



Public Health  
Agency

## Northern Ireland HIV data tables

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# HIV surveillance in Northern Ireland

## Summary points 2022:

- During 2022, 87,190 HIV tests were performed in Northern Ireland. This represents an increase of 14% compared with 2021 (76,409) and is the highest number of tests performed over the past decade.
- There were 105 new HIV diagnoses made in Northern Ireland residents (71 men and 34 women) in 2022; a 38% increase from 76 in 2021. This is the peak number of new HIV diagnoses reported in Northern Ireland since 2012 and reflects both individuals newly diagnosed with HIV and individuals with previously diagnosed HIV moving to Northern Ireland.
- Of the 105 new diagnoses in 2022, 50% (53) were in individuals who had previously been diagnosed outside Northern Ireland. Diagnoses outside Northern Ireland does not reflect a rise in transmission in Northern Ireland.
- Ninety-nine percent of people in care received antiretroviral therapy, and 98% of those on treatment had viral suppression as defined by  $\leq 200$  copies/ml (where a viral load was reported). This is referred to as an undetectable viral load, and at this level an HIV person has zero risk of sexually transmitting the virus to an HIV-negative partner, i.e. Undetectable=Untransmissible (U=U).
- The largest route of transmission for new HIV diagnoses occurred through heterosexual transmission (50%), a significant increase from 21 new diagnoses in 2021 to 52 in 2022. This is the highest number of heterosexual transmissions reported since 2012.
- Thirty-seven (35%) new HIV diagnoses occurred through gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) transmission; an increase from 31 new diagnoses in 2021.
- Eight (8%) new HIV diagnoses occurred through injecting drug use. This is a significant new risk group emerging in Northern Ireland in recent years.
- Less than 5 new HIV diagnoses occurred through mother to child transmission. Transmission route was unknown for less than 5 of the new diagnoses in 2022.
- The majority (76%, 80/105) of people newly diagnosed in 2022 were aged between 25 and 49 years, with the 25-34 years age group increasing by 32% from 28 diagnoses in 2021 to 37 in 2022. The 35-49 years age group increased by 39% compared to the previous year. The proportion of people diagnosed aged 50 years or over increased to 18% in 2022 compared to 11% in 2021. Diagnoses in those aged over 65 remains low with only 21 new diagnoses reported since 2012.
- Of those newly diagnosed in 2022, 50% (52/105) were white ethnicity, 31% (33/105) were Black-African with diagnoses in this ethnic group increasing from 15 in 2021 to 33 in 2022. The number of diagnoses in other ethnic groups also increased from 9 in 2021 to 19 in 2022.
- Seventy-three (70%) of the new HIV diagnoses reported in 2022 were born outside the UK compared to less than 35 in 2021 and less than 20 in 2012.
- One third (33%, 32/97) 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/mm<sup>3</sup>).
- Of those newly diagnosed, eight were also diagnosed with AIDS at their HIV diagnosis (i.e. reported AIDS defining illness within three months of HIV diagnosis).
- In 2022, 1,348 People living with HIV resident in Northern Ireland received medical HIV-related care. Of these, there were 1,049 men and 299 women.
- The greatest number of people who received HIV-related care in 2022 were in the 35-64 year age group (76%, 1,020/1,348). Of those that received HIV-related care during 2022, 81% were white ethnicity, 12% were Black-African and 7% were classified in other ethnic groups or not reported.
- Estimates of prevalence show that Belfast Local Government District (LGD) area has the highest rate in Northern Ireland at 2.1/1,000 population aged 15-59 years. Belfast (LGD) area has reached the 2.0/1,000 population threshold at which expanded testing is recommended. The overall prevalence for the Northern Ireland population is 1.0/1,000 population aged 15-59 years.

**Note: The Northern Ireland HIV Surveillance report will be available in January 2024.**

**Table 1: All new HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by demographics and probable route of exposure, all years to 2022\***

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

New diagnoses	Gender	Pre 2012**	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
HIV diagnoses	Men	627	68	87	70	82	59	67	59	46	50	54	71
	Women	191	16	13	21	20	15	16	20	17	18	22	34
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>105</b>
AIDS at HIV diagnoses	Men	87	0	<5	<15	<10	6	<10	<5	<10	<10	6	<10
	Women	23	0	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

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

Age at diagnosis	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Under 15	All	10	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 24	All	112	10	<10	<15	9	11	10	<10	<10	<10	9	<10
25 - 34	All	300	34	29	25	38	22	26	24	14	12	28	37
35 - 49	All	317	22	38	40	42	27	28	31	24	32	31	43
50 - 64	All	69	18	23	14	13	<15	16	15	16	17	8	15
65 and over	All	9	0	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5

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

Probable exposure category	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sex between men	Men	<b>416</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>
	Women	172	13	24	<20	<20	<15	19	13	16	11	9	21
Heterosexual contact	Women	176	16	12	18	20	14	11	16	13	10	12	31
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>&lt;40</b>	<b>&lt;40</b>	<b>&lt;30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>52</b>
	Men	<15	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<10	<5
Injecting drug use	Women	<10	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	<5	<5	<10	<5
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>
	Men	<5	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0	0	<5
Mother to child	Women	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	<5
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>
	Men	<25	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0
Other	Women	<5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Men	<25	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0

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

Ethnicity	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
White	Men	545	65	75	66	76	55	57	48	36	45	38	44
	Women	94	9	6	11	11	8	10	12	9	10	11	8
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>52</b>
Black African	Men	55	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	10
	Women	70	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<15	23
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>&lt;10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>&lt;10</b>	<b>&lt;10</b>	<b>&lt;10</b>	<b>&lt;10</b>	<b>&lt;10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>&lt;10</b>	<b>33</b>
Black Caribbean	All	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other or mixed	All	34	<5	5	<5	8	<5	7	6	<5	<5	9	19

