



Public Health
Agency

Human Immunodeficiency Virus in Northern Ireland: Interim Annual Data Tables (Data Up to 2024)

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Introduction

This report provides an interim update on the epidemiology of people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) (PLWHIV) in Northern Ireland (NI), from 2023 to 2024.

The information within this report is based upon provisional data from the NI HIV datasets, which are collected and collated by the Public Health Agency (PHA) NI, following submissions from Health & Social Care NI (HSCNI) Trust teams. Please note, the datasets used for this report are not UK-level deduplicated.

Within this report, the previous NI HIV annual data tables are referenced for data prior to 2023, and are available from [here](#). Please note, this historical report contains UK-level deduplicated data for years prior to 2023, thus should be interpreted with care when comparing with data in the current report, due to the different methodologies used to prepare the data. Within the current report, the UK-level deduplicated data (from prior to 2023) will be referred to as the 'historical data'.

For NI reporting purposes, the overall annual number of 'people with new HIV diagnoses' includes both:

- People who were *first diagnosed with HIV within NI* in the relevant reporting year
- People who were *continuing their HIV care in NI* in the relevant reporting year but who were diagnosed with HIV outside of the United Kingdom (UK).

Following recent changes to the data collection processes for the NI HIV datasets, the NI HIV reporting methodologies are currently under review. Accordingly, data within this report are provisional and may change as a result of receiving further information or due to improvements or changes in the data collection, processing or reporting methodologies.

Further technical information about this reporting is available within the appendices of this report.

Data presented within this report were correct at **15 September 2026**.

Updates to this report will be distributed annually.

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Interpretative Commentary

Please note, technical information and interpretation notes are available in Appendix 1.

- The number of people who were first diagnosed with HIV in NI has decreased in recent years. This reduction likely reflects improving prevention of HIV through Treatment as Prevention (TasP) and Pre-exposure Prophylaxis for HIV (PrEP).
- Recent changes in the demographic profile of people diagnosed with HIV in NI have also been observed. Further analysis and consideration are required to ensure HIV testing initiatives and prevention interventions are appropriately targeted.
- Late diagnosis affects approximately 4 in 10 people who were first diagnosed with HIV in NI. Late diagnosis may reflect missed HIV testing opportunities. Efforts to decrease late diagnosis should focus on improving appropriate HIV testing.
- Data demonstrates that provision of HIV care to PLWHIV in NI is excellent. Greater than 99% of PLWHIV who accessed care received ART and 96% of those accessing care attained an undetectable viral load. This has a major positive impact both on the health of PLWHIV and in supporting wider HIV prevention.

Executive Summary

Summary for People with New HIV Diagnoses in NI (2023 to 2024)

- In 2024, there were 101 people with new HIV diagnoses who were resident in NI. In 2023, the same overall number of people (101) had new HIV diagnoses.
 - Within the historical data (2015 to 2022), the annual number of people with new HIV diagnoses ranged from 60 to 101 people (PHA, 2024).
- Of people with new HIV diagnoses in NI in 2024:
 - 44% (44 of 101) of people were reported as *first diagnosed with HIV in NI*:
 - From 2023 to 2024, the number of people who were first diagnosed with HIV in NI decreased from 47 to 44 people. An overall decreasing trend was also observed in the historical data from 2015-2022 (PHA, 2024).
 - 56% (57 out of 101) of people were reported to be *continuing their HIV care in NI*:
 - From 2023 to 2024, the number of people who were continuing their HIV care in NI slightly increased from 54 to 57 people. Within the historical data, the annual number of people in this cohort remained approximately stable from 2015 to 2021, but notably increased between 2021 (12 people) and 2022 (46 people) (PHA, 2024).
 - Fewer than 10 people were diagnosed with advanced HIV disease within three months of their HIV diagnosis.
- From 2023 to 2024, the number of new HIV diagnoses in:
 - Men decreased by 28% (67 (2023) to 48 (2024) people).
 - Women increased by 56% (34 (2023) to 53 (2024) people).
 - This demographic change was observed for both people with new HIV diagnoses first diagnosed in NI and people continuing their HIV care in NI.
- In 2024, people with new HIV diagnoses in NI were most frequently aged in the 25 to 49 years age group (85%, 86 of 101), which was also observed in 2023 (80%, 81 of 101). The number of new HIV diagnoses in NI for people in other age groups remained similar between 2023 and 2024.
- In 2024, the mean and median age of people first diagnosed with HIV in NI was lower than among people who were continuing their HIV care in NI.
- In people with new HIV diagnoses who had probable exposure data reported:

