

Ontario monitors HIV diagnoses and testing rates to help **(1) target prevention and testing programs to people at risk** and **(2) enhance care for people living with HIV**. In 2018, Ontario had 1003 new diagnoses. This number includes first-time diagnoses (people being diagnosed with HIV for the first time) as well as diagnoses with previous evidence of HIV (people who were previously diagnosed and retested in Ontario).

First-time diagnoses help us understand HIV transmissions occurring in Ontario while the total number of new diagnoses help us understand how many people in Ontario are living with HIV and need health care services.

FIRST-TIME DIAGNOSES



Individuals learning of their HIV diagnosis for the first time, who have no history of diagnosis in or out of the province and/or no history of viral load testing in Ontario.

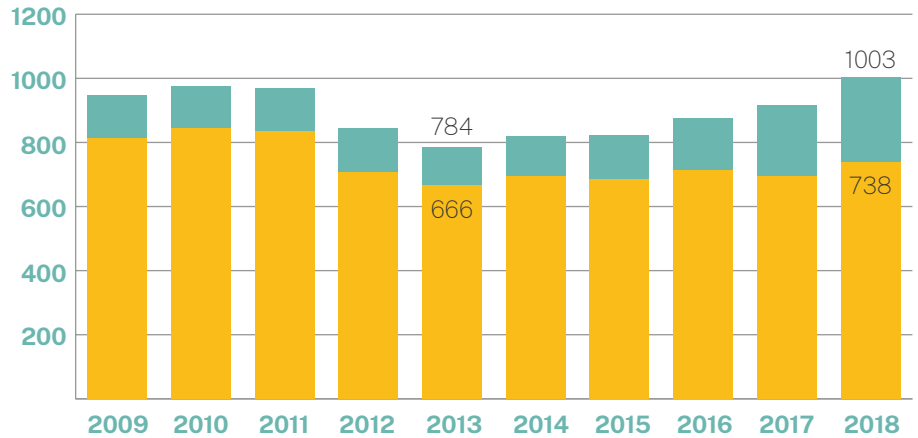
PREVIOUS EVIDENCE OF HIV (PEH)



Individuals previously diagnosed with HIV in another province or country and retested in Ontario.

People with a history of viral load testing in Ontario before a positive diagnostic test. These people have been in care for HIV in Ontario.

FIGURE 1. NUMBER OF NEW HIV DIAGNOSES, ONTARIO, 2009 TO 2018



The total number of new diagnoses in Ontario has increased each year from 2013 to 2018. Over that time period, there was a larger increase in the number of diagnoses with previous evidence of HIV. First-time diagnoses have been relatively stable since 2013.

We monitor trends in new diagnosis by age, sex, priority population and region.

In 2018, 3 of 4 new HIV diagnoses were in males and 1 in 4 were in females.

In 2018, there were 736 diagnoses among males and 264 diagnoses among females. Among first-time diagnoses 4 of 5 (576) were in males and 1 in 5 (160) were in females.

