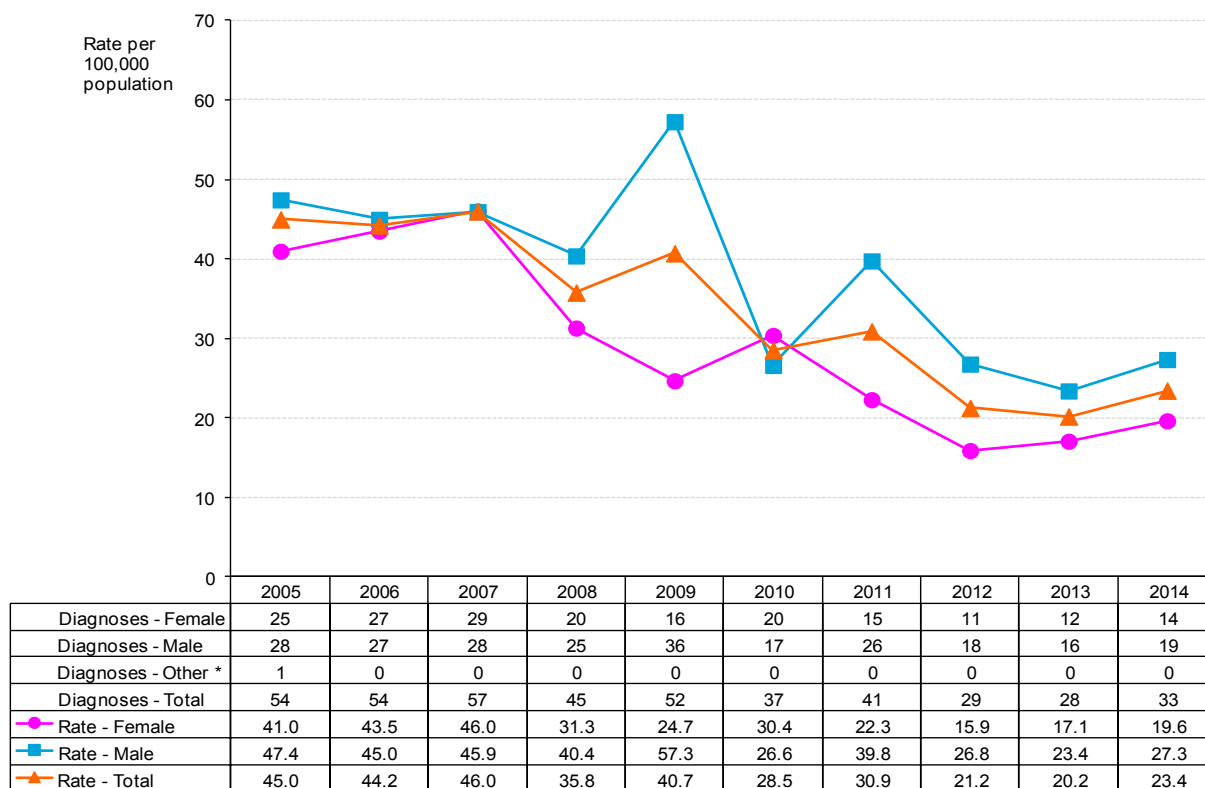
Statistics can help us understand the impact of HIV among Aboriginal peoples in BC but they tell only part of the story. Behind each individual with HIV counted in this report is a family, a community, and a broader social and economic context. The new HIV diagnoses among Aboriginal peoples in this report include only those who have been tested – as with all HIV cases in this report – and only those who self-identify as Aboriginal. Among the nearly 200,000 Aboriginal persons living in BC, approximately 66% are First Nations, 30% are Métis, and fewer than 5% are Inuit or of other Aboriginal identity.⁴

There are multiple social, economic, and historic factors that contribute to the increased risk of HIV among Aboriginal peoples – such as colonization, the experience of Indian Residential Schools, loss of language and culture, and ongoing discrimination – which have contributed to inequities in health.⁵ Although this surveillance report will focus on simple statistics, we acknowledge the complex factors that determine health and recognize that Aboriginal peoples and communities hold many strengths to draw on to address HIV prevention, care, treatment, and support.⁶

There is a disproportionate burden of HIV and AIDS among First Nations people in BC. Between 2005 and 2014, there were 28-57 new HIV diagnoses reported each year among First Nations people (33 cases in 2014). During the same time period, ten or fewer new HIV diagnoses were reported each year among Métis and Inuit people in BC. Because of the small number of diagnoses among Métis and Inuit people and the availability of population estimates for status First Nations people (needed for rate calculations), the remainder of this section focuses on new HIV diagnoses among people who identify as First Nations.

The number and rate of new HIV diagnoses among First Nations people have decreased over the past 10 years (Figure 12). This is consistent with the decrease in new HIV diagnoses among the BC population overall.

12. New HIV diagnoses among First Nations people in BC by gender, 2005 to 2014



* Other - transgender and gender unknown

Rates based on First Nations population estimates from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

In 2014, as in previous years, the majority of new HIV diagnoses among First Nations people were in Vancouver Coastal (12 cases, 36.4%) and Fraser (8 cases, 24.2%) Health Authorities. Six (18.2%) new HIV diagnoses were reported in First Nations people in Northern, five (15.2%) in Island Health and two (6.1%) in Interior Health Authorities.

The rate of new HIV diagnoses in First Nations men is comparable to the rate in women (Figure 12). This contrasts with gender-stratified rates among the general BC population in which rates are five-to-ten fold higher among men (Figure 4). This difference could reflect the fact that most new HIV diagnoses among First Nations people are attributed to people who inject drugs (PWID) and heterosexual (HET) exposure categories which include more women, whereas most new HIV diagnoses among the total population are attributed to the men who have sex with men (MSM) exposure category. Rates in both First Nations women and men exceed the provincial rates among women and men (19.6 versus 1.9 per 100,000 population for women and 27.3 versus 9.4 per 100,000 population for men in 2014).

In 2014, the highest rates of new HIV diagnoses for First Nations men were in those 25-39 years old and First Nations women were in those 30-39 years old.

HIV by Exposure Category

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) continue to comprise the greatest number of new HIV diagnoses in BC. The overall trend in new HIV diagnoses among MSM is elevated compared with other exposure categories but has been decreasing slightly over the past 10 years. The number of new HIV diagnoses among MSM decreased to 150 cases (57.5%) in 2014 from 158 cases (59.2%) in 2013. In 2014, the number of new HIV diagnoses in BC among people who inject drugs (PWID) was 25 cases (9.6%) which was the same as in 2013 (9.4%). The number of new HIV diagnoses due to heterosexual contact demonstrated a slight decrease to 65 (24.9%) in 2014 from 68 cases (25.5%) in 2013 (Figure 14). Trends in these three main exposure categories in BC are explored in more detail in the following sections.

At the time of this report, the exposure category of 15 (5.7%) individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in 2014 are not identified or are unknown. The final number of individuals in each exposure category for 2014 may change slightly if further information on these individuals is received.

13. New HIV diagnoses in BC by exposure category and health authority, 2005 to 2014

Health Authority	Exposure Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Interior	MSM	7	8	4	10	4	4	3	4	3	9
	PWID	5	7	9	6	1	2	1	4	0	4
	HET	8	1	4	9	11	5	5	4	8	4
	Other	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
	NIR/UNK	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Fraser	MSM	26	26	30	30	27	22	24	22	36	27
	PWID	34	20	16	8	18	11	5	5	9	6
	HET	23	24	33	26	35	30	22	15	16	24
	Other	4	2	1	3	4	4	3	1	3	0
	NIR/UNK	1	0	1	2	3	5	0	2	0	1
Vancouver Coastal	MSM	135	114	128	121	104	112	132	105	100	100
	PWID	47	39	41	27	20	21	13	11	11	10
	HET	27	30	39	29	29	33	31	23	24	21
	Other	3	4	1	2	5	1	2	0	2	4
	NIR/UNK	1	1	0	8	6	0	0	2	4	11
Vancouver Island	MSM	11	8	9	18	16	13	8	16	15	10
	PWID	20	32	30	11	10	9	3	3	1	3
	HET	14	7	10	9	8	10	9	6	11	10
	Other	0	3	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
	NIR/UNK	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	2	2
Northern	MSM	1	3	0	2	1	1	3	1	3	2
	PWID	19	15	22	13	15	9	12	6	4	2
	HET	7	9	4	8	9	5	8	4	8	6
	Other	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
	NIR/UNK	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	1

