



Public Health
Agency

Northern Ireland HIV data tables

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HIV surveillance in Northern Ireland

Summary points 2023:

- During 2023, 91,635 HIV tests were performed in Northern Ireland. This represents an increase of 5% compared with 2022 (87,190) and is the highest number of tests performed over the past decade.
- There were 101 new HIV diagnoses made in Northern Ireland residents (67 men and 34 women) in 2023; a 40% increase from 72 in 2021 but a similar number to those reported in 2022 (100).
- Of the 101 new diagnoses in 2023, 47 (47%) were in individuals who were first diagnosed with HIV in Northern Ireland while 54 (53%) had been previously diagnosed abroad.
- The number of new HIV diagnoses first made in Northern Ireland in 2023 has decreased from 54 in 2022 to 47 in 2023; a 13% decrease. When comparing 2023 (47) to 2015 (90) there has been a 48% decrease in new HIV diagnoses first made in Northern Ireland.
- The most common route of transmission for new HIV diagnoses in 2023 occurred through heterosexual transmission, 59 individuals (58%), a significant increase from 19 new diagnoses in 2021, 46 in 2022 to 59 in 2023.
- Thirty-six new HIV diagnoses in 2023 occurred through gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) transmission compared to 35 new diagnoses in 2022.
- Less than 5 new HIV diagnoses occurred through injecting drug use. This is an important new risk group in Northern Ireland.
- Route of probable exposure was unknown for less than 5 of the new diagnoses in 2023.
- The majority (80%, 81/101) of people newly diagnosed in 2023 were aged between 25 and 49 years, with the 35-49 years age group increasing by 33% from 40 diagnoses in 2022 to 53 in 2023. The 25-34 years age group decreased by 24% compared to the previous year. The proportion of people diagnosed aged 50 years or over remained similar to 2022 (17%) compared to 14% in 2023. Diagnoses in those aged over 65 remains low with only 19 new diagnoses reported since 2014.
- Of those newly diagnosed in 2023, 42% (42/101) were White ethnicity, 47% (47/101) were Black African with diagnoses in this ethnic group increasing from 12 in 2021, 28 in 2022 to 47 in 2023. The number of diagnoses in other ethnic groups decreased from 20 in 2022 to 12 in 2023.
- Sixty-seven (66%) of the new HIV diagnoses reported in 2023 were born outside the UK, the same number as reported in 2022 (67). However, when comparing to 2019 pre-COVID-19 pandemic there were 29 reports of individuals born outside the UK.
- Nearly one quarter (24%, 21/87) of new HIV diagnoses were made at a late stage (i.e. cases had a CD4 count within 91 days of diagnosis, and the CD4 count was <350 cells/mm³).
- Of those newly diagnosed, seven (7%) reported AIDS defining illness within three months of HIV diagnosis (AIDS at HIV diagnosis).
- In 2023, 1,368 people living with HIV (PWHIV) who were resident in Northern Ireland received medical HIV-related care. Of these, there were 1,062 (78%) men and 306 (22%) women.
- The greatest number of people who received HIV-related care in 2023 were in the 35-64 year age group (77%, 1,047/1,368). Of those that received HIV-related care during 2023, 79% were White ethnicity, 14% were Black-African and 7% were classified in other ethnic groups or not reported.
- Almost everyone in care (99.6%) received antiretroviral therapy, and 97% of people in care had viral suppression as defined by <=200 copies/ml (where a viral load was reported). This is considered an undetectable viral load. At this level, a person living with HIV has scientifically equivalent to zero risk of sexually transmitting the virus to an HIV-negative partner.
- There were ten deaths reported in 2023.

Table 1: Demographic data and probable route of exposure for all new HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland, all years to 2023*

Table 1a: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland, AIDS at diagnosis and deaths by gender identity

New diagnoses and deaths	Gender identity	Pre 2014**	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
HIV diagnoses - all	Men	786	70	80	59	64	61	44	48	51	67	67
	Women	221	21	21	15	15	19	16	16	21	33	34
	Subtotal	1,007	91	101	74	79	80	60	64	72	100	101
HIV diagnoses - first diagnosed in Northern Ireland	Men	N/A	N/A	72	49	56	54	34	34	46	41	38
	Women	N/A	N/A	18	7	14	15	9	12	14	13	9
	Subtotal	N/A	N/A	90	56	70	69	43	46	60	54	47
AIDS at HIV diagnoses	Men	89	under 15	under 10	6	under 10	under 5	under 10	under 10	9	under 10	7
	Women	24	under 5	under 5	0	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	0	under 5	0
	Subtotal	113	11	8	6	7	5	10	6	9	8	7
Deaths	Men	105	under 5	6	under 10	under 5	under 5	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 15	under 10
	Women	17	under 5	0	under 5	0	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5
	Subtotal	122	under 5	6	6	under 5	under 5	8	8	7	17	10