FIGURE 2. PERCENT OF NEW HIV DIAGNOSES BY SEX, ONTARIO, 2018

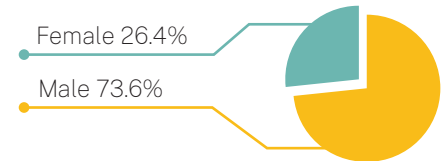
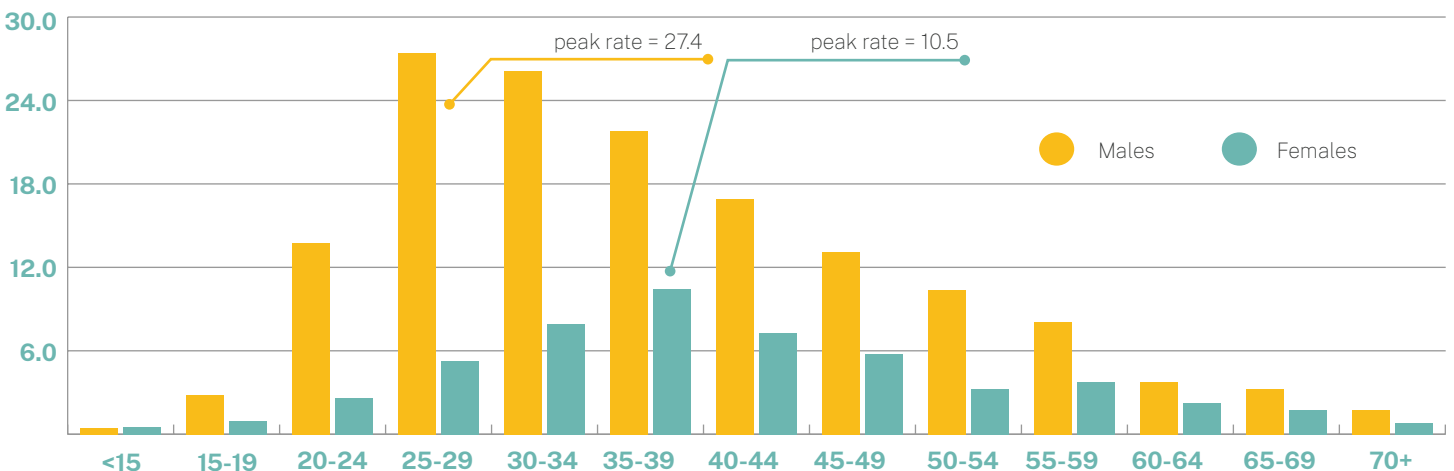
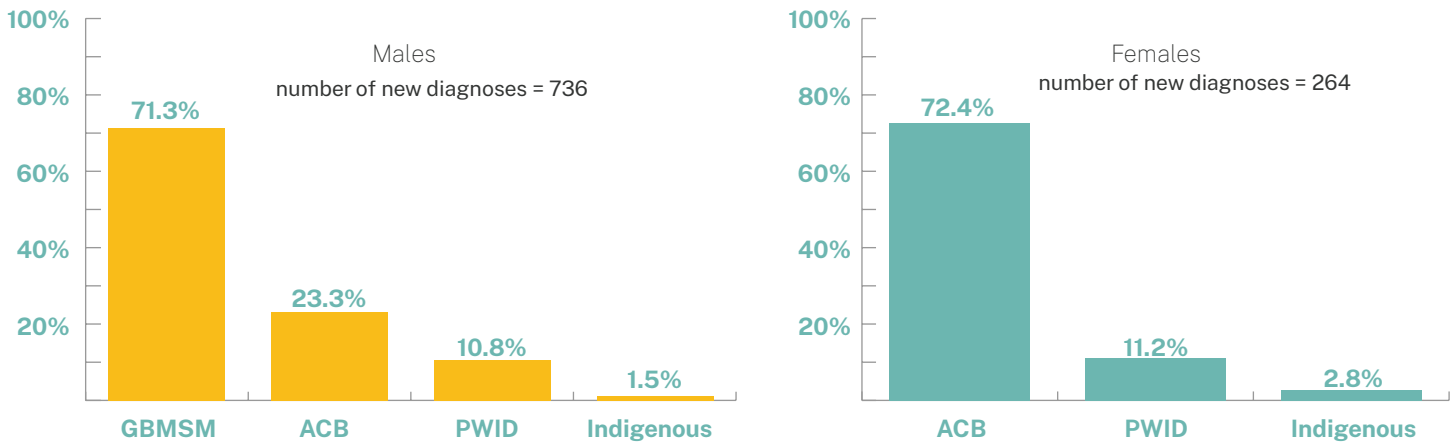