MSM - men who have sex with men

PWID - people who inject drugs

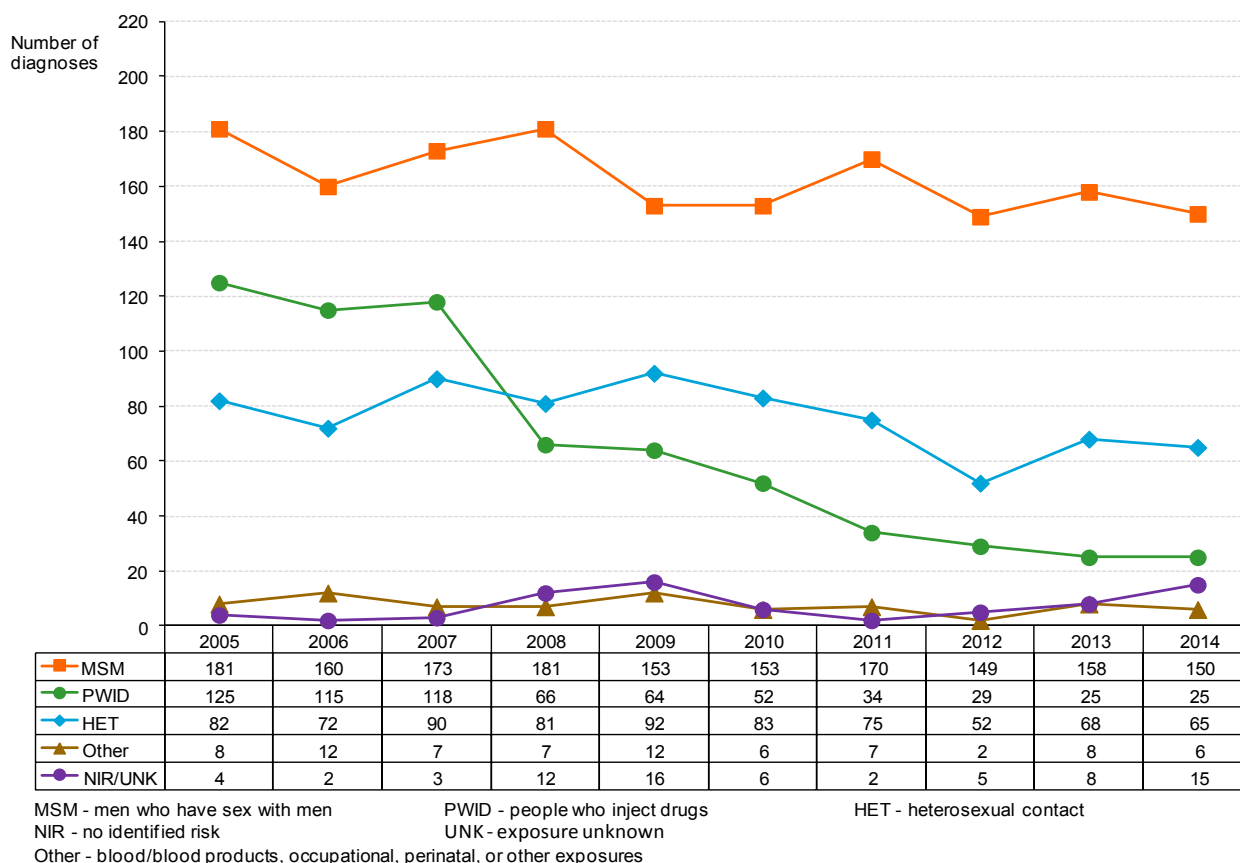
HET - heterosexual contact

Other - blood/blood products, occupational, perinatal, or other exposures

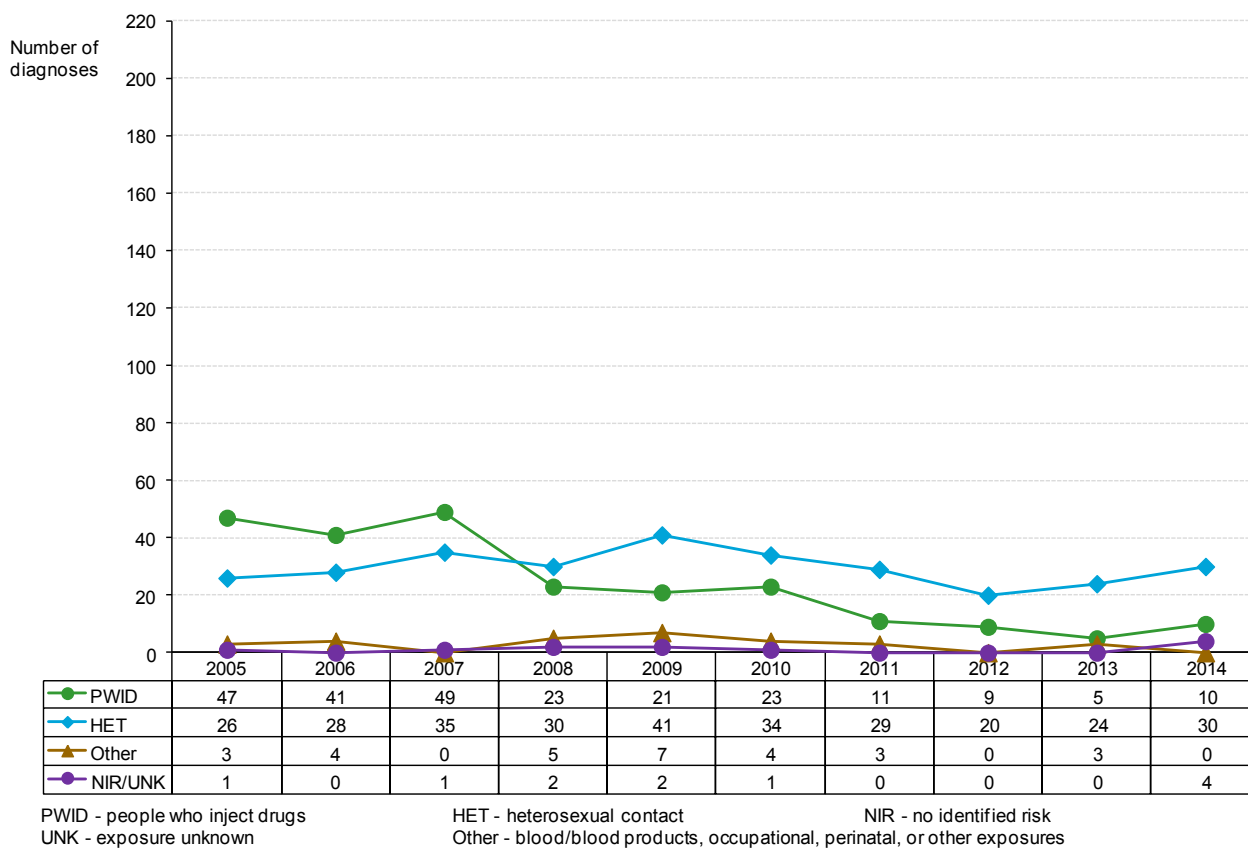
NIR - no identified risk

UNK - exposure unknown

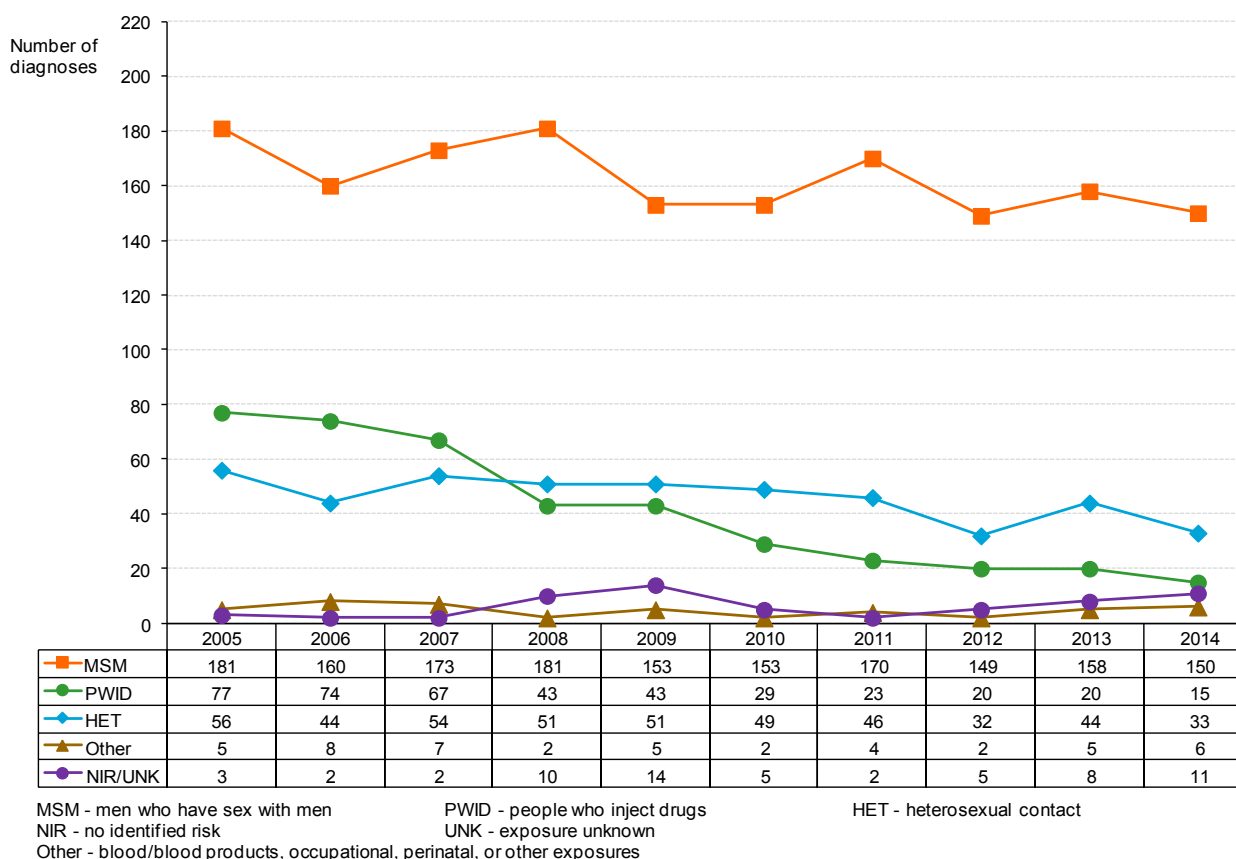
14. New HIV diagnoses in BC by exposure category - total, 2005 to 2014



15. New HIV diagnoses in BC by exposure category - female, 2005 to 2014



16. New HIV diagnoses in BC by exposure category - male, 2005 to 2014



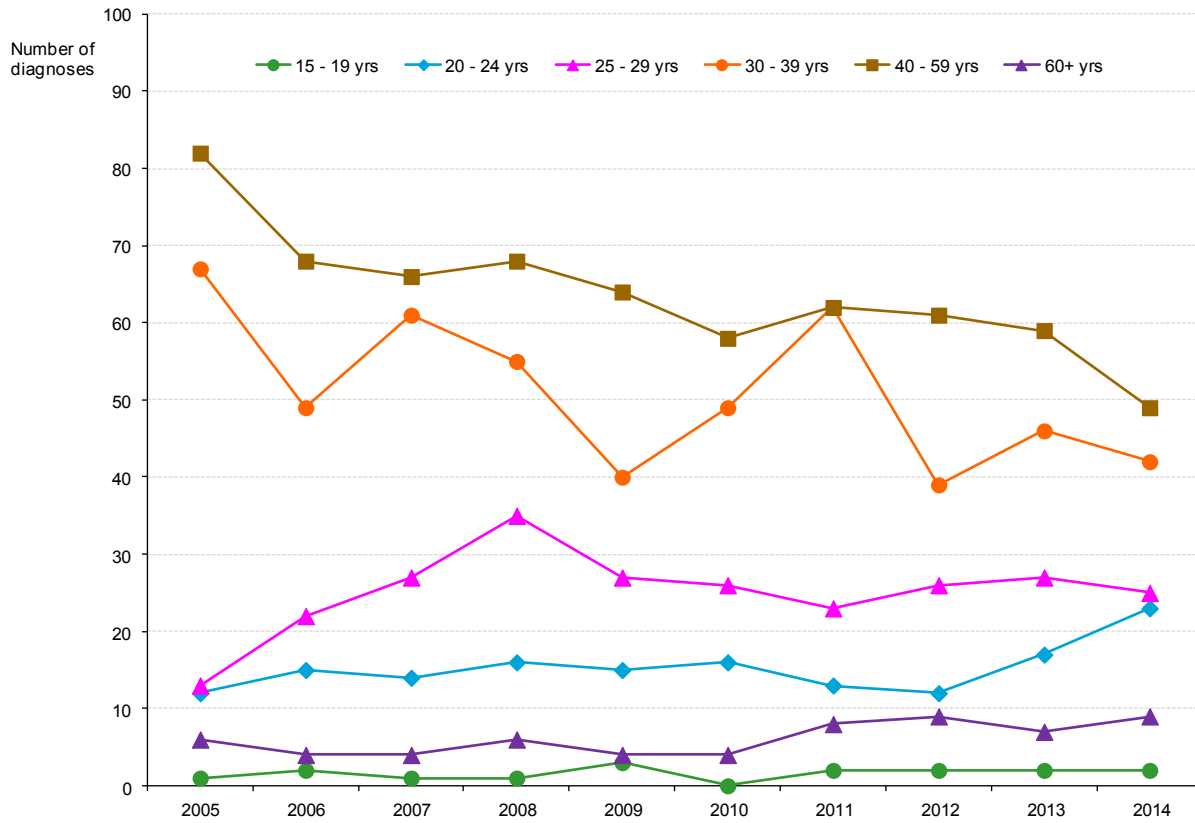
New HIV Diagnoses among Men who have Sex with Men

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) were the population first affected by HIV in BC and remain the population most affected by HIV in BC, as in many other regions of North America. The Public Health Agency of Canada estimated that in 2011, 45% of the 11,700 people with prevalent HIV infections in BC (i.e., living with HIV) were MSM (Table 35) as were 57% of the 380 people with incident (new) HIV infections (Table 34). Community surveys of MSM in venues have found an HIV prevalence of 14% and 18% in Victoria (2007)⁷ and Vancouver (2008)⁸ respectively. It is clear that MSM are disproportionately represented among new HIV diagnoses in BC compared to other males. To provide context to the HIV trends observed among MSM, estimates to the size of the MSM population in BC are needed. Recent work by investigators of the Momentum study has estimated the MSM population in Metro Vancouver to be between 22,100 and 45,800.⁹

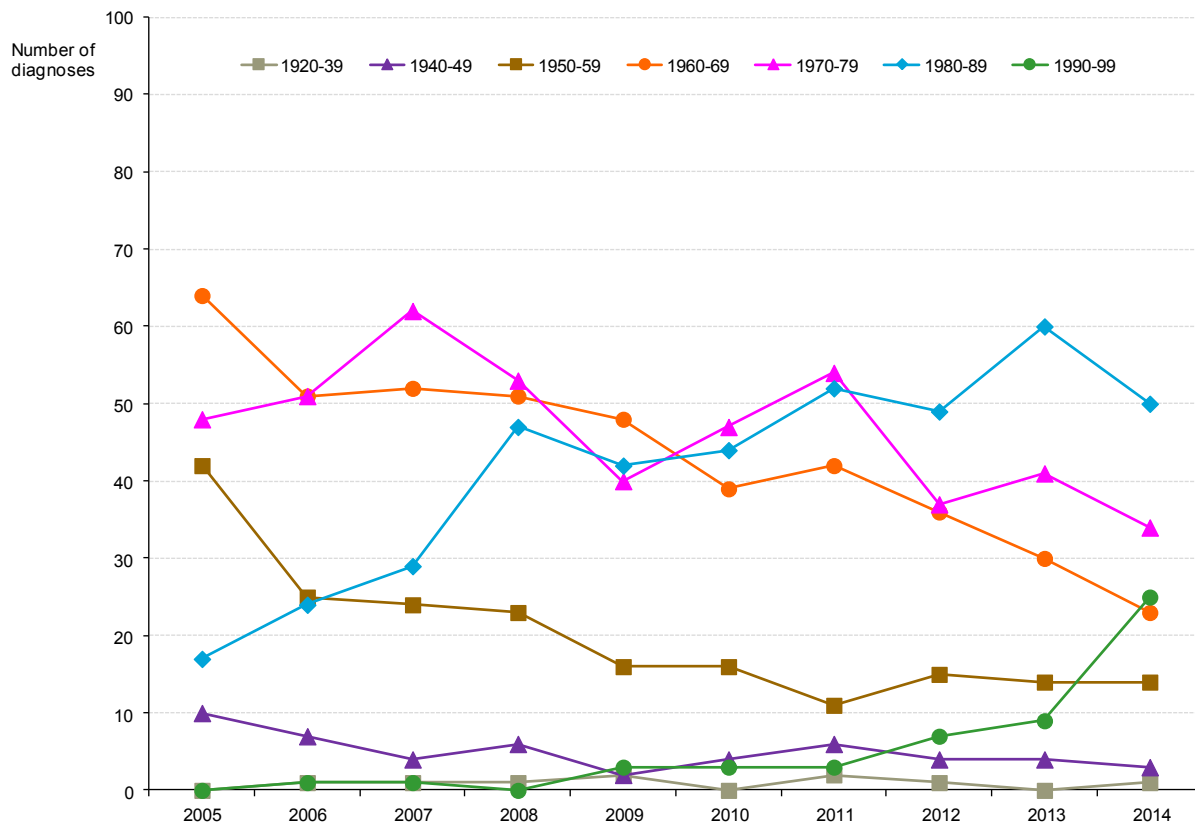
There are many factors that have led to the current epidemic of HIV among MSM in BC, ranging from social factors (such as stigma and discrimination related to sexual orientation), to community factors (such as access to appropriate, safe health services), to individual factors (such as changes in uptake of HIV medications, sexual behaviours, and use of prevention measures including condoms).¹⁰ The recognition of the complexity of the epidemic among MSM has led internationally to an increased emphasis on renewing the public health response to HIV among MSM by adopting broader approaches to HIV prevention, including sexual health and determinants-based approaches.^{11, 12}

Overall, the trend in new HIV diagnoses among MSM appears to be declining slightly but not to the same extent as in other exposure categories (Figure 16). Accordingly, MSM comprise a greater proportion of all new HIV diagnoses in BC. In 2014, 57.5% (150 cases) of all new HIV diagnoses were among MSM and 1.3% (2 cases) of these MSM were identified as having injected drugs (MSM/PWID) which was the lowest proportion since 2005 (Table 19).

17. New HIV diagnoses among MSM in BC by age group, 2005 to 2014



18. New HIV diagnoses among MSM in BC by birth cohort, 2005 to 2014



19. Percentage of new MSM HIV diagnoses who inject drugs in BC, 2005 to 2014

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>No. of MSM Diagnoses</i>	181	160	173	181	153	153	170	149	158	150
MSM/PWID	7.7	9.4	5.8	3.3	8.5	4.6	7.1	2.7	4.4	1.3

Of the 150 new HIV diagnoses among MSM in 2014, 33.3% (50 cases) were under the age of 30 years, 28.0% (42 cases) were aged 30-39 years, 32.7% (49 cases) were aged 40-59 years, and 6.0% (9 cases) were aged 60 years or older. It is important to consider that different generations of MSM in Vancouver have different experiences of the HIV epidemic due in part to the achievement of milestones such as the development of HIV treatment (i.e., highly active antiretroviral therapy or HAART), shifting community norms among gay/bisexual men, and broader socio-cultural and political factors which have reduced the stigma attached to being gay and to living with HIV.

When looking at new HIV diagnoses since 2004 by different generations, new HIV diagnoses have increased among MSM born between 1990-99 and decreased or remained stable in older cohorts born before 1990 (Figure 18). These changes in new diagnoses among generations of MSM reflect population dynamics and sexual activity, as younger men “age in” and older men “age out” of the epidemic. Notably, the cohort of men born between 1980-89 constitutes the first to enter adolescence/adulthood in the post-HAART era and hence the first to not witness first-hand the ill effects of AIDS – and its related mortality – experienced by the gay community in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Similar to reports of an increase in new HIV infections among young MSM in the US^{13, 14}, and Europe^{15, 16}, an increase was also observed in young MSM in BC in 2014. The proportion of new HIV diagnoses among MSM aged 20-24 years increased to 15.3% (23 cases) in 2014 from 10.8% (17 cases) in 2013. One reason for this may be the greater use of technology and the Internet to facilitate sexual encounters; studies have found elevated levels of sexual risk behaviours (i.e., unprotected anal intercourse, multiple anal intercourse partners, older sexual partners, and engaging in sexual activity at sex clubs or bathhouses) among young MSM who seek and meet sexual partners through the Internet.^{17, 18}

There is some indication that the profile of MSM by ethnicity is also shifting with more ethnic minorities represented in recent cases, particularly Asian MSM. In 2014, 55.3% (83 cases) of MSM newly diagnosed with HIV were Caucasian, 11.3% (17 cases) were Asian, 8.7% (13 cases) were Hispanic, 8.0% (12 cases) were South Asian, and 4.7% (7 cases) were Aboriginal males. Over the past years, the proportion of new HIV diagnoses in MSM from ethnic groups other than Caucasian has increased from 22.7% (41 cases) in 2005 to 36.7% (55 cases) in 2014 (Table 20).

