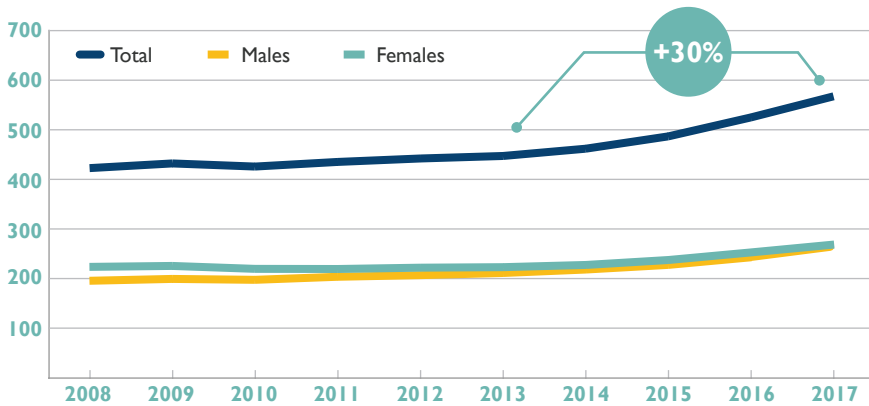


Figure 1. Number of tests (thousands) by sex, Ontario, 2008 to 2017



HIV testing has increased, particularly in recent years. The total number of HIV tests increased by 30% between 2013 and 2017. In recent years, the number of tests were similar for males and females.

Why measure trends in HIV testing and diagnosis?

Testing trends can provide insight into the success of testing initiatives, and help interpret trends in new diagnoses.

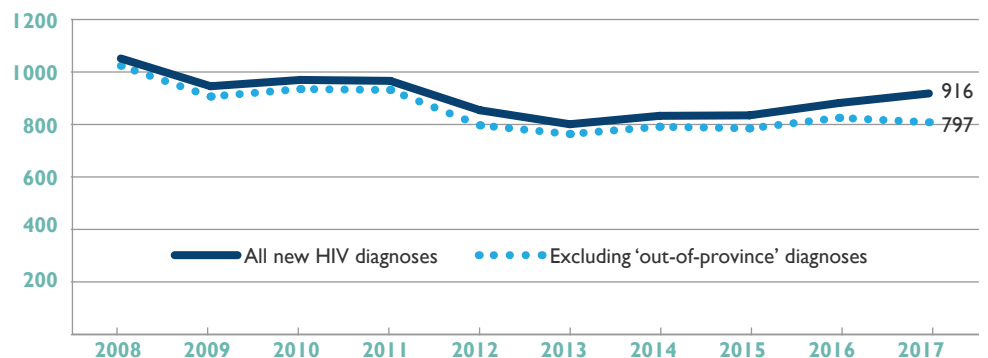
A new diagnosis is not the same as a new infection. There is a delay between infection and diagnosis. *New diagnoses*, as it is used here, refers to the first positive diagnosis for an individual in Ontario. This includes some individuals who were already diagnosed and later retested. Recent trends in new diagnoses could be due to changes in testing patterns, local HIV transmissions, and/or migration.

What are 'out-of-province' diagnoses?

These are individuals who were initially diagnosed (and likely became infected) elsewhere and later moved to Ontario and tested again. These diagnoses were removed from some analyses to better understand trends in infections.

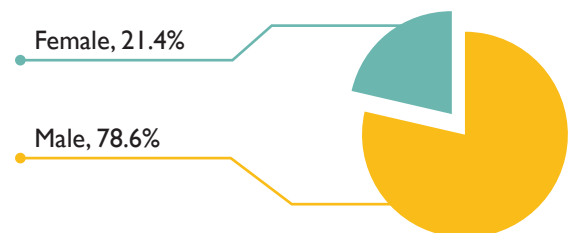


Figure 2. Number of new diagnoses, Ontario, 2008 to 2017



Between 2013 and 2017, the total number of new diagnoses increased by 17%. However, when 'out-of-province' diagnoses were removed, this increase was smaller and the number of diagnoses decreased from 2016 to 2017.