FIGURE 3. RATE OF NEW HIV DIAGNOSES BY AGE PER 100,000 PEOPLE, ONTARIO, 2018



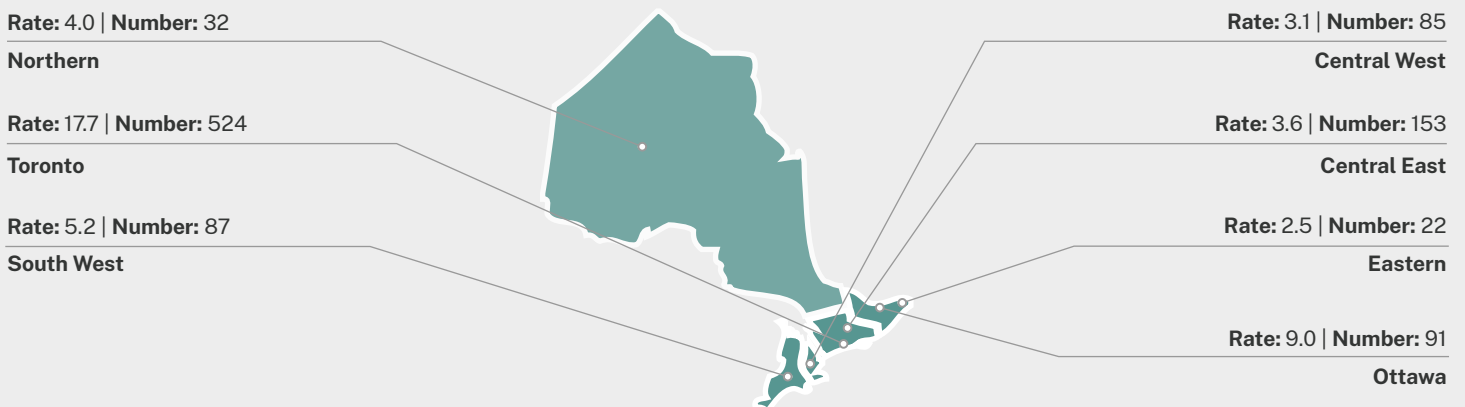
More males were diagnosed at a younger age. In 2018, the largest number of males diagnosed were between the ages of 25 and 29 while the largest number of females diagnosed were between the ages of 35 and 39.

FIGURE 4. PERCENT OF NEW HIV DIAGNOSES BY PRIORITY POPULATION AND SEX, ONTARIO, 2018



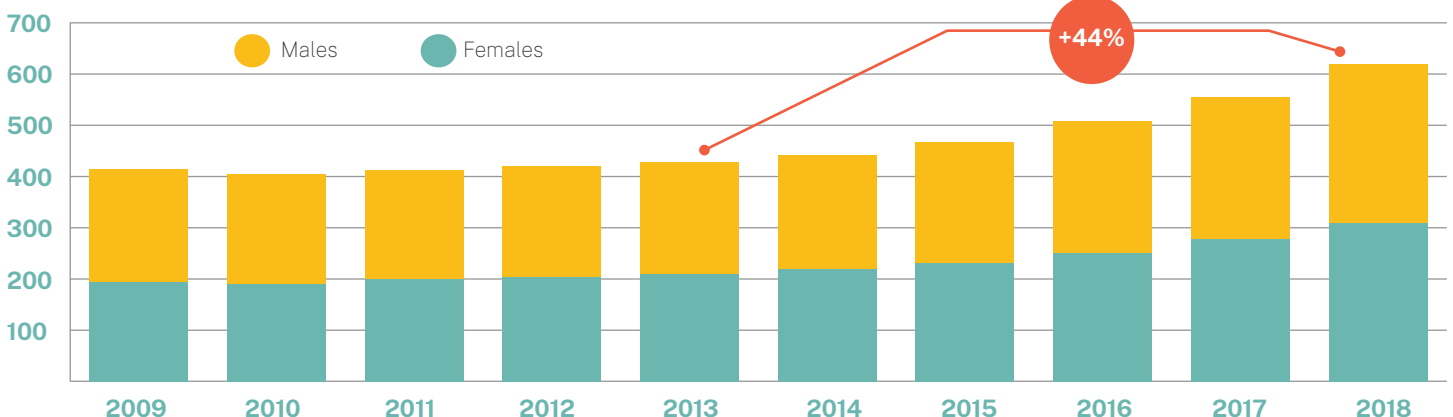
The priority populations most affected by HIV differed by sex. In 2018, most male diagnoses were in the gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) population while most female diagnoses were in the African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) population. HIV diagnoses in people who use injection drugs (PWID) were similar for males and females.

FIGURE 5. NUMBER AND RATE OF NEW HIV DIAGNOSES PER 100,000 PEOPLE BY HEALTH REGION, ONTARIO, 2018



HIV diagnoses were not distributed equally across the province. In 2018, the highest rate and number of HIV diagnoses were in Toronto. The next highest rates were in Ottawa and the South West regions. Rates for regions with numbers less than 50 should be interpreted with caution.

FIGURE 6. NUMBER OF HIV TESTS (THOUSANDS) BY YEAR OF TEST AND SEX, ONTARIO, 2009 TO 2018



HIV testing has increased, particularly in recent years. The total number of HIV tests increased by 44% between 2013 and 2018, and the number of tests were similar for males and females.

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. 'New HIV diagnoses' include diagnoses with previous evidence of HIV. The number of HIV tests does not include HIV negative tests conducted through the prenatal testing program. Ontario has data on priority population for 70-80% of new diagnoses and the categories are not mutually exclusive (people can be counted in more than one population).