20. Percentage of new HIV diagnoses among MSM in BC by ethnicity, 2005 to 2014

Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>No. of Diagnoses</i>	181	160	173	181	153	153	170	149	158	150
Caucasian	76.2	79.4	76.9	62.4	58.2	74.5	61.2	64.4	63.3	55.3
Aboriginal	3.9	6.9	2.3	5.5	8.5	2.0	5.9	3.4	3.2	4.7
Asian	7.7	5.6	6.4	11.6	12.4	13.1	15.3	18.1	12.7	11.3
South Asian	3.3	0.0	2.3	2.2	0.7	1.3	2.4	2.7	1.9	8.0
Hispanic	6.6	6.9	7.5	11.0	11.8	5.2	5.9	4.7	5.7	8.7
Black	1.1	0.6	1.2	1.1	2.6	0.0	2.9	1.3	2.5	2.0
Other *	0.0	0.6	1.7	3.3	2.6	2.6	1.2	2.7	1.3	2.0
Unknown	1.1	0.0	1.7	2.8	3.3	1.3	5.3	2.7	9.5	8.0

* Other - Arab/West Asian and other/mixed ethnicity

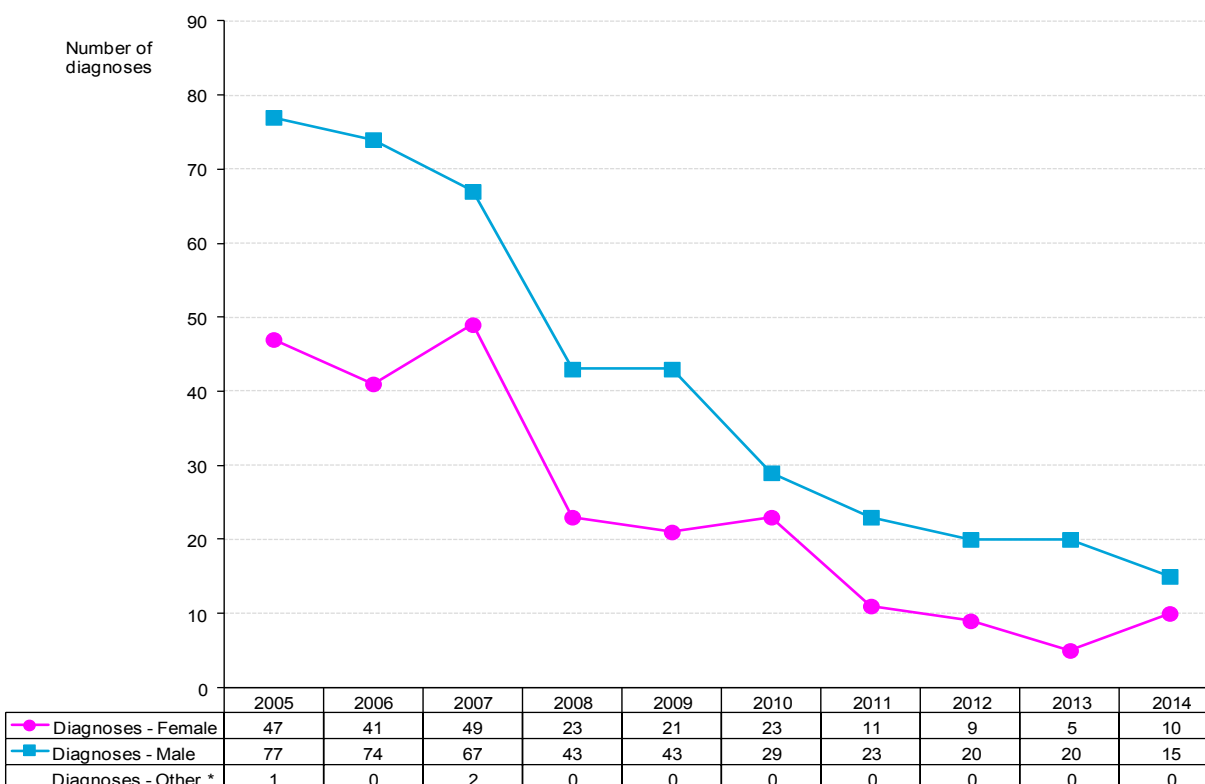
New HIV Diagnoses among People who Inject Drugs

The overall decrease in HIV diagnoses in BC is largely due to the dramatic decrease in the number of new HIV diagnoses among people who inject drugs (PWID) in BC starting in 2008 (Figure 14). In the years prior to the decrease, PWID comprised approximately 30% of all new HIV diagnoses in the province. In 2014, 9.6% (25 cases) of all new HIV diagnoses were among PWID.

There are several possible explanations for this decrease which are likely acting in concert to result in a net overall decrease in new diagnoses among PWID. The increasing uptake and duration of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) as well as provincial harm reduction programs (such as needle distribution programs, supervised injection sites, and other prevention programs) have helped lead to declines in HIV transmission among PWID. Survey data among drug users in Vancouver and Victoria also demonstrated shifts in drug using behaviour during this period, from injecting to smoking drugs which has likely been a significant factor. The continued decline in new HIV diagnoses among PWID is encouraging, and efforts to maintain and enhance current prevention programs for PWID are needed.¹⁹

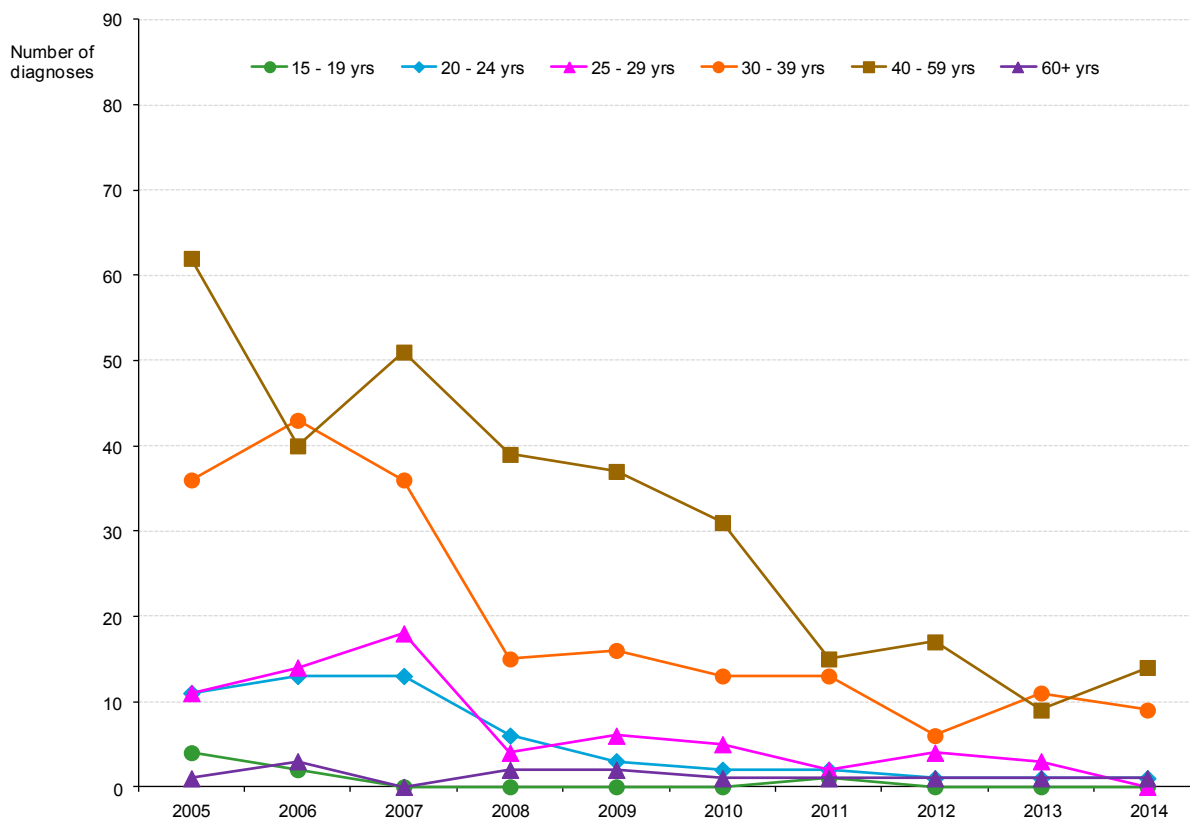
New HIV diagnoses among PWID continued to decrease in both males and females. In 2014, most of the new HIV diagnoses among PWID continue to be male (15 cases, 60.0%) (Figure 21) while the greatest number of new HIV diagnoses are in those between 30-59 years of age (23 cases, 92.0%) (Figure 22).

21. New HIV diagnoses among PWID in BC by gender, 2005 to 2014



* Other - transgender and gender unknown

22. New HIV diagnoses among PWID in BC by age group, 2005 to 2014



In 2014, the majority of new HIV diagnoses among PWID are among Aboriginal peoples (12 cases, 48.0%) and Caucasian people (8 cases, 32.0%) (Table 23).

23. Percentage of new HIV diagnoses among PWID in BC by ethnicity, 2005 to 2014

Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>No. of Diagnoses</i>	125	115	118	66	64	52	34	29	25	25
Caucasian	68.0	56.5	50.0	57.6	53.1	65.4	44.1	55.2	56.0	32.0
Aboriginal	28.8	27.0	36.4	31.8	34.4	28.8	47.1	41.4	20.0	48.0
Asian	0.8	2.6	0.0	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.9	0.0	4.0	0.0
South Asian	0.8	1.7	1.7	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	0.8	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	4.0	0.0
Black	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.6	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other *	0.8	0.9	1.7	3.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.0	9.6	8.5	4.5	7.8	0.0	2.9	3.4	16.0	20.0

* Other - Arab/West Asian and other/mixed ethnicity

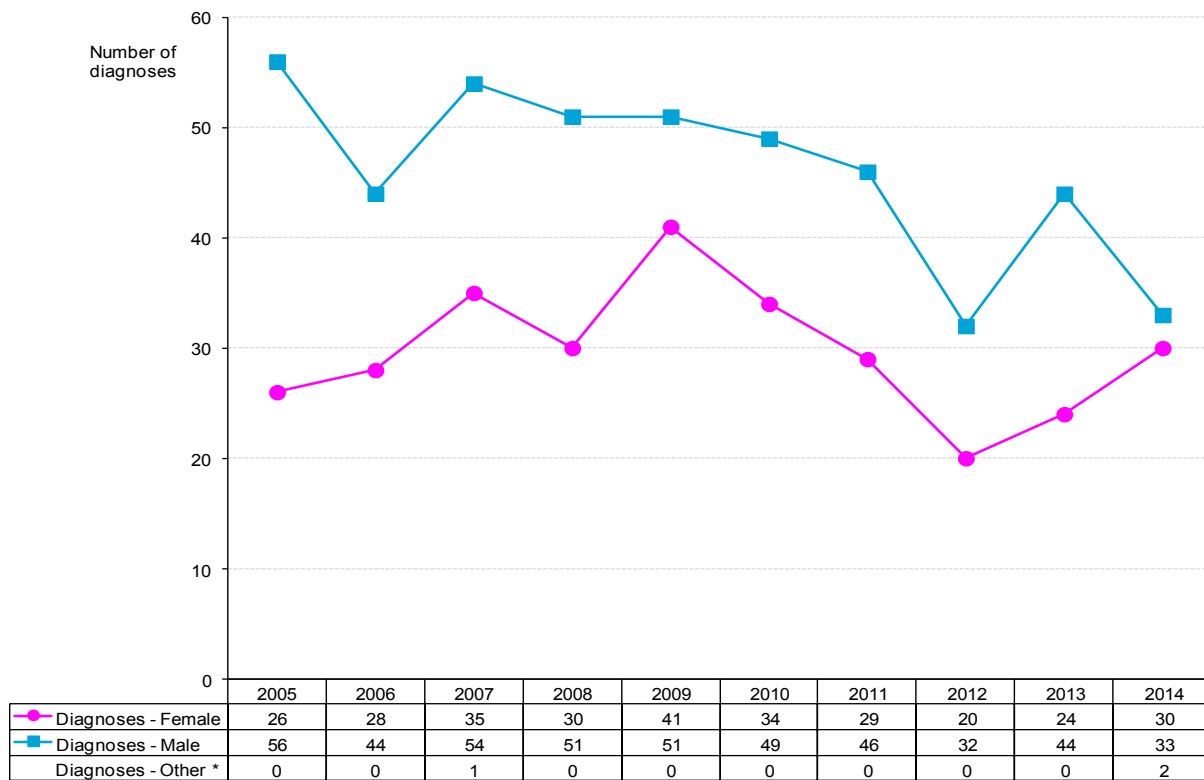
New HIV Diagnoses among People who acquire HIV through Heterosexual Contact

People who have acquired HIV through heterosexual contact (HET) represent the exposure category with the second greatest number of new HIV diagnoses in BC in 2014 (65 cases, 24.9%) (Figure 14). This population is heterogeneous, including for example immigrants from HIV endemic countries with a new HIV diagnosis in BC. It is also possible that this population includes individuals where risk factors for acquisition of HIV through other routes of exposure exists but was not identified during follow-up.

The number of new HIV diagnoses among people who have acquired HIV through heterosexual contact decreased slightly in 2014 to 65 cases from 68 cases in 2013. In 2014, the number of new HIV diagnoses among heterosexual males decreased to 33 cases (50.8%) from 44 cases (64.7%) in 2013. The number of new diagnoses increased among heterosexual females in 2014 to 30 cases (46.2%) from 24 cases (35.3%) in 2013 (Figure 24). Since 2005, the majority of new HIV diagnoses are observed in individuals between 40-59 years of age (Figure 25). In 2014, new HIV diagnoses among individuals aged 40-59 years decreased to 23 cases (35.4%) from 41 cases (60.3%) in 2013 while new HIV diagnoses among individuals aged 30-39 years of age increased to 24 cases (36.9%) in 2014 from 11 cases (16.2%) in 2013.

