



The burden of disease in recent years for HIV/AIDS has been greater for Aboriginal people in the province of British Columbia (BC). Although Aboriginal people comprise approximately 5% of the population of BC, in 2007 Aboriginal people made up 16% of new HIV infections. This over representation is even more pronounced for Aboriginal women who accounted for 38% of new HIV cases in women in BC. In 2007, there were a total of 63 new HIV infections for Aboriginal people. This means that more than one Aboriginal person a week is testing positive for HIV in BC.

Aboriginal men made up 10% of positive tests in men in BC in 2007 and 32% of HIV positive tests among Aboriginal people in 2007 in BC were aged 29 and under.

HIV Risk Factor for Aboriginal people who tested positive in BC in 2007 was:

- Injection Drug Use (IDU) 47%
- Heterosexual Contact 22%
- Sex Trade Worker (STW)/IDU 21%
- Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) 5%
- Other 3%
- Men who have sex with men and IDU 2%

These numbers are based on an assumption of equal access to HIV/AIDS testing and care. In fact, equal access to testing for Aboriginal people is unlikely, and therefore the real picture may actually be worse. There could be many additional Aboriginal people living with HIV who have not been tested or aware of their status. These statistics can help direct Aboriginal communities and organizations in prevention, care, treatment and support efforts.