- 69% (69 of 100) of people reported the probable exposure category of 'sex between men and women' in 2024, compared with 58% (59 out of 101) of individuals in 2023.
 - In 2024, the most frequently observed probable exposure category for both people who were first diagnosed with HIV in NI and people who were continuing their HIV care in NI was 'sex between men and women'.
- 23% (23 of 100) of people reported the probable exposure category of 'sex between men' in 2024, compared with 36% (36 of 101) of individuals in 2023.
- From 2023 to 2024, there was a small increase in the number of people who reported the probable exposure category of 'injecting drug use', although overall numbers remain less than 10 annually.
- In both 2023 and 2024, the number of people who reported the probable exposure category of 'vertical transmission' remained low.
- In people with new HIV diagnoses who had ethnicity reported:
 - In 2024, 50% (51 of 101) of people were of Black African ethnicity and 35% (35 of 101) of people were of White ethnicity
 - In 2023, 47% (47 of 101) of people were of Black African ethnicity and 42% (42 of 101) of people were of White ethnicity.
 - The number of new HIV diagnoses in NI for people of other reported ethnicities remained similar between 2023 and 2024.
 - The most frequently reported ethnicity for people who were first diagnosed with HIV in NI was people of White ethnicity, whilst for people who were continuing their HIV care in NI this was people of Black African ethnicity.
- Among people with new HIV diagnoses who had available region of birth data:
 - 81% (81 of 100) were born outside the UK in 2024, compared with 66% (67 of 101) of individuals in 2023.
 - The most frequently observed region of birth for people who were first diagnosed with HIV in NI was Europe (including the UK), whilst for people who were continuing their HIV care in NI the most frequently observed region of birth was Africa.
- For people who were first diagnosed with HIV in NI in 2023 & 2024, an average of 42% had late presentations annually in 2023 and 2024.

Summary for PLWHIV in NI (2023 to 2024)

- In 2024, there were 1,439 PLWHIV who were resident in NI and who accessed HIV care (1,085 (75%) men and 354 (25%) women). This represented a 5% increase in the number of PLWHIV accessing care compared to 2023 (1,368).

- In PLWHIV in NI, there were 11 deaths reported in 2024.
- In 2024, PLWHIV who were resident in NI and who accessed care in 2024 were most frequently aged within the 35 to 64 year age groups (76%, 1,100 of 1,439), which was similar to 2023 (77%, 1,047 of 1,368).
- For those PLWHIV resident in NI and accessing care with available ethnicity data reported in 2024, 77% (1,103 of 1,435) of people were of White ethnicity and 17% (244 of 1,435) of people were of Black African ethnicity. Comparatively, in 2023, 80% (1,085 of 1,359) of people were of White ethnicity and 14% (190 of 1,359) of people were of Black African ethnicity.
- Almost all PLWHIV who were resident in NI and who accessed care in 2024 received anti-retroviral therapy (>99%).
- In 2024, for PLWHIV who were resident in NI and who accessed care, 96% (1,319 of 1,367 with available data) had an undetectable viral load (≤ 200 cells per microlitre). At this level of viral suppression, there is zero risk that a PLWHIV who is taking HIV medication can sexually transmit the virus to a partner (British HIV Association; Terrence Higgins Trust).

Section 1: People with New HIV Diagnoses in NI

Section 1 describes provisional demographic, exposure and late presentation data for all people with new HIV diagnoses in NI, from 2023 to 2024, within Tables 1a to 1f. Please see Appendix 1 for definitions used within this report.

Please note, in Tables 1a to 1f, a single asterisk symbol (*) within the table columns denotes cell suppression. Further details regarding cell suppression is available within Appendix 1.

Table 1a: Annual counts of people with new HIV diagnoses, people diagnosed with AIDS at HIV diagnosis and deaths in PLWHIV in NI, by gender identity, 2023 to 2024

Category	Gender identity	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
People with new HIV diagnoses (all)	Men	67	48
	Women	34	53
	All	101	101
People with new HIV diagnoses (first diagnosed in NI)	Men	*	22
	Women	*	22
	All	47	44
People with new HIV diagnoses (continuing their care in NI)	Men	*	26
	Women	*	31
	All	54	57
People diagnosed with advanced HIV disease at diagnosis	All	*	*
Deaths in PLWHIV	All	10	11

Table 1b: Annual counts of people with new HIV diagnoses (all) in NI, by age at diagnosis (years), 2023 to 2024