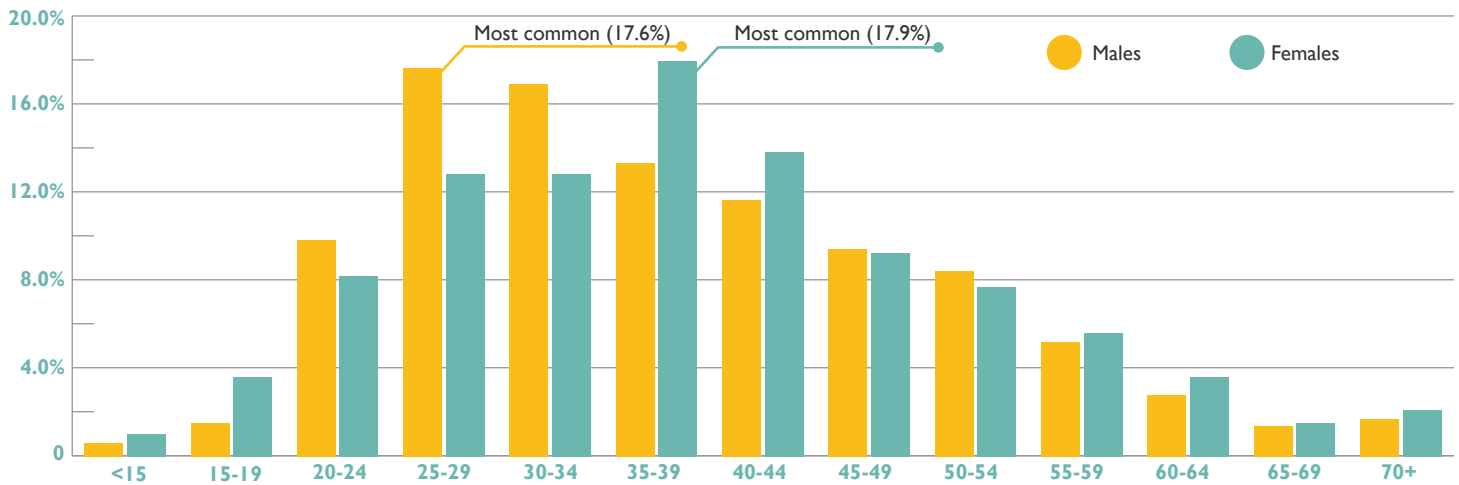
Figure 3. Percent of new diagnoses by sex, Ontario, 2017



The number of diagnoses is about 4 times higher for males compared to females. In 2017, there were 717 male diagnoses and 195 female diagnoses.

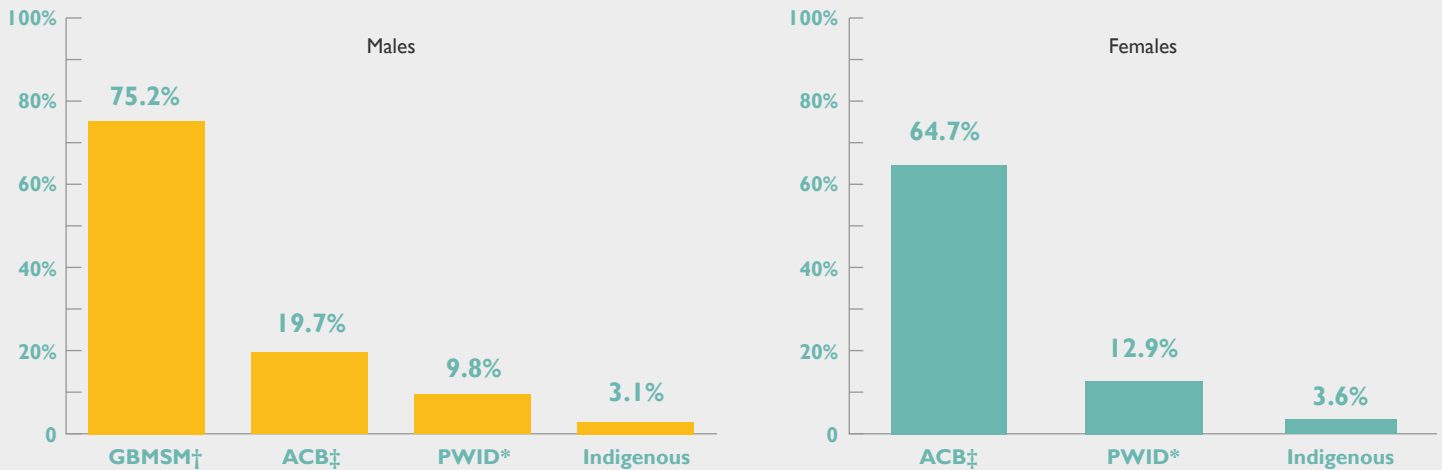
These numbers were 641 and 152, respectively, when 'out-of-province' diagnoses were removed.