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

Region of birth	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
UK	All	378	63	57	60	59	48	48	38	26	32	39	32
Europe	All	92	10	8	15	16	12	16	11	9	7	9	25
Africa	All	113	7	13	10	10	8	7	13	18	9	14	36
Asia	All	17	0	5	<5	5	<5	<5	6	<5	<5	<5	<15
Other	All	8	<5	6	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	5	<5

**Table 1f: Late HIV diagnosis**

CD4 at diagnosis	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number with a CD4 count within 91 days of diagnosis	All	563	77	77	84	83	63	70	65	58	55	60	97
Late diagnosis (CD4 count <350)	All	264	34	37	40	24	23	31	25	22	24	20	32
Percentage of late diagnosis	All	<b>47%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Median CD4</b>	All	<b>360</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>410</b>

**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).

\*2022 data is provisional.

\*\* Pre 2012 relates to data from 1980-2011.

**Table 2: All people in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care, receiving treatment and viral load suppression, 2012 to 2022\***

Table 2a: People in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care by age and gender												
Age and gender	Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
All	Men	508	590	633	732	786	857	892	912	970	1040	1,049
All	Women	160	180	182	209	221	225	238	246	265	285	299
<b>Total</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,348</b>
Under 15	Boys	0	0	0	0	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	0
	Girls	0	0	<5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
15 - 24	Men	21	17	<20	18	25	<35	<25	<25	<20	<20	14
	Women	8	6	<5	5	6	<10	<10	<10	<5	<5	5
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>&lt;40</b>	<b>&lt;30</b>	<b>&lt;30</b>	<b>&lt;25</b>	<b>&lt;20</b>	<b>19</b>
25 - 34	Men	118	124	126	153	159	161	156	147	149	<165	163
	Women	53	53	52	55	45	46	44	33	28	<35	32
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>&lt;195</b>	<b>195</b>
35 - 49	Men	245	280	285	323	332	365	374	369	383	401	392
	Women	72	83	84	96	115	113	118	125	139	146	157
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>549</b>
50 - 64	Men	110	149	179	208	239	264	292	317	351	377	384
	Women	27	38	39	47	50	53	61	67	80	89	87
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>471</b>
65 and over	Men	14	20	<30	30	31	36	45	57	67	85	96
	Women	0	0	<5	6	5	7	10	15	14	16	18
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>114</b>

Table 2b. People in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care by probable exposure category												
Probable exposure category	Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022**
Sex between men	All	364	418	453	533	583	635	634	625	635	665	N/A
Heterosexual contact	All	282	323	328	369	380	395	378	374	390	407	N/A
Injecting drug use	All	6	<10	<15	<10	10	14	13	10	13	15	N/A
Vertical transmission	All	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<10	<5	<5	<5	N/A
Other	All	<5	0	0	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	N/A

Table 2c. People in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care by ethnicity												
Ethnic group	Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
White	All	563	638	691	803	860	935	973	994	1,051	1,115	1,095
Black African	All	86	105	97	104	113	111	117	119	126	141	160
Black Caribbean	All	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<10	<10	<10	0
Black other	All	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	15
Asian	All	9	12	12	16	16	17	21	21	23	25	28
Other or mixed	All	<10	<15	<15	<15	<20	14	10	<10	27	34	41

Table 2d: People receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) by CD4 count												
ART status	CD4 count	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Receiving ART	<350	87	126	123	122	120	122	121	110	105	99	98
	350-499	128	148	149	164	156	174	169	133	119	132	122
	≥500	340	378	460	597	684	778	797	611	382	473	751
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>&lt;1350</b>
Not receiving ART	<350	9	22	5	<5	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0
	350-499	31	32	24	<15	<5	0	<5	0	0	0	0
	≥500	67	56	52	35	19	<5	<5	0	0	0	<5
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>
Percentage receiving ART	<350	91%	85%	96%	97%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	350-499	81%	82%	86%	93%	98%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	≥500	84%	87%	90%	94%	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.9%
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99.9%</b>
Total	<350	96	148	128	126	121	123	121	110	105	99	98
	350-499	159	180	173	176	160	174	171	133	119	132	122
	≥500	407	434	512	632	703	779	798	611	382	473	<755
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,348</b>

Table 2e: Viral load suppression												
ART status	Viral load information	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
All receiving ART	Number in care with a viral load	555	652	733	873	963	1,074	1,090	1,143	1,187	1,262	1,281
	% with a reported viral load	99%	100%	100%	98%	98%	99%	100%	99%	96%	95%	95%
	% of reported viral load ≤50	64%	69%	71%	84%	94%	78%	80%	75%	85%	87%	91%
	% of reported viral load ≤200	<b>91%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98%</b>

**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).  
 \*2022 data is provisional.  
 \*\*Exposure category data is not available (N/A) for 2022 due to incomplete information.

## Notes

Trends over time must be interpreted with care, as each data source is subject to reporting delay. This means that numbers, particularly for recent years, may rise as a result of receiving further reports.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic changed patterns of sexual behaviour, HIV testing and access to sexual health and HIV services in 2020 and in 2021. Therefore caution is required when making comparisons between different time periods.

In these data tables, data for 2022 is provisional pending deduplication with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) UK HIV database. There may be slight differences between figures in this report and UKHSA published data, principally due to differences in time of data extraction and data analysis, including validation. Data presented in this report will be subject to change in future reports.

Figures may be different to those published previously due to improvements in the data.

This report now includes information on the number of individuals previously diagnosed with HIV abroad and having a subsequent diagnosis in Northern Ireland.

Data for calendar year 2022 was collated in September 2023.