Age at diagnosis (years)	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
All ages**	101	101
Under 15	*	*
15 - 24	*	*
25 - 34	28	37
35 - 49	53	49
50 - 64	12	10
65 and over	*	*

****All ages:** the number of people with new HIV diagnoses (all) in NI who had age details reported.

Table 1c: Annual counts of people with new HIV diagnoses (all) in NI, by probable exposure category and gender identity

Probable exposure category	Gender identity	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
All probable exposure categories**	All	101	100
Sex between men	All	36	23
Sex between men and women	Men	30	24
	Women	29	45
	All	59	69
Injecting drug use only	Men	*	*
	Women	*	*
	All	*	*
Vertical transmission	Men	*	*
	Women	*	*
	All	*	*
Undetermined	Men	*	*
	Women	*	*
	All	*	*

***All probable exposure categories: the number of people with new HIV diagnoses (all) in NI who had probable exposure category reported (including those reported as having an undetermined probable exposure category).*

Table 1d: Annual counts of people with new HIV diagnoses (all) in NI, by ethnicity and gender identity

Ethnicity	Gender identity	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
All ethnicities**	All	101	101
White	Men	*	21
	Women	*	14
	All	42	35
Black African	Men	22	16
	Women	25	35
	All	47	51
Other***	All	12	15

***All ethnicities: the number of people with new HIV diagnoses (all) in NI who had ethnicity reported;
***Other: This category includes ethnicities where the aggregate counts of people of the ethnicity was less than ten in the annual period.*

Table 1e: Annual counts of people with new HIV diagnoses (all) in NI, by region of birth

Region of birth	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
All regions**	101	100
United Kingdom	34	19
Europe***	*	*
Africa	48	52
Asia	*	15
Other****	*	*
<i>**All regions: the number of people with new HIV diagnoses (all) in Northern Ireland who had region of birth reported; ***Excluding counts of people whose country of birth was the United Kingdom; ****Other: This category includes region of birth categories where there were less than ten reports of people with the region of birth in the annual period.</i>		

Table 1f: Annual counts of people with new HIV diagnoses who were first diagnosed in NI with CD4 counts and late HIV presentations

CD4 at diagnosis	2023	2024
Number with an available CD4 count (n)	45	43
Number with a CD4 count at diagnosis* (n)	42	42
Number with late presentations** (n)	18	17
Percentage of late presentation*** (%)	43%	40%
Median CD4 at diagnosis**** (cells per microlitre)	360	495
<i>*Number of people with a CD4 count (or report of CD4 count within normal range) within -14 to +91 days (inclusive) of diagnosis date; **Number of people with a CD4 count within -14 to +91 days (inclusive) of diagnosis date which was less than 350 cells per microlitre; ***Percentage calculated as number of people with a CD4 count within -14 to +91 days (inclusive) of diagnosis date which was less than 350 cells per microlitre, out of the total number with a CD4 count at diagnosis; ****Median CD4 count of CD4 results within -14 to +91 days of diagnosis date (excludes reports without a numerical CD4 count reported).</i>		

Summary for People with new HIV diagnoses - First Diagnosed in NI

In 2024, 44% (44 out of 101) of people with new HIV diagnoses were reported as being first diagnosed with HIV in NI. The number of people with new HIV diagnoses first diagnosed in NI slightly decreased from 47 (2023) to 44 (2024). Within the historical data, a generally decreasing trend in the annual number of people with new HIV diagnoses first diagnosed in NI has been observed from 2015 (90 people) to 2022 (54 people), ([PHA, 2024](#)).

In 2024, a demographic change was observed for gender identity, where women accounted for 50% (22 of 44) of people with new HIV diagnoses first diagnosed in NI. In 2023 and within the historical data ([PHA, 2024](#)), men had previously accounted for the majority of people with new HIV diagnoses first diagnosed in NI. The mean and median age of people with new HIV diagnoses first diagnosed in NI in 2024 was 36.8 years and 34 years respectively (2023 mean: 41.2 years; median: 39 years).

For people who were first diagnosed with HIV in NI, an average of 42% had late presentations across 2023 and 2024.

For people with new HIV diagnoses first diagnosed in NI with available data in 2024, the most frequently reported:

- [Probable exposure category](#) was 'sex between men and women';
- [Ethnicity](#) was people of White ethnicity;
- [Region of birth](#) was Europe (including the UK).