Figure 4. Percent of new HIV diagnoses by age, Ontario, 2017 (all new diagnoses)



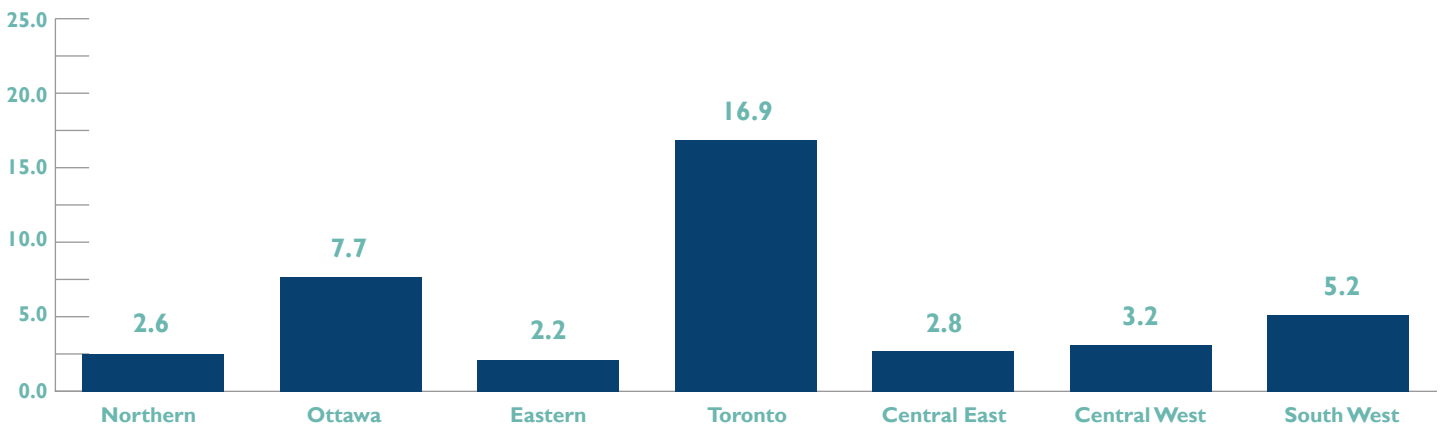
Age at diagnosis is younger for males. In 2017, the most common age category at diagnosis was 25 to 29 for males (17.6%) and 35 to 39 for females (17.9%).

Figure 5. Percent of new HIV diagnoses by priority populations and sex, Ontario, 2017 (all new diagnoses)



The most common priority populations differ by sex. In 2017, the majority of male diagnoses were gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men while the majority of female diagnoses were African, Caribbean and Black. Priority population is known for approximately 65% of cases, and the categories are not mutually exclusive.

Figure 6. Rate of new diagnoses per 100,000 people by health region, Ontario, 2017 (all new diagnoses)



Diagnoses are not distributed equally across the province. In 2017, there were 496 diagnoses in Toronto, followed by Central East (120), Central West (87), South West (86), Ottawa (77), Northern (21) and Eastern (19). Figure 5 displays these numbers in terms of population rates.

Data provided by Public Health Ontario Laboratory. †GBMSM=Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men; ‡ACB=African, Caribbean and Black; *PWID=people who use injection drugs. *All new diagnoses' include 'out-of-province' diagnoses.