Table 1b: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by age at diagnosis

Age at diagnosis	Gender identity	Pre 2014	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Under 15	All	10	0	0	0	under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 24	All	131	under 15	8	under 15	10	under 10	under 10	6	9	under 10	under 10
25 - 34	All	365	25	38	22	23	24	12	11	27	37	28
35 - 49	All	378	40	42	27	27	32	23	32	28	40	53
50 - 64	All	110	14	13	11	16	15	16	15	8	13	12
65 and over	All	12	under 5	0	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	0	0	under 5	under 5

Table 1c: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by probable exposure category and gender

Probable exposure category	Gender identity	Pre 2014	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Sex between men	Men	523	43	59	41	37	40	23	28	30	35	36
	Women	210	under 25	under 20	under 15	17	14	16	under 15	8	18	30
Sex between men and women	Women	205	under 20	under 25	under 15	11	15	13	under 15	11	28	29
	Subtotal	415	39	36	26	28	29	29	20	19	46	59
	Men	14	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	0	0	under 5	8	under 10	under 5
Injecting drug use	Women	5	0	0	under 5	under 5	0	under 5	under 5	6	under 5	under 5
	Subtotal	19	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	0	under 5	under 5	14	8	under 5
	Men	under 5	0	0	0	under 5	0	0	0	0	under 5	0
Vertical transmission	Women	under 10	0	0	0	0	0	under 5	0	0	under 5	0
	Subtotal	8	0	0	0	under 5	0	under 5	0	0	under 5	0
	Men	under 30	0	0	0	0	0	under 5	0	0	0	0
Other	Women	under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Subtotal	29	0	0	0	0	0	under 5	0	0	0	0

Table 1d: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by ethnicity and gender

Ethnicity	Gender identity	Pre 2014	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
White	Men	692	66	74	54	55	48	34	45	38	43	36
	Women	108	11	12	8	10	12	8	9	11	8	6
	Subtotal	800	77	86	62	65	60	42	54	49	51	42
Black African	Men	61	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	22
	Women	85	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 25	25
	Subtotal	146	11	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	14	under 10	12	28
Black Caribbean	All	under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other or mixed	All	41	under 5	8	under 5	7	7	under 5	under 5	8	20	12

Table 1e: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by region of birth

Region of birth	Gender identity	Pre 2014	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
UK	All	497	60	58	48	46	38	24	33	34	31	34
Europe	All	115	15	16	12	16	11	under 10	5	6	24	6
Africa	All	133	under 15	10	8	6	13	18	8	10	31	48
Asia	All	23	under 5	under 10	under 5	under 5	under 10	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 15	8
Other	All	16	0	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	0	under 5	under 10	under 5	5

Table 1f: Late HIV presentation in Northern Ireland

CD4 at diagnosis	Gender identity	Pre 2014	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Number with a CD4 count within 91 days of diagnosis	All	717	84	83	63	67	65	55	53	60	89	87
Late presentation (CD4 count below 350)	All	332	40	19	23	30	25	22	22	18	26	21
Percentage of late presentation	All	46%	48%	23%	37%	45%	38%	40%	42%	30%	29%	24%
Median CD4	All	360	330	510	390	410	440	500	380	480	420	580

Notes:

Subtotals include individuals with incomplete or not reported demographic data.

For gender, subtotals from 2015 also include people who identified as gender diverse (genderqueer, non-binary, other gender and prefer not to say).

*2023 data is provisional.

N/A is data not available.

**Pre 2014 relates to data from 1980-2014.

Table 2: All people in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care, receiving treatment and viral load suppression, 2014 to 2023*

Table 2a: People in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care by age and gender identity