Summary for People with new HIV diagnoses - Continuing their HIV care in NI

In 2024, 56% (57 out of 101) of people with new HIV diagnoses in NI were reported to be continuing their HIV care in NI. Within the historical data, the annual number of people continuing their HIV care in NI remained generally stable from 2015 to 2021 (ranging from 9 to 18 people annually), however notably increased between 2021 (12 people) and 2022 (46 people) ([PHA, 2024](#)). From 2023 to 2024, the number of people who were continuing their HIV care in NI increased from 54 to 57.

In 2024, 54% (31 of 57) of people with new HIV diagnoses who were continuing their HIV care in NI were women. In 2023, men had previously accounted for the majority of people with new HIV diagnoses first diagnosed in NI. The mean and median age of people continuing their HIV care in NI was 39.9 years and 40 years respectively (2023 mean: 38.6 years; median: 38 years).

For people with new HIV diagnoses who were continuing their HIV care in NI with available data in 2024, the most frequently reported:

- Probable exposure category was 'sex between men and women';
- Ethnicity was people of Black African ethnicity;
- Region of birth was Africa.

Section 2: People Living with HIV in NI

Section 2 of this report describes provisional demographic, exposure, treatment and virological data for PLWHIV who were resident in NI and accessed HIV care within the relevant reporting year, from 2023 to 2024, within Tables 2a to 2g. Please see Appendix 1 for definitions used within this report.

Please note, in Tables 2a to 2g, a single asterisk symbol (*) within table columns denotes cell suppression. Further details regarding cell suppression is available within Appendix 1.

Table 2a: Annual counts of PLWHIV resident in NI and who accessed HIV care, by gender identity			
Category	Gender identity	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
PLWHIV Accessing Care	Men	1,062	1,085
	Women	306	354
	All	1,368	1,439

Table 2b: Annual counts of PLWHIV resident in NI and who accessed HIV care, by age and gender identity

PLWHIV Accessing Care	Gender identity	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
All ages**	All	1,368	1,439
Under 15	Boys	*	*
	Girls	*	*
	All	*	*
15 - 24	Men	*	*
	Women	*	*
	All	*	*
25 - 34	Men	148	138
	Women	31	41
	All	179	179
35 - 49	Men	395	401
	Women	167	193
	All	562	594
50 - 64	Men	401	415
	Women	84	91
	All	485	506
65 and over	Men	108	122
	Women	20	25
	All	128	147

***All ages: the number of PLWHIV accessing care in NI who had age details reported.*

Table 2c. Annual counts of PLWHIV resident in NI and who accessed HIV care, by probable exposure category

Probable exposure category	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
All probable exposure categories**	1,368	1,432
Sex between men	741	754
Sex between men and women	429	489
Injecting drug use only	35	34
Vertical transmission	*	*
Undetermined	149	142
Other***	*	*

***All probable exposure categories: the number of PLWHIV accessing care in NI who had probable exposure category reported (including those reported as having an undetermined probable exposure category); ***Other includes probable exposure categories where there were less than ten reports of people with the probable exposure category in every year (excluding the vertical transmission category, which is presented separately).*

Table 2d. Annual counts of PLWHIV resident in NI and who accessed HIV care, by ethnicity

Ethnicity	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
All ethnicities**	1,359	1,435
White	1,085	1,103
Black African	190	244
Asian	29	37
Other***	55	51

***All ethnicities: the number of PLWHIV in NI who had ethnicity reported; ***Other: This category includes ethnicities where the aggregate counts of people of the ethnicity was less than ten within the reporting year.*

Table 2e: Annual counts of PLWHIV resident in NI and who accessed HIV care, by CD4 count

ART status	CD4 count	2023 (n)	2024 (n)
All	CD4 count not available*	429	732
	Below 350	83	74
	350 to 499	117	101
	500 and over	739	532
	All	1,368	1,439

**Please note, 'CD4 not available' also includes those PLWHIV in NI who either did not have a CD4 count reported or whose reported CD4 count was dated outside the relevant annual care access period*

Table 2f: Percentage of PLWHIV resident in NI and who accessed HIV care receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) status

ART status	CD4 count	2023	2024
Percentage receiving ART*	All	>99%	>99%

***Number of PLWHIV in NI who were seen for HIV care in the annual period who also received ART out of all those PLWHIV in NI who were seen for HIV care.*

Table 2g: Viral load status of PLWHIV resident in NI and who accessed HIV care

ART status	Viral load information	2023	2024
All	Number of PLWHIV accessing care with a reported viral load*	1,311	1,367
	Percentage of PLWHIV accessing care with a reported viral load	96%	95%
	Number of PLWHIV accessing care with a reported viral load at 200 copies/ml or below	1,275	1,319
	Percentage of PLWHIV accessing care with a reported viral load at 200 copies/ml or below	97%	96%

**Please note, 'Number of PLWHIV accessing care with a reported viral load' only includes those PLWHIV in NI who had a viral load reported which was also dated within the relevant annual care access period.*

Appendix 1: Technical information

Provisional Data Statement

Following recent changes to the data collection processes for the NI HIV datasets, the NI HIV reporting methodologies are currently under review. Accordingly, data within this report are provisional and may change as a result of receiving further information or due to improvements or changes in the data collection, processing or reporting methodologies.