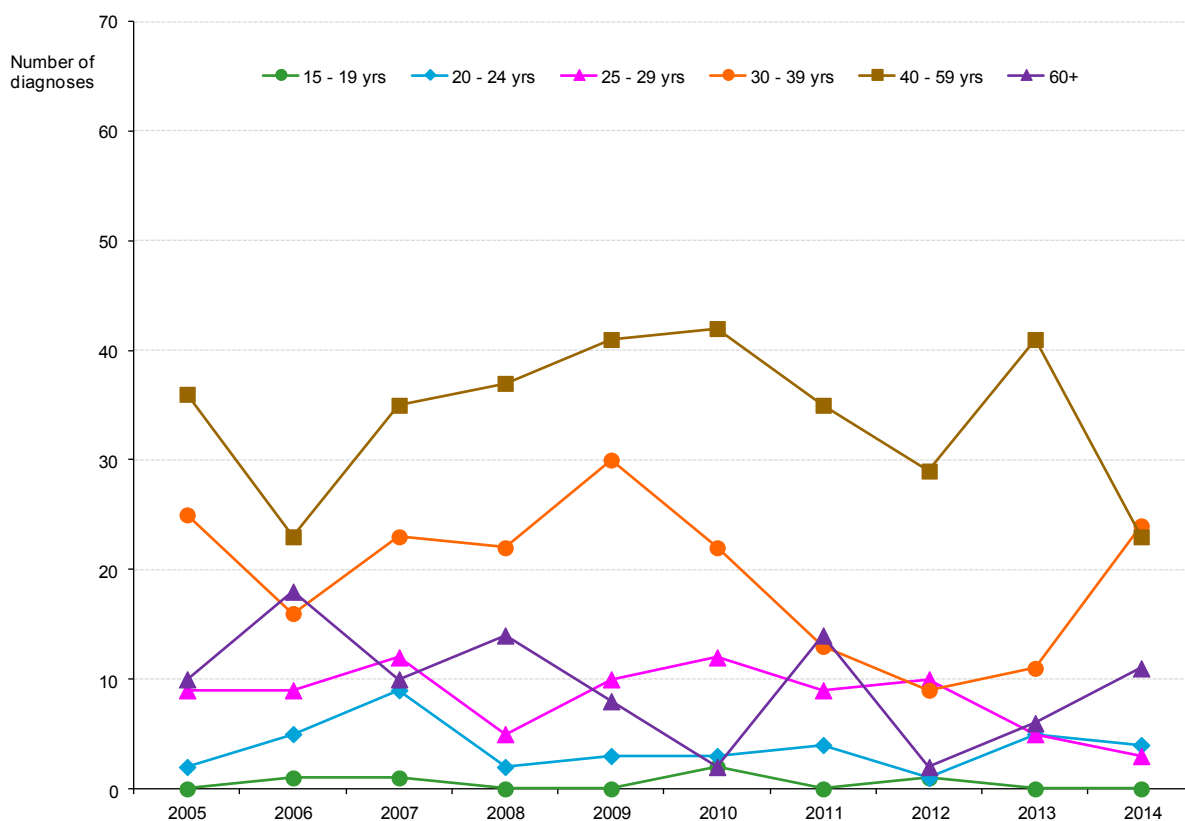
People from non Caucasian ethnicity comprise a greater proportion of new HIV diagnoses among people who have acquired HIV through heterosexual contact compared to other exposure categories. Similar to previous years, in 2014, most of the new HIV diagnoses in heterosexuals are among Caucasians (23 cases, 35.4%) followed by Aboriginal peoples (12 cases, 18.5%) and South Asians (10 cases, 15.4%) (Table 26).

24. New HIV diagnoses among HET in BC by gender, 2005 to 2014



* Other - transgender and gender unknown

25. New HIV diagnoses among HET in BC by age group, 2005 to 2014



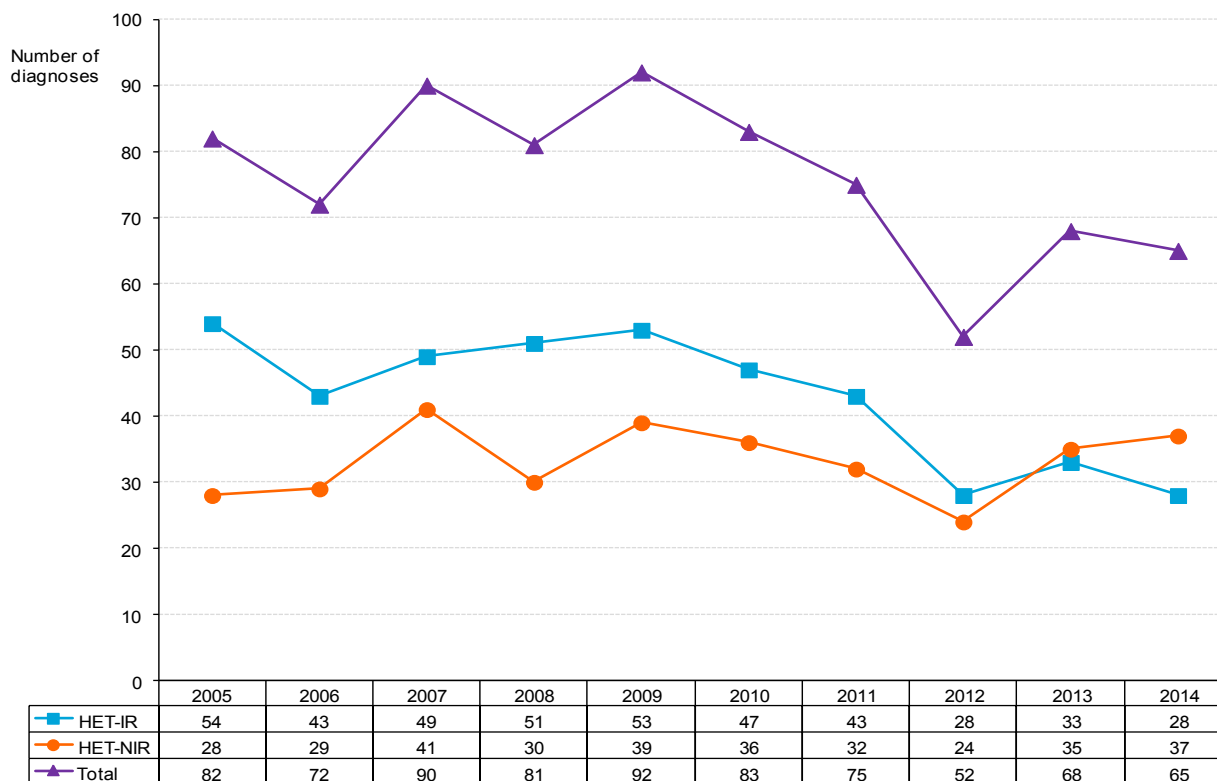
26. Percentage of new HIV diagnoses among HET in BC by ethnicity, 2005 to 2014

Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>No. of Diagnoses</i>	82	72	90	81	92	83	75	52	68	65
Caucasian	47.6	43.1	52.2	48.1	51.1	34.9	42.7	44.2	52.9	35.4
Aboriginal	19.5	18.1	15.6	17.3	17.4	24.1	21.3	25.0	23.5	18.5
Asian	3.7	6.9	5.6	8.6	6.5	8.4	8.0	5.8	7.4	13.8
South Asian	6.1	9.7	6.7	3.7	5.4	7.2	13.3	5.8	7.4	15.4
Hispanic	3.7	1.4	4.4	3.7	2.2	2.4	1.3	5.8	0.0	0.0
Black	14.6	16.7	8.9	13.6	13.0	14.5	8.0	9.6	4.4	9.2
Other *	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	2.4	2.7	3.8	0.0	0.0
Unknown	3.7	2.8	5.6	3.7	3.3	6.0	2.7	0.0	4.4	7.7

* Other - Arab/West Asian and other/mixed ethnicity

Over the past ten years, most new diagnoses in this population each year are in people who on follow-up are found to have at least one identified risk factor (e.g., born/residing in an HIV endemic country or having a sexual partner who is HIV positive). In 2014, 43.1% (28 cases) of new diagnoses among people who acquired HIV through heterosexual contact had at least one identified risk factor (e.g., born/residing in an HIV endemic country or having a sexual partner who is HIV positive) (Figure 27).

27. New HIV diagnoses among HET in BC by identified risk factor, 2005 to 2014



HET-IR - heterosexual contact with at least one other risk factor identified
HET-NIR - heterosexual contact with no other risk factor identified

HIV in Pregnancy

In this report, we present data from two information sources to describe HIV infection among pregnant women in BC: data from prenatal HIV testing and data from the Oak Tree Clinic (OTC). The OTC provides antenatal care directly or indirectly to essentially all pregnant women with HIV infection in BC. There are rare cases that are not reported to the OTC until after delivery and these data are included in this report.

There are important differences between these two data sources that need to be understood in order to interpret the data correctly:

- Prenatal HIV tests – The number of women having at least one prenatal HIV test per year are assigned to the year in which the HIV test was performed and these data include all pregnant women (including women who do and do not have a live birth). These data come from laboratory and surveillance data which have established limitations to data quality (see Technical Appendix for details).
- Surveillance data collated by the Oak Tree Clinic – Includes pregnant women accessing care who have a live birth. The year assigned is based on the infant’s year of birth. These data come from clinical data abstraction for women for whom the OTC provides direct or indirect antenatal HIV care or for those that are reported following delivery (estimated at close to complete coverage of all pregnant women with HIV infection in BC).

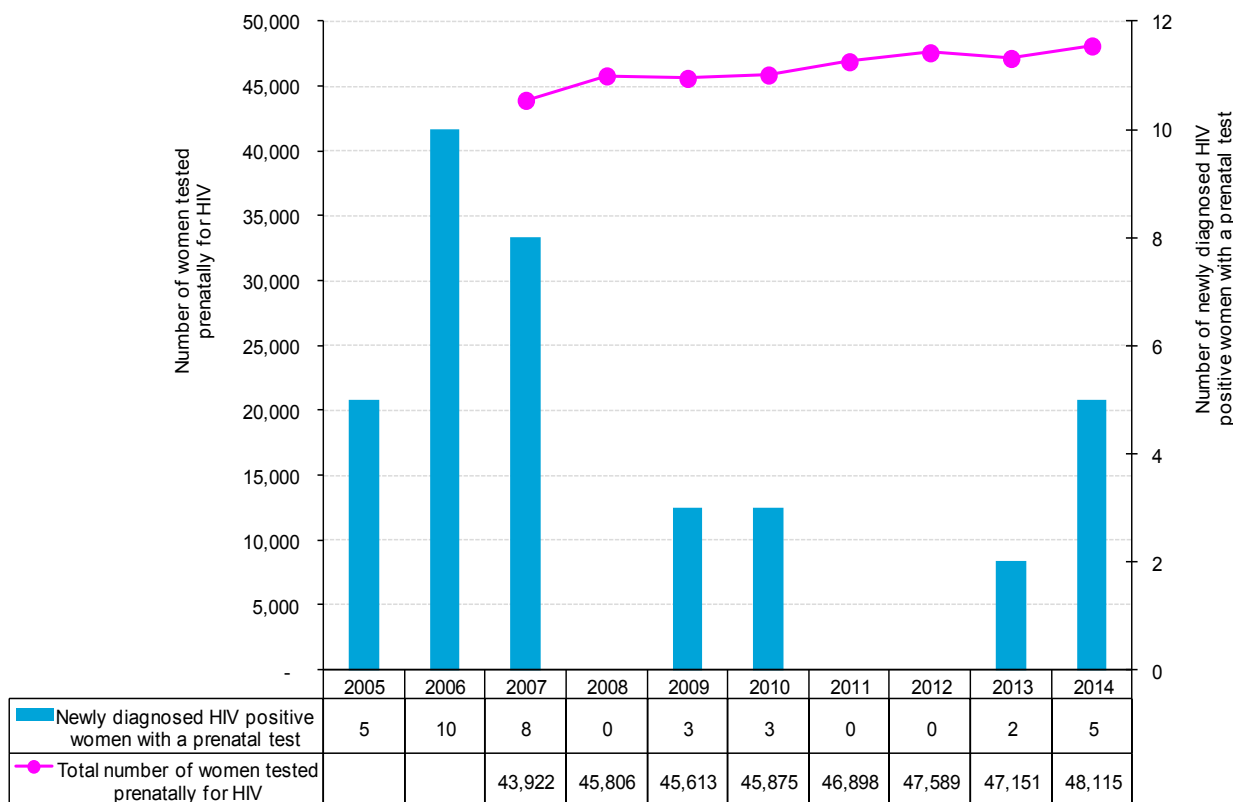
For these reasons, these two data sources are not directly comparable. However, taken together these data provide a more comprehensive overview of HIV in pregnancy in BC.

Prenatal HIV Testing

In 2014, 48,115 women were tested prenatally for HIV. Overall the number of women being tested prenatally each year in BC is increasing slightly.

Between 2005 and 2014, 36 women were newly diagnosed as HIV positive through prenatal screening. The number of women diagnosed with HIV through prenatal screening decreased after 2007 and remains low (Figure 28). There were five women newly diagnosed with HIV in 2014 through prenatal screening.

28. Women newly diagnosed with HIV as part of a prenatal test panel in BC, 2005 to 2014



Information source for the number of women tested prenatally for HIV is the BC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory (BCPHMRL) located at the BC Centre for Disease Control. Prenatal test data are not available prior to 2007.

Provincial Surveillance Data Collated by the Oak Tree Clinic

Pregnant Women with HIV

The Oak Tree Clinic (OTC) at BC Children’s and Women’s Hospital directly or indirectly provides antenatal care for pregnant women with HIV infection and their children, including antenatal highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) for the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.

In the absence of antenatal HAART, the transmission rate of HIV to infants born to HIV positive women is estimated at 25%. Between 2005 and 2014, 255 HIV positive pregnant women having live births accessed care at OTC, ranging from 18 to 30 women per year.

The majority of women were diagnosed with HIV before conception or delivery (253/255, 99.2%). Of these 253 women, 245 (96.8%) received antenatal HAART prior to delivery and HIV was not diagnosed in any infants born to these women (transmission rate 0% among women accessing antenatal HAART) (Table 29).

29. HIV positive pregnant women having live births and accessing care at Oak Tree Clinic, 2005 to 2014 (based on infant’s year of birth)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
HIV+ pregnant women with live births accessed care at OTC	27	28	30	29	21	23	30	24	18	25
Diagnosed before delivery, received antenatal HAART	24	26	27	28	20	23	30	24	18	25
Diagnosed before delivery, did not receive antenatal HAART	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Diagnosed at or after delivery	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Perinatally Acquired HIV

From 2005 to 2014, perinatally acquired HIV infection was diagnosed in two infants born in BC (2006 and 2008) to women who did not receive antenatal HAART prior to delivery.

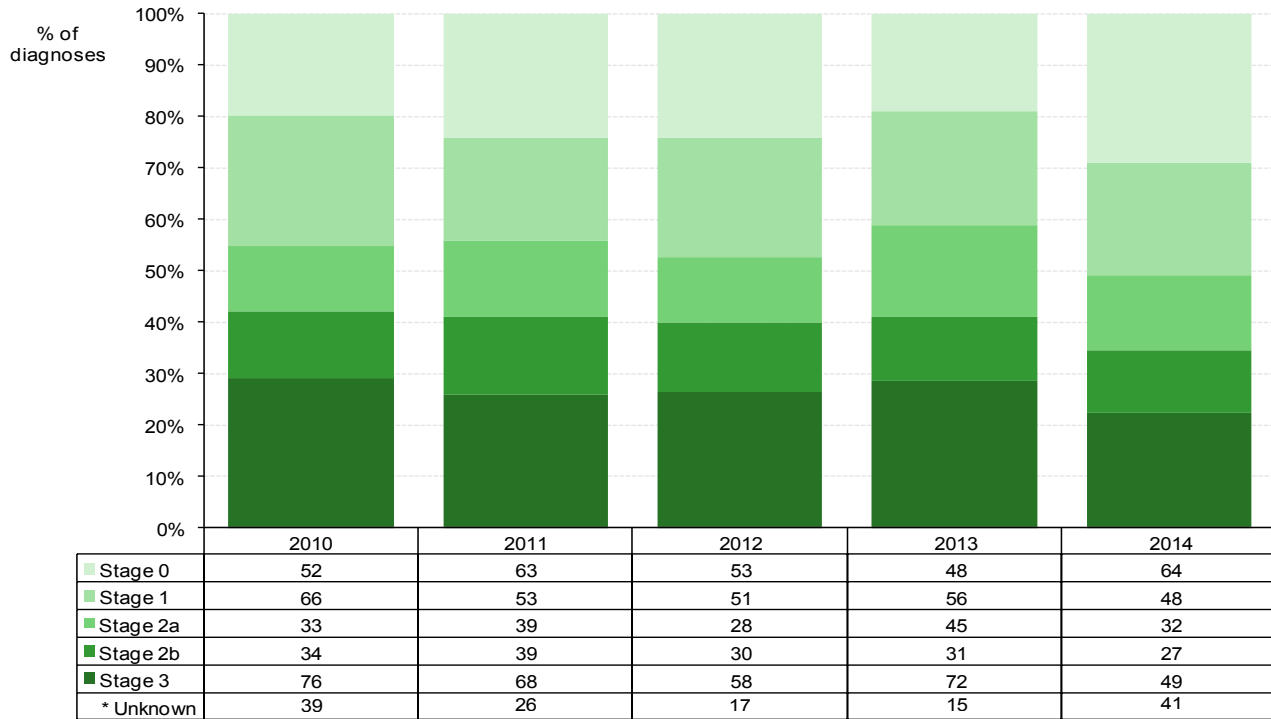
Stage of Infection at Time of HIV Diagnosis

Without treatment, the immune system of an individual diagnosed with HIV infection will progressively weaken. Since HIV is a progressive infection, individuals can be diagnosed weeks to years after infection thus can be at different stages of HIV infection at time of diagnosis. Understanding trends in the stage of infection at HIV diagnosis provides insights into the timeliness of engagement in and access to HIV testing following infection. For these reasons, the stage of infection at which individuals living with HIV are diagnosed is a key indicator for monitoring progress of the provincial HIV strategy released in 2012.²⁰ As routine testing is promoted and implemented, a decreasing proportion of individuals diagnosed with advanced stages of HIV infection is anticipated.

Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV are classified into stages of infection based on various laboratory tests for HIV, prior test history, and CD4+ cell count (see Technical Appendix for details).

Early stages of HIV infection (i.e., acute and recent; stages 0 and 1; individuals with high CD4+ counts at time of diagnosis) increased to 42.9% (112/261 cases) of new HIV diagnoses in 2014 from 39.0% (104/267 cases) in 2013. Late stage HIV infection (i.e., stage 3; individuals with low CD4+ counts or an AIDS diagnosis) decreased to 18.8% (49 cases) of new HIV diagnoses in 2014 from 27.0% (72 cases) in 2013 (Figure 30).

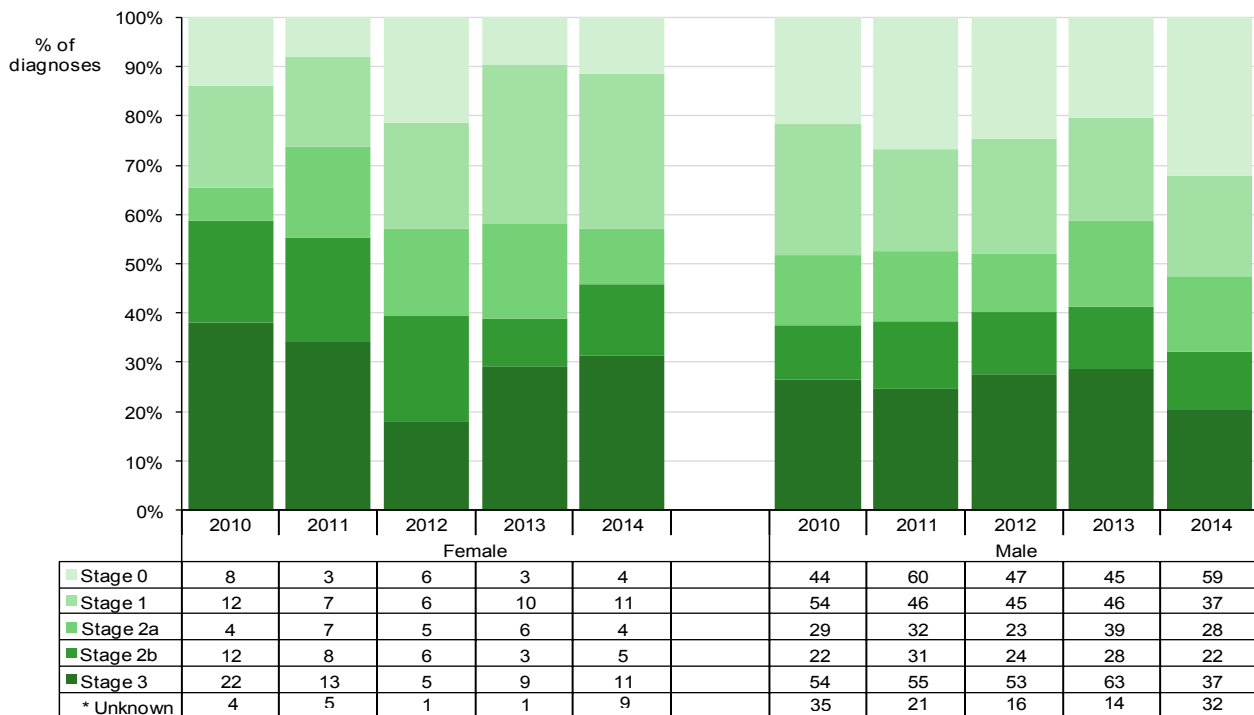
30. Stage of infection at time of HIV diagnosis in BC, 2010 to 2014



* Percentage calculations do not include counts with stage unknown

In 2014, the proportion of early stages among males increased to 44.7% (96/215 cases) from 38.7% (91/235 cases) in 2013. This increase is predominantly due to an increase in routine testing for acute HIV infection, particularly among high prevalence populations, such as gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM). The proportion of early stages among females decreased slightly to 38.7% (15/44 cases) in 2014 from 40.6% (13/32 cases) in 2013 (Figure 31).

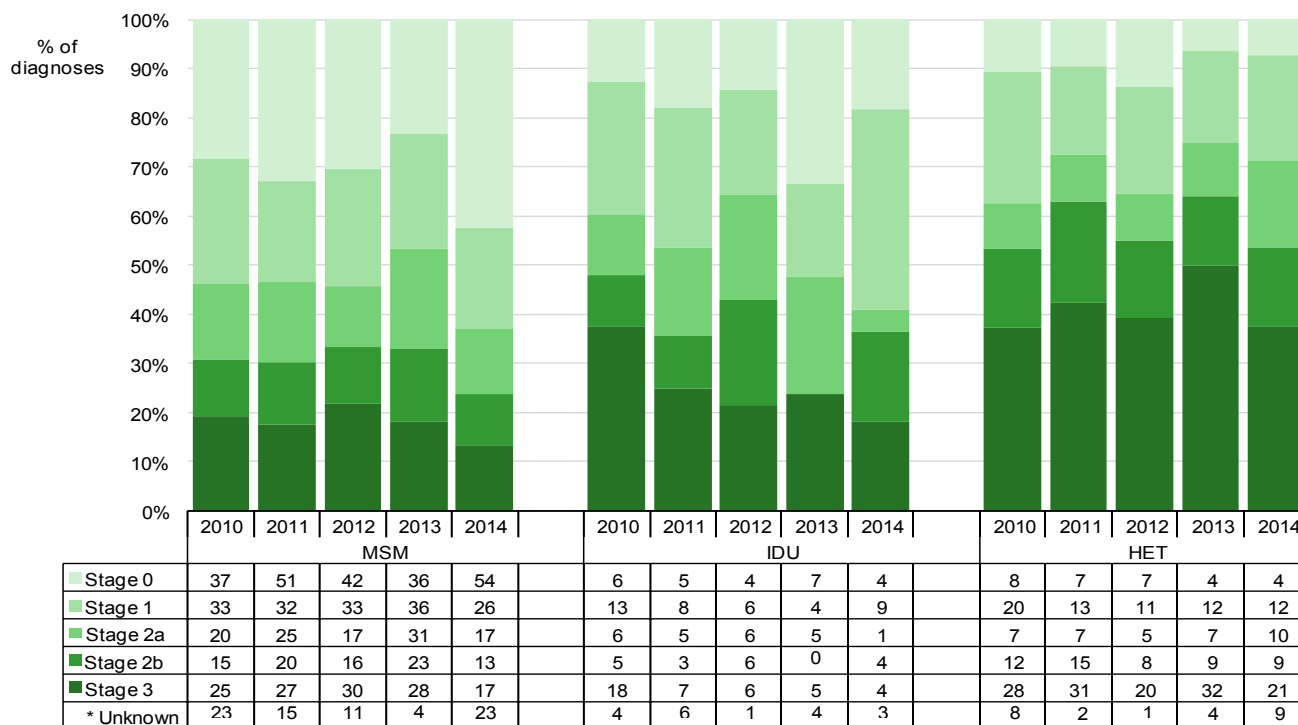
31. Stage of infection at time of diagnosis in BC by gender, 2010 to 2014



* Percentage calculations do not include counts with stage unknown

The proportion of early stages among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) and among people who inject drugs (PWID) increased in 2014 compared to 2013 and remained stable among people who acquired HIV through heterosexual contact (HET). The proportion of late stage infection among these three exposure categories decreased in 2014 (Figure 32).

32. Stage of infection at time of HIV diagnosis in BC by exposure category, 2010 to 2014



MSM - men who have sex with men

IDU - people who inject drug

HET - heterosexual contact

* Percentage calculations do not include counts with stage unknown

Immigration of Individuals with HIV

In 2002, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) included HIV testing as part of the immigration medical examination (IME) required for all immigration applications, Convention refugees, and refugee claimants. As of September 2004, CIC notifies Clinical Prevention Services at BCCDC of individuals who undergo an IME outside of Canada, test positive for HIV, and indicate BC as their intended province of residence. Individuals who undertake their IME within BC and test positive for HIV are reported to BCCDC through the routine surveillance system.

The number of HIV positive individuals immigrating into BC varies annually and may reflect global migration patterns. In 2014, a total of 54 HIV positive immigrants arrived in BC, 18 (33.3%) coming from countries where HIV is considered to be endemic (Table 33).

33. Immigration-related HIV diagnoses from endemic and non-endemic countries, 2005 to 2014

Country of Birth	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>No. of Immigrants</i>	25	53	43	47	41	20	36	51	49	54
Endemic	28.0	41.5	23.3	36.2	46.3	25.0	38.9	33.3	22.4	33.3
Non-Endemic	56.0	49.1	62.8	40.4	39.0	50.0	44.4	37.3	30.6	44.4
Unspecified	16.0	9.4	14.0	23.4	14.6	25.0	16.7	29.4	46.9	22.2

Estimates of HIV Incidence and Prevalence

The HIV surveillance data presented in this report are based on individuals with a new positive HIV test (or new HIV diagnosis). Individuals who have undiagnosed HIV infection and have not yet tested are not captured in the data. Furthermore, a person with a new positive test for HIV can be diagnosed months or years after the time that they became infected with HIV. For these reasons, HIV surveillance data based on new positive HIV tests do not provide accurate information on HIV incidence (i.e., the number of new infections in a one-year period, both diagnosed and undiagnosed) or prevalence (i.e., the number of people living with HIV). Knowing incidence and prevalence is important in order to monitor the HIV epidemic and to guide the development and evaluation of HIV-related prevention, treatment, care, and support programs.

Based on HIV surveillance data and using multiple estimation methods, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) generates periodic national estimates of HIV incidence and prevalence. To arrive at national estimates^{21, 22}, specific estimates for provinces, including BC, are generated and aggregated.

In BC, estimates of the total number of incident or new HIV infections in 2011 was 380 (range 260-500 cases), a decrease from 408 (280-540 cases) in 2008 (Table 34). The estimate of prevalent HIV infections or the total number of people living with HIV in the province at the end of 2011 was 11,700 (range 9,400-14,000 cases), an increase from 11,040 (8,880-13,200 cases) at the end of 2008 (Table 35).

34. Estimated number of incident HIV infections in BC by exposure category, 2008 & 2011

Exposure Category	2008			2011		
	Number	Range	% of Total	Number	Range	% of Total
MSM	195	130 - 260	48%	206	140 - 270	54%
MSM-PWID	15	10 - 20	4%	12	10 - 20	3%
PWID	105	70 - 140	26%	60	40 - 80	16%
HET (non-endemic)	83	50 - 120	20%	89	60 - 120	23%
HET (endemic)	10	< 20	2%	13	10 - 20	3%
Other		<10	---		<10	---
All	408	280 - 540		380	260 - 500	

In 2011, gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) continued to comprise the greatest proportion of incident and prevalent HIV infections, followed by people who inject drugs (PWID) among people living with HIV, and heterosexual persons (from countries where HIV is not endemic) among new HIV infections.²³

35. Estimated number of prevalent HIV infections in BC by exposure category, 2008 & 2011

Exposure Category	2008			2011		
	Number	Range	% of Total	Number	Range	% of Total
MSM	4,540	3,580 - 5,500	41%	4,950	3,900 - 6,000	42%
MSM-PWID	350	240 - 460	3%	370	260 - 480	3%
PWID	3,640	2,780 - 4,500	33%	3,640	2,780 - 4,500	31%
HET (non-endemic)	2,035	1,570 - 2,500	18%	2,240	1,680 - 2,800	19%
HET (endemic)	345	240 - 450	3%	370	240 - 500	3%
Other	130	80 - 180	1%	130	90 - 170	1%
All	11,040	8,880 - 13,200		11,700	9,400 - 14,000	

MSM - men who have sex with men

PWID - people who inject drugs

HET (non-endemic) - heterosexual contact with a person who is either HIV-infected or at risk for HIV or heterosexual as the only identified risk

HET (endemic) - heterosexual contact and origin from a country where HIV is endemic

Other - recipients of blood transfusion or clotting factor, perinatal, or occupational transmission

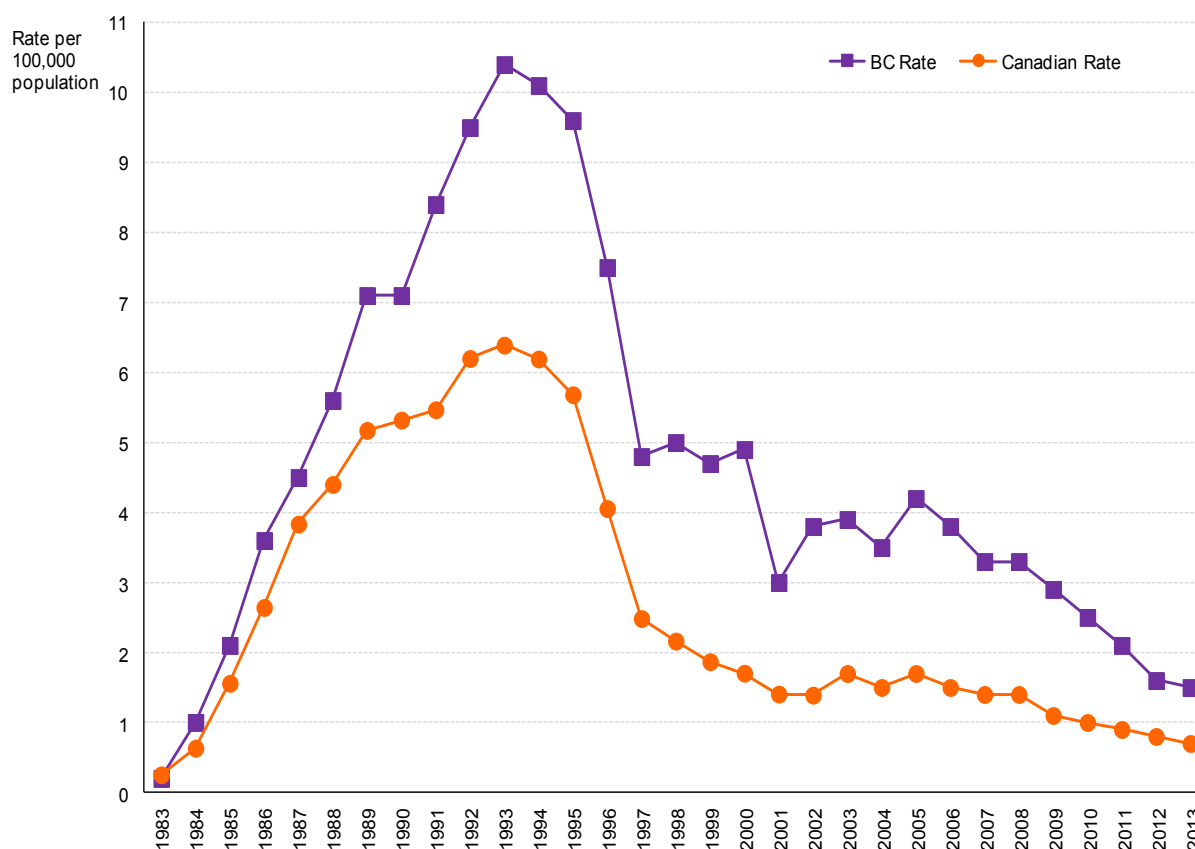
AIDS by Region, Gender, and Age

The AIDS surveillance system relies on clinicians reporting the case to Clinical Prevention Services at BCCDC. In BC, the majority of AIDS cases are reported through the Provincial HIV Treatment Program at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS which has comprehensive clinical data on all individuals accessing highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) in BC.