Age and gender	Gender identity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
All	Men	618	719	775	845	876	900	946	1,013	1,028	1,062
All	Women	182	206	218	222	236	245	255	279	287	306
Total	Subtotal	800	925	993	1,067	1,112	1,145	1,210	1,292	1,315	1,368
Under 15	Boys	0	0	0	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	0	0	0
	Girls	under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Subtotal	under 5	0	0	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	0	0	0
15 - 24	Men	under 20	16	under 30	under 30	under 25	under 25	under 20	under 20	under 15	under 15
	Women	under 5	5	under 5	under 10	under 5	under 10	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5
	Subtotal	20	21	29	35	28	27	23	18	18	14
25 - 34	Men	125	150	157	160	156	146	144	162	157	148
	Women	52	54	45	44	44	33	26	30	30	31
	Subtotal	177	204	202	204	200	179	172	192	187	179
35 - 49	Men	277	315	327	357	365	364	373	388	381	395
	Women	84	94	114	112	117	124	133	143	149	167
	Subtotal	361	409	441	469	482	488	509	531	530	562
50 - 64	Men	175	208	236	263	286	312	342	367	380	401
	Women	39	47	50	53	61	67	78	87	86	84
	Subtotal	214	255	286	316	347	379	424	454	466	485
65 and over	Men	under 30	30	under 35	35	44	56	67	under 85	under 100	under 110
	Women	under 5	6	under 10	7	10	15	14	under 20	under 20	under 25
	Subtotal	27	36	35	42	54	71	81	97	114	128

Table 2b. People in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care by probable exposure category

Probable exposure category	Gender identity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Sex between men	All	441	524	576	625	620	616	622	647	657	741
Sex between men and women	All	326	363	376	391	377	373	383	401	401	429
Injecting drug use	All	under 15	under 10	10	14	13	11	15	16	20	35
Vertical transmission	All	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 10	under 15
Other	All	0	0	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5	under 5
Undetermined	All	21	27	28	33	97	140	186	225	230	149

Table 2c. People in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care by ethnicity

Ethnic group	Gender identity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
White	All	674	789	850	919	954	977	1,029	1,089	1,080	1,085
Black African	All	95	101	108	110	115	118	125	139	158	190
Black Caribbean	All	under 10	0	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	0
Black other	All	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	under 10	15
Asian	All	14	17	17	18	23	23	24	26	28	29
Other or mixed	All	11	12	11	11	under 10	under 10	21	24	35	40

Table 2d: People receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) by CD4 count

ART status	CD4 count	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Receiving ART	Below 350	121	120	116	118	119	108	102	95	94	82
	350 to 499	147	159	154	172	165	132	115	130	118	117
	500 and over	449	588	680	769	785	602	372	456	734	750
	Subtotal	719	872	966	1,065	1,076	1,145	1,210	1,292	1,315	1,363
Not receiving ART	Below 350	5	under 5	under 5	under 5	0	0	0	0	0	under 5
	350 to 499	23	under 15	under 5	0	under 5	0	0	0	0	0
	500 and over	52	35	18	under 5	under 5	0	0	0	0	under 5
	Subtotal	81	53	27	under 5	36	0	0	0	0	5
Percentage receiving ART	Below 350	96%	97%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
	350 to 499	86%	93%	97%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	500 and over	90%	94%	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.9%
	Subtotal	90%	94%	97%	100%	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.6%
All (Total)	Below 350	126	under 125	under 120	under 125	119	108	102	95	94	under 90
	350 to 499	170	under 175	under 165	172	under 170	132	115	130	118	117
	500 and over	501	623	698	under 775	under 790	602	372	456	734	under 755
	Subtotal (all CD4 counts)	800	925	993	1,067	1,112	1,145	1,210	1,292	1,315	1,368

Table 2e: Viral load status

ART status	Viral load information	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
All	Number in care with a reported viral load	799	909	973	1,061	1,075	1,130	1,164	1,232	1,256	1,312
	Percentage with a reported viral load	100%	98%	98%	99%	97%	99%	96%	95%	96%	96%
	Percentage of reported viral load at 50 or below	63%	79%	84%	78%	79%	75%	85%	87%	91%	93%
	Percentage of reported viral load at 200 or below	85%	90%	94%	96%	98%	96%	97%	97%	98%	97%
	Percentage of reported viral load at 1000 or below	89%	91%	96%	98%	99%	98%	98%	98%	98%	99%

Notes:

Subtotals include individuals with incomplete or not reported demographic data. Subtotals in table 2d include those individuals where a CD4 count was unavailable.

For gender, subtotals from 2015 also include people who identified as gender diverse (genderqueer, non-binary, other gender and prefer not to say).

*2023 data is provisional.

Interpreting trends over time

Trends over time must be interpreted with care, as each data source is subject to reporting delay. Numbers, particularly for recent years, may change as a result of receiving further information.

Furthermore, patterns of sexual behaviour, HIV testing and access to sexual health and HIV clinics changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons between the pre, during and post COVID-19 periods.

In these data tables, **data for 2023 is provisional** as it has not been deduplicated with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) UK HIV database. Data presented in this report will be subject to change in future reports.

This report includes data on the number of individuals diagnosed with HIV in **Northern Ireland** with no previous diagnosis abroad. Data is available from 2015 onwards.

Data for calendar year 2023 was collated in November 2024.