Data Sources

The data sources used within the current report are outlined in the table below:

Table A1.1: Data sources used within the ‘HIV in NI: Interim Annual Data Tables (Data Up to 2024)’ report	
Dataset	Description
<i>NI HIV PHA New Diagnoses Dataset (2023-2024)</i>	This dataset contains information on reports of people with new HIV diagnoses and who were resident in NI (including persons diagnosed with AIDS within three months of their HIV diagnosis). This dataset is based upon submissions from the HSCNI Trusts.
<i>NI HIV PHA HIV Care Access Dataset (2023-2024)</i>	This dataset contains information on reports of PLWHIV who were resident in Northern Ireland and who accessed care in each annual period. This dataset is based upon submissions from the HSCNI Trusts.
<i>NI HIV PHA Deaths Dataset (2023-2024)</i>	This dataset contains information on reports of PLWHIV who were resident in Northern Ireland and who have died within the annual period. This dataset is based upon submissions from the HSCNI Trusts.

Please note, the 2023 to 2024 datasets are not UK-level deduplicated. However, within the *NI HIV PHA New Diagnoses Dataset*, individuals who have been diagnosed at an NI site following a known transfer (from another NI or a UK HIV care service) are not included within annual counts. These datasets also do not include individuals who were resident in NI but either received their HIV diagnoses or HIV care within a non-NI service. It should be noted that individuals (receiving care in a non-NI service but who

were resident in NI) would have previously been included within annual counts in the historical data.

Definitions

The definitions used within the current report are outlined in the table below:

Table A1.2: Definitions used within the ‘HIV in NI: Interim Annual Data Tables (Data Up to 2024)’ report	
Dataset	Description
People with new HIV diagnoses (all)	People with new diagnoses of HIV who were resident within NI; this category includes both people who were first diagnosed with HIV in NI and people who were continuing their HIV care in NI.
People with new HIV diagnoses (people first diagnosed with HIV in NI)	People with new diagnoses of HIV who were resident within NI and were not known to have been previously diagnosed with HIV outside of the UK.
People with new HIV diagnoses (people continuing their HIV care in NI)	People who were diagnosed with HIV previously outside of the UK and are continuing their HIV care in NI.
People diagnosed with advanced HIV disease	People with new HIV diagnoses (all) in NI who were also diagnosed with AIDS (also known as advanced HIV disease) within three months of their HIV diagnosis.
Deaths in PLWHIV	All reported deaths (all causes) in a PLWHIV who was resident in NI.
PLWHIV accessing care	PLWHIV who were resident in NI and who accessed HIV-related care within NI. Please note, care access is based upon the most recent care access episode within each annual period for each PLWHIV.

Abbreviation List

The abbreviations used within the current report are outlined in the table below:

Table A1.3: Abbreviations used within the ‘HIV in NI: Interim Annual Data Tables (Data Up to 2024)’ report	
Term	Description
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti-retroviral Therapy
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSCNI	Health and Social Care Northern Ireland
NI	Northern Ireland
PLWHIV	People Living with HIV
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
TasP	Treatment as Prevention
UK	United Kingdom

Small Cell Protocol

Please note, small cell sizes within this report have been suppressed to remove the risks of deductive disclosure, as per the PHA small cell protocol. Where there are small counts within a cell (counts between 0-10), the count is suppressed. Furthermore, where the count of the suppressed cell can be deduced from other cells within the same table (or from other data within the report), secondary suppression is also applied.

Appendix 2: Interpretation & Acknowledgements

Interpreting trends over time

Please note, trends over time must be interpreted with care, particularly as patterns of sexual behaviour, testing and access to sexual health and HIV clinics changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, caution is advised when making comparisons between the pre, during and post COVID-19 periods.

The previous NI HIV data table report is also referenced in this report for data prior to 2023, and is available from [here](#). Please note, this historical report contains UK-level deduplicated data for years prior to 2023, thus should be interpreted with care when comparing with data in the current report, due to the different methodologies used to prepare the data.

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