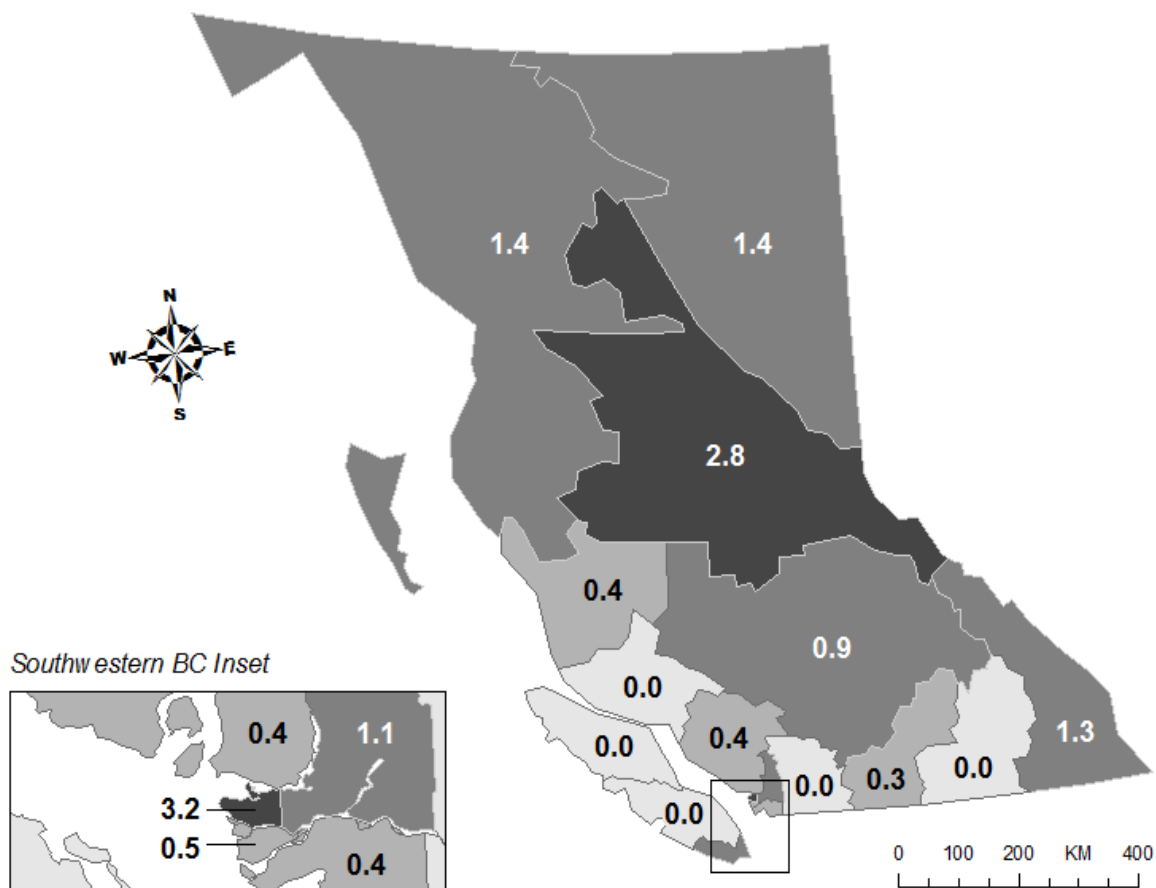
The rate of AIDS and the number of AIDS case reports per year have decreased from a peak in 1993 due primarily to advances in HIV treatment which includes HAART. The rate of AIDS in BC continued to decrease in 2013 to 1.5 (68 cases) from 1.6 (74 cases) per 100,000 population in 2012 and remains twice as high as the Canadian rate (Figure 36). This difference from the national rate may represent greater ascertainment of AIDS cases in BC due to reporting by the Provincial HIV Treatment Program. Rates of AIDS vary by Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA) per year and are influenced by the small number of cases in most regions. In 2013, the highest rate was reported in Vancouver HSDA (Figure 37).

The rate of AIDS among males continues to be greater than the rate among females which likely reflects the distribution of HIV between males and females in BC (Figure 39). Rates among males have been gradually decreasing while rates in females overall appear relatively stable. The majority of new AIDS case reports are in people of Caucasian ethnicity. As with new HIV diagnoses, Aboriginal peoples continue to be disproportionately represented among AIDS cases in BC, comprising 8.8% (6 cases) of new cases in 2013 (Table 44) but only 5% of the total provincial population.²⁴

36. AIDS case reports in BC and Canada, 1983 to 2013

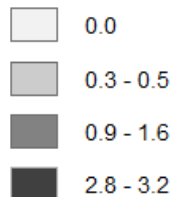


37. AIDS case reports in BC by health service delivery area, 2013



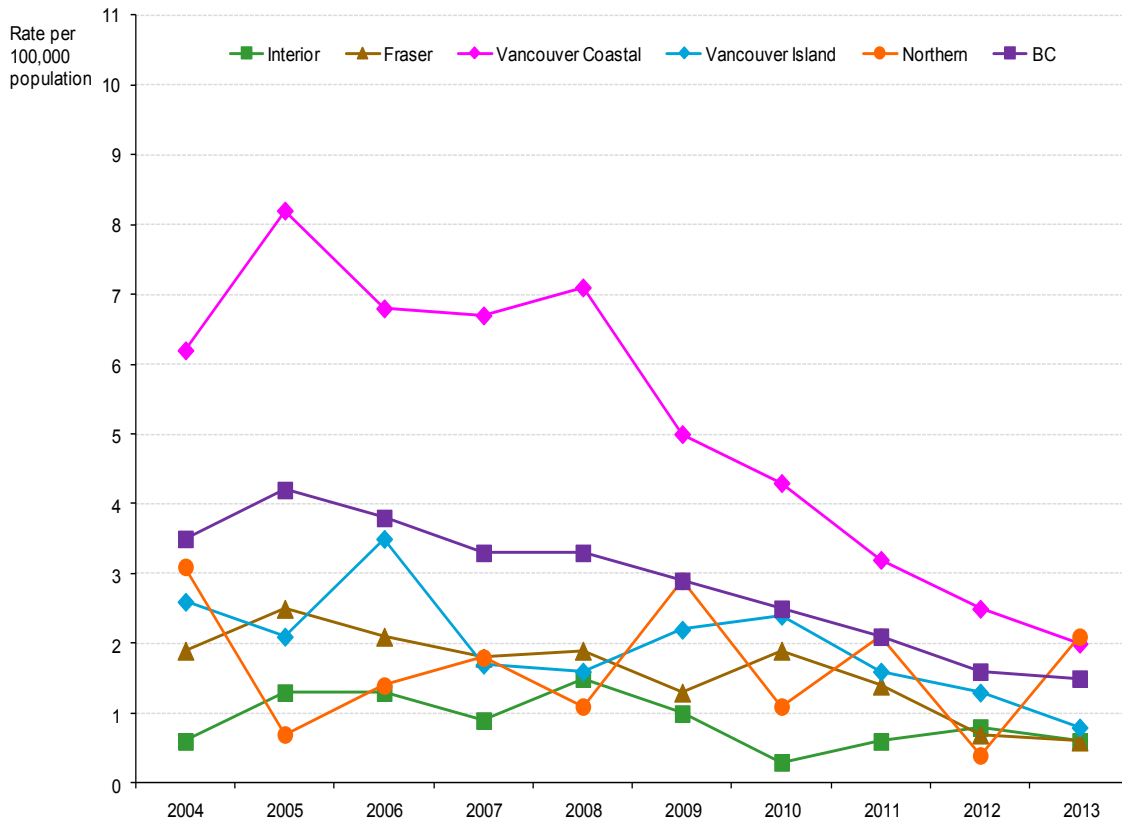
ID	Health Service Delivery Area	Cases	Rate
11	East Kootenay	1	1.3
12	Kootenay Boundary	0	0.0
13	Okanagan	1	0.3
14	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	2	0.9
21	Fraser East	0	0.0
22	Fraser North	7	1.1
23	Fraser South	3	0.4
31	Richmond	1	0.5
32	Vancouver	21	3.2
33	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	1	0.4
41	South Vancouver Island	6	1.6
42	Central Vancouver Island	0	0.0
43	North Vancouver Island	0	0.0
51	Northwest	1	1.4
52	Northern Interior	4	2.8
53	Northeast	1	1.4

Rate per 100,000 population by HSDA

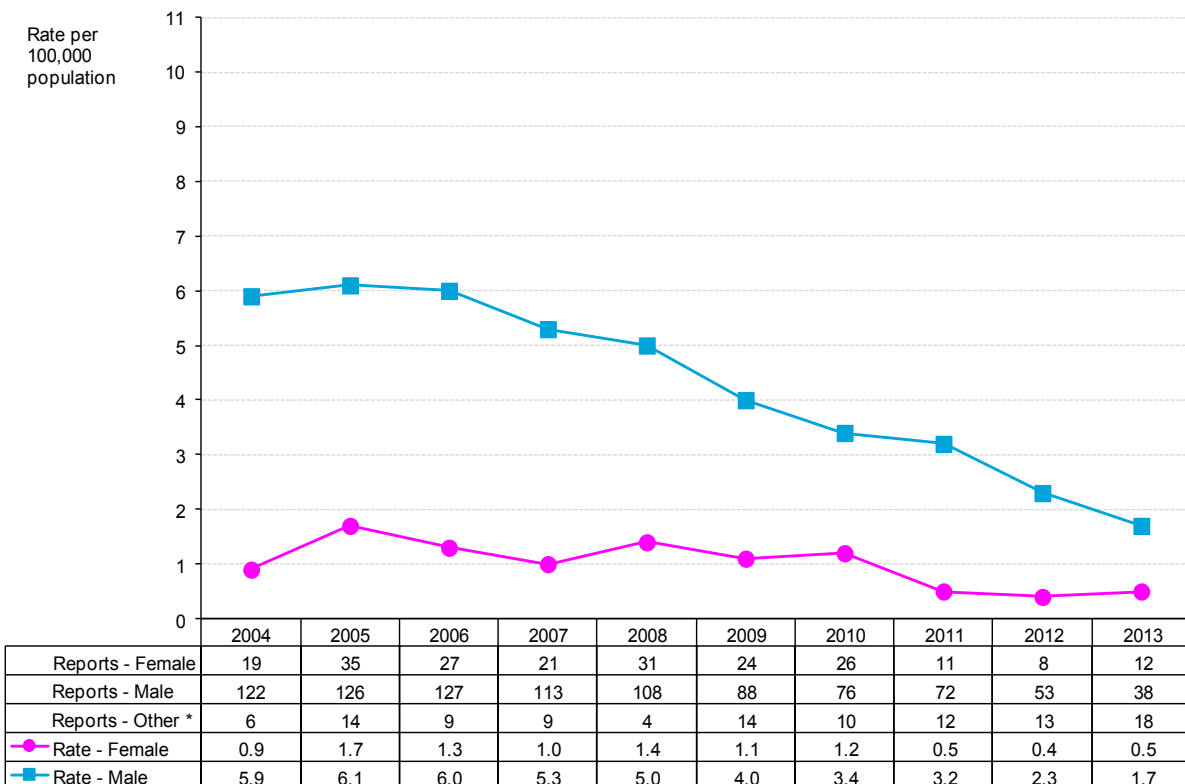


Rates calculated with population estimates released by BC Stats

38. AIDS case reports in BC by health authority, 2004 to 2013

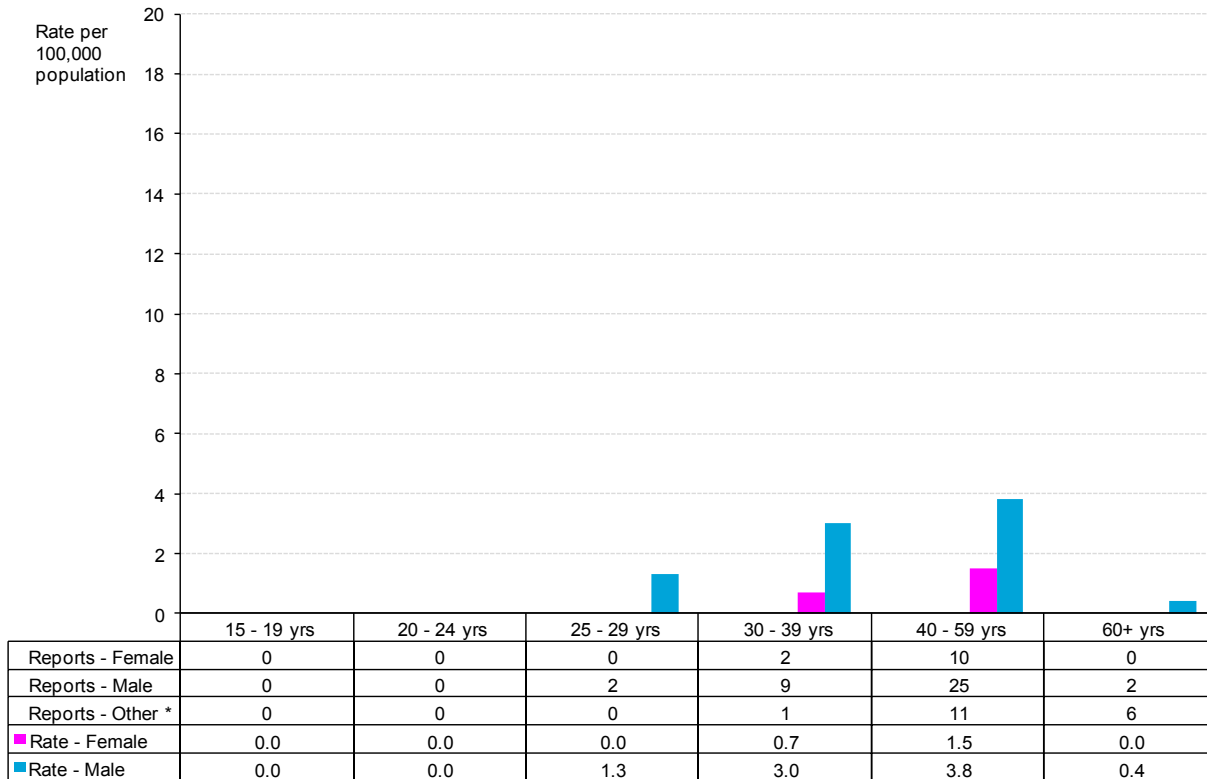


39. AIDS case reports in BC by gender, 2004 to 2013



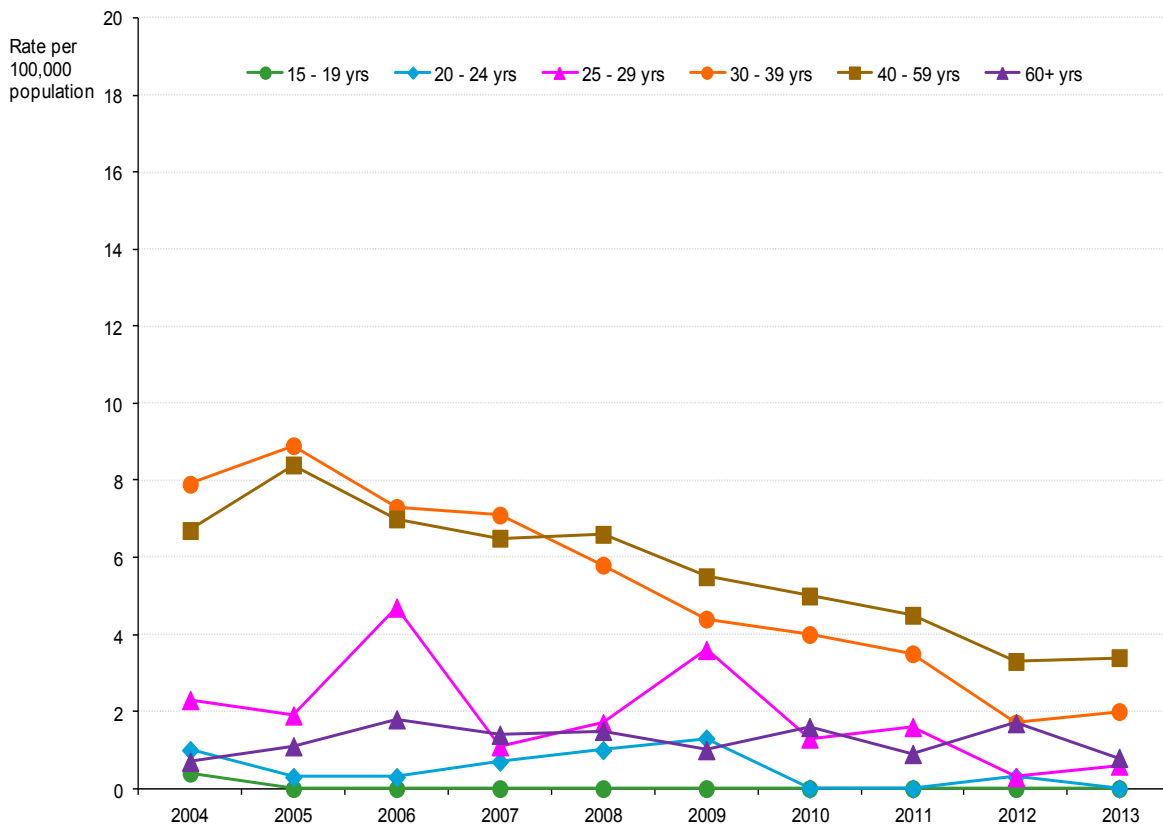
* Other - transgender and gender unknown

40. AIDS case reports in BC by age group and gender, 2013

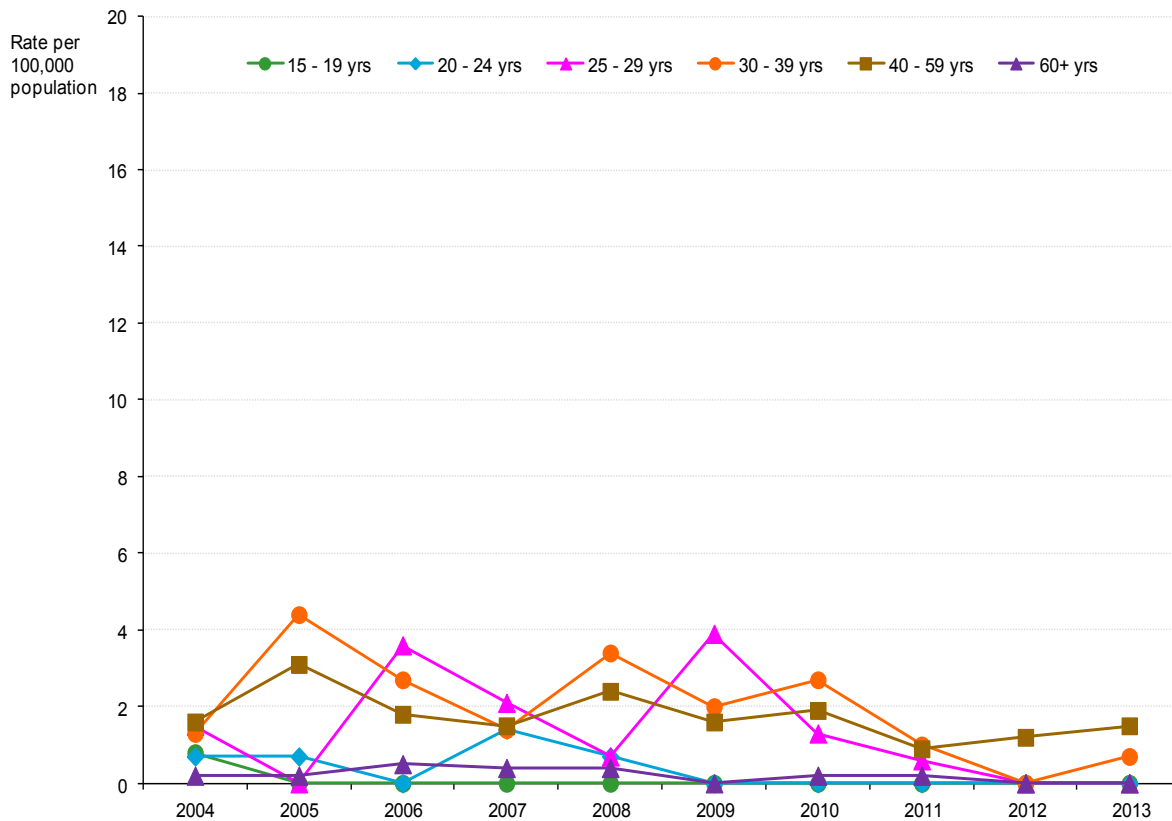


* Other - transgender and gender unknown

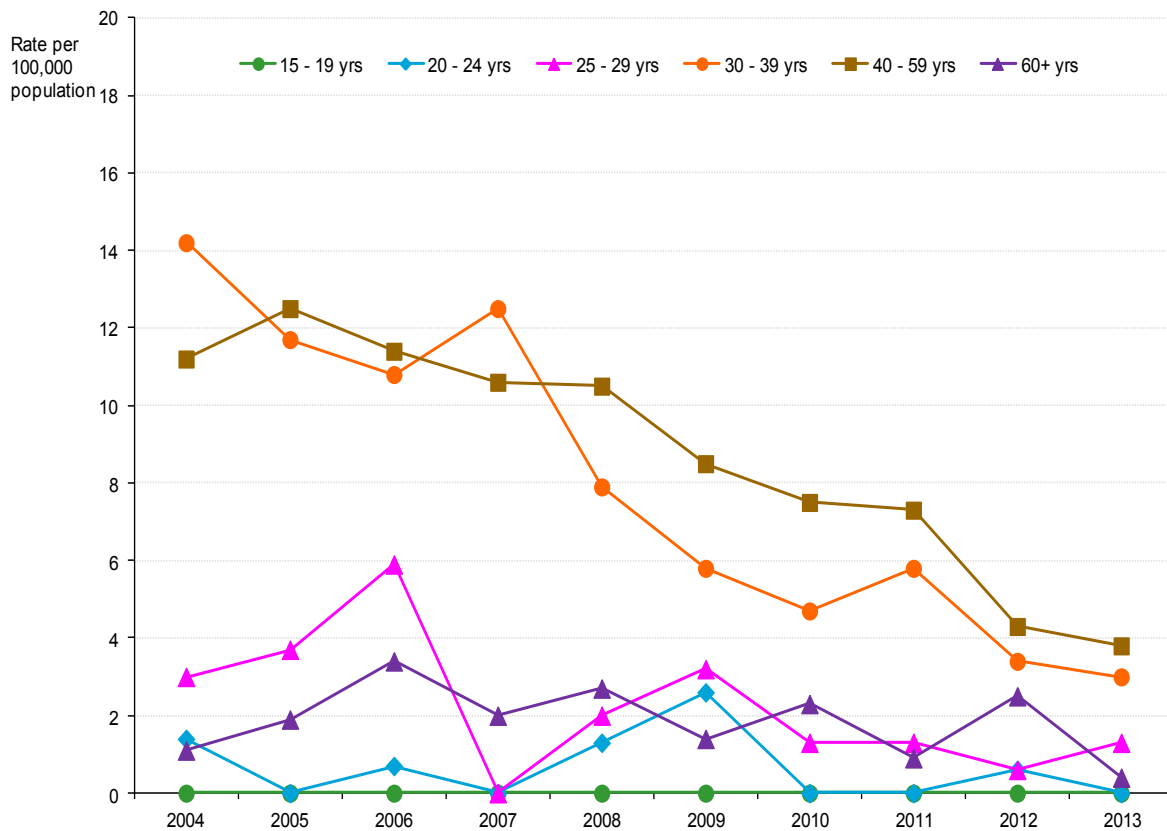
41. AIDS case reports in BC by age group - total, 2004 to 2013



42. AIDS case reports in BC by age group - female, 2004 to 2013



43. AIDS case reports in BC by age group - male, 2004 to 2013



AIDS by Ethnicity

44. Percentage of AIDS case reports in BC by ethnicity - total, 2004 to 2013

Ethnicity	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<i>No. of Diagnoses</i>	147	175	163	143	143	126	112	95	74	68
Caucasian	44.9	46.9	47.9	49.0	51.7	46.8	50.9	38.9	44.6	36.8
Aboriginal	12.9	13.1	12.9	14.7	10.5	18.3	16.1	10.5	6.8	8.8
Asian	5.4	2.3	0.6	2.1	2.8	4.8	5.4	7.4	8.1	7.4
South Asian	1.4	1.1	0.6	2.1	2.1	0.8	0.9	5.3	4.1	0.0
Hispanic	0.0	2.3	1.8	2.8	2.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.4	2.9
Black	4.8	2.3	3.7	2.1	4.9	1.6	2.7	4.2	1.4	5.9
Other *	1.4	0.0	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.4	0.0
Unknown	29.3	32.0	31.3	26.6	24.5	27.0	23.2	31.6	32.4	38.2

* Other - Arab/West Asian and other/mixed ethnicity

45. Percentage of AIDS case reports in BC by ethnicity - female, 2004 to 2013

Ethnicity	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<i>No. of Diagnoses</i>	19	35	27	21	31	24	26	11	8	12
Caucasian	42.1	37.1	40.7	42.9	45.2	37.5	46.2	45.5	25.0	50.0
Aboriginal	26.3	17.1	25.9	33.3	19.4	29.2	30.8	27.3	12.5	16.7
Asian	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	25.0
South Asian	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	12.5	0.0
Black	5.3	5.7	11.1	9.5	6.5	0.0	3.8	9.1	12.5	0.0
Other *	5.3	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	15.8	37.1	22.2	9.5	25.8	33.3	15.4	9.1	37.5	8.3

* Other - Arab/West Asian and other/mixed ethnicity

46. Percentage of AIDS case reports in BC by ethnicity - male, 2004 to 2013

Ethnicity	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<i>No. of Diagnoses</i>	122	126	127	113	108	88	76	72	53	38
Caucasian	47.5	54.8	52.8	54.0	55.6	56.8	59.2	44.4	58.5	50.0
Aboriginal	11.5	13.5	11.0	12.4	8.3	18.2	13.2	9.7	7.5	10.5
Asian	5.7	3.2	0.8	2.7	2.8	6.8	7.9	8.3	11.3	5.3
South Asian	1.6	0.8	0.8	2.7	2.8	1.1	1.3	6.9	5.7	0.0
Hispanic	0.0	3.2	2.4	3.5	3.7	1.1	0.0	1.4	0.0	5.3
Black	4.9	1.6	2.4	0.9	4.6	2.3	2.6	4.2	0.0	10.5
Other *	0.8	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.9	0.0
Unknown	27.9	23.0	28.3	23.9	21.3	13.6	15.8	23.6	15.1	18.4

* Other - Arab/West Asian and other/mixed ethnicity

AIDS Case Reports among Aboriginal Peoples

As with new HIV diagnoses, the majority of new AIDS case reports among Aboriginal peoples are in those who identify as First Nations (6 cases in 2013). Three or fewer new AIDS cases were reported per year among Métis and Inuit people between 2004 and 2013.

Mirroring the provincial AIDS rate (Figure 36), the rate of new AIDS case reports among First Nations people has decreased since 2007 (Figure 47). The recent reduction of people living with advanced HIV disease and AIDS highlights the success of improving access to HIV testing, treatment, and care.

Between 2004 and 2013, the rate of reported AIDS cases has been consistently higher among First Nations people in BC compared to the BC population overall. This may be due to systematic barriers for First Nations people to access HIV services including stigma, geographic and social isolation, racism, and poverty.²⁵

The AIDS rate in First Nations men has been consistently higher than the rate in women; however, this gap has been narrowing in recent years as the number of reported AIDS cases decreases (Figure 47).

47. AIDS case reports among First Nations people in BC by gender, 2004 to 2013



* Other - transgender and gender unknown

Rates based on First Nations population estimates from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

Endnotes

- 1 In this report, the term “new HIV diagnoses” is used instead of the term “persons testing newly positive for HIV” which was used in previous reports. Both terms are equivalent for surveillance purposes for describing cases.
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Contributors

Epidemiology & Surveillance Team Clinical Prevention Services

Dr. Jason Wong, Physician Epidemiologist
Elsie Wong, Federal Field Surveillance Officer (PHAC)
Sung Jae Lee, Surveillance Analyst
Dr. Theodora Consolacion, Epidemiologist

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of our many partners who without their support this report would not have been possible.

- Staff from the BC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory (BCPHMRL), located at BCCDC, for the collecting and compiling of HIV requisition data.
- Designated public health nurses in the Health Service Delivery Areas for data collection as part of follow-up to persons testing newly positive for HIV.
- Physicians, health care providers, and public health staff in BC for taking the time and effort to complete and submit case report forms.
- First Nations Health Authority for providing feedback to sections pertaining to First Nations people.
- BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS for their continued assistance in the reporting of new AIDS cases.
- Oak Tree Clinic at BC Children's and Women's Hospital for providing provincial surveillance data on HIV positive pregnant women having live births.
- Surveillance and Epidemiology Division, Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection Control, Public Health Agency of Canada for providing the national HIV and AIDS rates and the estimates of HIV incidence and prevalence.

Technical Appendix

Data Limitations

There are several key limitations to surveillance data which are important to understand in order to interpret surveillance data appropriately.

- The majority of surveillance data presented in this report are extracted from case report forms completed by either health care providers or public health nurses as part of the follow-up process (which includes partner notification, patient education, and referral to appropriate services). There is an expected reporting delay to receipt of these forms. For HIV data this affects the classification of cases by exposure category and ethnicity, resulting in a number of cases for the most recent year where this information is unknown. These numbers are not considered final until next year's report. For AIDS data, there is typically a one year reporting delay and thus data are presented for the previous year only.
- Surveillance trends can be affected by factors which do not represent a true increase or decrease in infection rates. For example, trends are influenced by patient or provider testing behaviours which may result in changes to the number of tests performed each year.
- Surveillance data are only reflective of the proportion of the population who test for HIV. Individuals with infections who have not tested would not be represented in surveillance data.
- Cases are classified by exposure category and ethnicity according to information elicited during follow-up from the case or their health care provider and under-reporting of this information may lead to misclassification.
- HIV is reported as the number of new HIV diagnoses and does not reflect the number of new HIV infections (i.e., HIV incidence) as individuals may test positive years after the time of HIV infection.
- The system of enhanced follow-up for HIV was established following the addition of HIV to the reportable diseases list in 2003 and has resulted in improved data quality in subsequent years (for details see "Interpretation of HIV Data" in the Additional Notes section of this Technical Appendix).
- Rates of new HIV diagnoses or AIDS cases among First Nations people are calculated with the numerator comprised of individuals with HIV or AIDS who self-identify as First Nations and the denominator comprised of individuals who are registered First Nations in BC.

Case Definitions

HIV and AIDS are listed as reportable diseases in the *Communicable Disease Regulation* (Schedule A) of the *Public Health Act*.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Adults, adolescents, and children \geq 18 months: Detection of HIV antibody by screening test (i.e., ELISA or point of care HIV test) followed by positive confirmatory test (i.e., Western blot or nucleic acid amplification test), or detection of HIV nucleic acid (RNA or DNA) or detection of p24 antigen with confirmation by neutralization assay, or isolation of HIV in culture.

Children < 18 months: Detection of HIV DNA by nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) on two separate samples collected at different times.

Stage of Infection at Time of HIV Diagnosis

Earlier diagnosis and start of antiretroviral therapy are associated with a reduction in morbidity and transmission while diagnosis in late stages are associated with poorer health outcomes and are potential missed opportunities for earlier engagement into treatment and care.^{26, 27}

In this report, stage of infection has been revised to reflect a new and more accurate method for estimating stages by utilizing case surveillance data, CD4+ counts, and acute status through laboratory results and testing history. The criteria, which are based on case definitions developed by the US Centers for Disease Control, for classifying stage of infection at HIV diagnosis are described in the table below. Currently, CD4+ information is routinely obtained by public health nurses and entered into the provincial HIV/AIDS database. Regular collection of this information, however, is a fairly recent practice thus analysis of stage of infection is only possible for cases diagnosed from 2010 forward which limits annual comparisons of trends to recent years.

Stage	Definition
Stage 0	Laboratory findings suggestive of acute or recent HIV infection (i.e., detection of HIV DNA or RNA by NAAT or detection of p24 antigen in the absence of confirmed detection of HIV antibody) <u>or</u> previous negative or indeterminate HIV test within 180 days of the first confirmed positive HIV test <u>and</u> no AIDS case report before or up to 12 months after date of first positive HIV test.
Stage 1	Not in Stage 0 <u>and</u> no AIDS case report before or up to 12 months after date of first positive HIV test <u>and</u> CD4+ \geq 500
Stage 2a	Not in Stage 0 <u>and</u> no AIDS case report before or up to 12 months after date of first positive HIV test <u>and</u> CD4+ between 350 and 499
Stage 2b	Not in Stage 0 <u>and</u> no AIDS case report before or up to 12 months after date of first positive HIV test <u>and</u> CD4+ between 200 and 349
Stage 3	An advanced infection determined by an AIDS diagnosis before or up to 12 months after date of first positive HIV test <u>or</u> CD4+ < 200
Stage unknown	Acute status, advanced status, and CD4+ information are all unknown

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

One or more of the specified indicator diseases, and meets the case definition for HIV infection.

Indicator diseases for adult and pediatric cases:

- Bacterial pneumonia (recurrent)*
- Candidiasis (bronchi, trachea or lungs)
- Candidiasis (esophageal)*
- Cervical cancer (invasive)
- Coccidioidomycosis (disseminated or extrapulmonary)
- Cryptococcosis (extrapulmonary)
- Cryptosporidiosis (chronic intestinal > 1 month duration)

- Cytomegalovirus disease (other than in liver, spleen or nodes)
- Cytomegalovirus retinitis (with loss of vision)*
- Encephalopathy, HIV-related (dementia)
- Herpes simplex: chronic ulcer(s) (> 1 month duration) or bronchitis, pneumonitis or esophagitis
- Histoplasmosis (disseminated or extrapulmonary)
- Isosporiasis, chronic intestinal (> 1 month duration)
- Kaposi's sarcoma*
- Lymphoma, Burkitt's (or equivalent term)
- Lymphoma, immunoblastic (or equivalent term)
- Lymphoma (primary in brain)
- Mycobacterium avium complex or M. kansasii (disseminated or extrapulmonary)*
- Mycobacterium of other species or unidentified species*
- M. tuberculosis (disseminated or extrapulmonary)
- M. tuberculosis (pulmonary)*
- Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia (PJP)* (formerly Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia)
- Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
- Salmonella septicemia (recurrent)
- Toxoplasmosis of brain*
- Wasting syndrome due to HIV

* These conditions may be diagnosed presumptively, otherwise definitive diagnosis is required.

Indicator diseases that apply only to pediatric cases (< 15 years old):

- Bacterial infections, multiple or recurrent (excluding recurrent bacterial pneumonia)
- Lymphoid interstitial pneumonia and/or Pulmonary lymphoid hyperplasia (may be diagnosed presumptively)

Data Sources

HIV Data - Surveillance

All confirmatory laboratory testing for HIV antibodies is done at the BC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory (BCPHMRL) located at the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC). BCCDC determines which of these individuals are testing positive for HIV for the first time then informs the appropriate designated public health nurse (PHN) about these individuals. The PHN provides follow-up for these individuals that include completing surveillance forms which are then forwarded to BCCDC where the collected information is entered into the provincial HIV/AIDS database.

Persons testing HIV positive as part of immigration requirements are obtained through two separate sources. As of September 2004, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) notifies Clinical Prevention Services at BCCDC of individuals who undergo an immigration medical exam (IME) outside of Canada, test positive for HIV, and indicate BC as their intended province of residence. Individuals who undertake their IME within BC (as indicated by reason for testing) and test positive for HIV are reported to BCCDC by BCPHMRL through routine surveillance.

HIV Data - Testing

HIV testing data presented in this report are based on HIV testing conducted by the BCPHMRL which is estimated to conduct >95% of all screening tests for HIV in the province. Provincial testing volumes for females undergoing HIV testing as part of prenatal care (i.e., reason for testing is prenatal screening) are available from 2007 onwards and include all prenatal HIV tests conducted by the BCPHMRL. For this analysis, the number of unique women

having a prenatal test per year is reported (i.e., a woman has more than one prenatal test per year is counted once).

AIDS Data

Due to expected delays associated with AIDS case reports, this report only includes cases to 2013. AIDS case reports are allocated according to the year a client is diagnosed with his/her first AIDS defining illness (e.g., a client is diagnosed with his/her first AIDS defining illness in 2005 and a subsequent AIDS defining illness in 2012 – this client's AIDS case report is allocated only to year 2005). Prior to 1997, AIDS case reports were compiled courtesy of the Vancouver Health Department. From 1997 to 2000, Clinical Prevention Services at BCCDC compiled AIDS case reports in collaboration with the Division of HIV/AIDS Surveillance, Bureau of HIV/AIDS and STD, Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Health Protection Branch, Health Canada.

Since 2000, AIDS case reports have been compiled by Clinical Prevention Services at BCCDC in collaboration with the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. A twice-yearly review of clinical records maintained by the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS is conducted to identify new diagnoses of AIDS defining illness and this information is entered into the provincial HIV/AIDS database. AIDS case report forms are also received from health care providers who have made a diagnosis of an AIDS defining illness in a person who is HIV positive or from public health nurses if this is elicited during follow-up of a new positive HIV test (e.g., AIDS at the time of HIV diagnosis).

Please note that AIDS data presented in this report differ from previous reports as the review of clinical reports from the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in 2013 included additional reports of historic AIDS cases. These cases were identified through a retrospective linkage with both historical discharge diagnoses data from the HIV/AIDS ward at St Paul's Hospital and data

from the death registry at BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Population Data

Unless noted otherwise, population data and associated rates were based on the P.E.O.P.L.E. 2014 Population Estimates and Projections released by BC Stats, BC Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services.

First Nations Population Estimates

Population rates for First Nations people are calculated using estimates from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

These estimates are based on the Indian Registry System (IRS) which includes individuals who have registered for First Nations status under the Indian Act. The IRS is subject to several limitations, including:

- Under-counting due to delayed reporting of infants entitled to be registered, as well as other unregistered individuals who are entitled for status designation
- Over-counting due to individuals remaining on the IRS after they are deceased
- Geographic misclassification because individuals are included in the BC population according to membership of a BC band rather than current place of residence
- Systematic biases from imbalance in the migration into and out of the BC region (these are difficult to quantify)

For further details about the data source and its limitations, see the report entitled *Registered Indian Population by Sex and Residence, 2014*. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

Additional Notes

Interpretation of HIV Data

The number of new HIV diagnoses does not reflect the number of new HIV infections per

year or HIV incidence as individuals may be diagnosed with HIV years after their initial infection with HIV.

HIV became a reportable disease in BC in 2003 accompanied by more complete follow-up of new HIV diagnoses by designated public health nurses. This change improved the quality of surveillance data through:

- Improved identification and exclusion from surveillance reports of individuals having a first HIV diagnosis in BC who were found to have a previous HIV diagnosis outside BC
- Improved documentation of exposure category and ethnicity resulting in a decrease in the proportion of new HIV diagnoses where exposure or ethnicity is unknown

New or Previous Positive HIV Test

If a report of a new positive HIV test is identified in an individual having a history of a previous positive test (i.e., previous positive test result identified in the BCPHMRL database or elicited during case follow-up), this is considered a previous positive HIV test and excluded from surveillance reporting. If no such history is elicited, the report is then considered to represent a new HIV diagnosis and included in surveillance reporting. The exception is for persons testing as part of immigration requirements – persons who tested previously positive for non-immigration purposes are classified as persons with a previous positive HIV test thus not included in surveillance reporting but included as immigration-related HIV diagnoses in Table 33.

Classification of Health Region

Cases are assigned to health regions (i.e., Health Authority or Health Service Delivery Area) by residence. If residence is unknown, the case is then assigned to the health region where the individual was tested.

Classification of Ethnicity

Cases are classified by ethnicity according to information elicited from the case or health care provider during follow-up.

Ethnicity	Example
Aboriginal	First Nations, Inuit, Métis
Arab/West Asian	Armenian, Egyptian, Iranian, Moroccan, Lebanese, Afghani
Asian	Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Indonesian, Filipino, Korean, Laotian
Black	African, Haitian, Jamaican, Somali
Caucasian (White)	Irish, Scottish, English, Portuguese, Italian, Russian
Hispanic	Mexican, Central/South American
South Asian	East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Punjabi, Bangladeshi
other/mixed ethnicity	ethnicity is known but is not included in one of the above categories or case has dual ethnicity
unspecified	information about ethnicity is not elicited from case or health care provider

Exposure Group Hierarchy

Individuals having a new positive HIV test may belong to more than one exposure category (e.g., a person may have a history of injecting drugs and heterosexual contact). These individuals are assigned to the exposure category listed first (or highest) in the following hierarchy.

1. **MSM*:** Male who reports having male sex partner(s), with or without female sex partners.
2. **PWID:** Person who reports current or prior history of injecting drugs.
3. **Heterosexual Contact*:** Male who reports having female sex partner(s) only or female who reports having male with/without female sex partner(s).
 - i) Heterosexual with at least one Identified Risk factor – Person who

reports heterosexual contact and one or more of the following:

- was born/resided in a country where HIV is endemic
- sexual partner is HIV positive
- sexual partner is at increased risk for acquiring HIV (e.g., injects drugs, male who has both male and female sex partners or from an HIV endemic country)
- sex trade worker
- patron of sex trade worker

ii) Heterosexual with No Identified Risk factor – Person who reports heterosexual contact and no information about place of birth/residence, or about sexual partner (s), or none of the above risk factors.

4. **Blood / Blood Product Recipient:** Person who reports receipt of whole blood or blood product (e.g., packed red cells, plasma, platelets, cryoprecipitate, or pooled concentrates of clotting factor).
5. **Occupational Exposure:** Person who reports exposure to HIV contaminated blood or body fluids or concentrated virus in an occupational setting.
6. **Perinatal Transmission:** Transmission of HIV from an HIV-infected mother to her child either in utero, during childbirth, or through breastfeeding.
7. **Other Risk Factor:** Likely route of exposure to HIV is known but cannot be classified into any of the major exposure categories listed here. For example, receipt of semen from an HIV positive donor or females reporting female sex partner(s) only.
8. **No Identified Risk Factor (NIR):** Route of exposure to HIV is not identified at the time of completion of case follow-up (e.g., route of exposure not provided by case).
9. **Unknown:** Route of exposure to HIV is unknown

Note that in this report, individuals with a new HIV diagnosis are categorized into five groups:

- MSM – men who have sex with men
- PWID – people who inject drugs
- HET – heterosexual contact
- Other – blood/blood product recipient, occupational exposure, perinatal transmission, and/or other exposures
- NIR/UNK – no identified risk/exposure unknown

* A transgender individual may be assigned to either MSM or Heterosexual Contact exposure category depending on how this individual describes their sexual partners.

Endemic Country

Individuals are categorized as being from an endemic country according to the Endemic Countries List²⁸ maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada.