

STBBIs NEWSLETTER

Sexually Transmitted and Blood-borne
Infections (STTBIs) and Reproductive Health

saskatchewan
preventioninstitute
our goal is **healthy** children

SUMMER 2022 ISSUE



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Welcome to the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute's Sexually Transmitted and Blood-borne Infections (STBBIs) and Reproductive Health Newsletter. The Prevention Institute is a provincial, non-profit organization that strives to reduce the occurrence of disabling conditions in children. Our goal is healthy children.

This edition of the newsletter shines light on the impact of COVID-19 on STBBI service delivery in Canada and the rising rates of STBBIs in Saskatchewan. Provincial and national resources that support the delivery of person-centred and evidence-based care are also highlighted, along with Saskatchewan Prevention Institute resources and upcoming webinars.

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) – Impact of COVID-19 on the Delivery of STBBI-related Services in Canada

PHAC conducted an online survey in November and December 2020 to better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the ability of healthcare service providers to deliver STBBI prevention, testing, and treatment services in Canada.



44% of STBBI prevention, testing, and treatment service providers experienced a decrease in their ability to deliver services.



1 in 5 service providers who provide support and treatment services for people living with HIV and/or hepatitis C experienced a decreased demand for and ability to deliver their services.

Service providers demonstrated **resilience** and **innovation** by developing new remote service delivery models that met the challenges created by the pandemic.

Findings are presented in the form of an infographic and a written report, which can be accessed at the following links:

Infographic: [PHAC-CovidServiceProvider-Info-EN-v4-Test2 \(canada.ca\)](#)

Written Report: [COVID-19 Impacts on the Delivery of STBBI-Related Services, Including Harm Reduction Services | Public Health Infobase - Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

STBBIs in Saskatchewan

Despite reduced testing numbers, Saskatchewan reported 237 new cases of HIV in 2021 – a staggering statistic that is approximately 4.5 times the national rate recorded in 2020. Sexual contact emerged as a greater primary risk factor for transmission, a shift from injection drug use which has historically been the leading risk for transmission. Last year, two babies were born with HIV in Saskatchewan, transmission that is almost entirely preventable with timely access to care and treatment. In addition to HIV, Saskatchewan continues to report skyrocketing rates of syphilis infections which have increased approximately 1,345% since 2017.

For more information on HIV, syphilis, and STBBIs in Saskatchewan, visit:

- [HIV surge a setback for Saskatchewan First Nations | The Star Phoenix](#)
- [New Saskatchewan HIV strategy needed after record cases, agencies say | Regina Leader Post](#)
- [Saskatchewan reports record number of HIV cases in 2021 | The Star Phoenix](#)
- [Sask. babies born with syphilis, HIV show gaps in prenatal care: advocates | The Star Phoenix](#)

Resources Spotlight: Management and Care for STBBIs

Saskatchewan Prevention Institute: HIV and Pregnancy – A Guide to Care

Created for Saskatchewan healthcare providers and community-based professionals, this resource reflects current best evidence to support a harm reduction, inclusive, and trauma-informed approach to care. The guide covers topics such as the following:

- HIV/AIDS in Saskatchewan
- Modes of transmission of HIV
- HIV testing during pregnancy
- Prenatal algorithm
- HIV treatment and drug management
- Aftercare for babies of HIV positive people
- Barriers to HIV transmission prevention and prenatal care
- Motivational approaches

To view, download, or order this resource, visit: [HIV and Pregnancy - A Guide to Care - Saskatchewan Prevention Institute \(skprevention.ca\)](#).



Saskatchewan Infectious Disease Care Network (SIDCN) – Treating Syphilis in Saskatchewan Primary Care

This three-part video series highlights syphilis, congenital syphilis, and lessons learned from the syphilis outbreak to inform screening and treatment in the primary care setting.

To view video recordings, visit: [Treating Syphilis in Saskatchewan Primary Care \(Recorded Event\) – Saskatchewan Infectious Disease Care Network \(SIDCN\)](#).

Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) – Provide Safer, More Inclusive Care for STBBIs

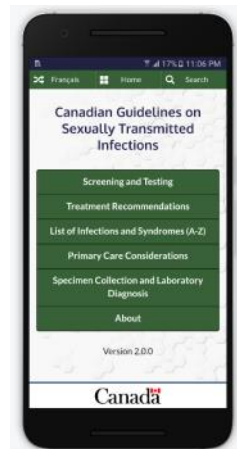
In collaboration with the University of Ottawa Office of Continuing Professional Development, CPHA launched a free, accredited online course for family physicians and other clinical care providers. The course focuses on recognizing and reducing the impacts of STBBI stigma and intersecting forms of stigma and discrimination to provide safer, more inclusive services for STBBIs.

To register for the course, visit: [CPHA: All courses](#).



Health Canada – Canadian STI Guidelines

Health Canada’s *CDN STI Guidelines* app provides Canadian health professionals with up-to-date recommendations for screening, diagnosis, management, and treatment of STIs in a convenient, concise, and easy-to-use format. The app is available from the App Store [CDN STI Guidelines on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#) and Google Play [CDN STI Guidelines - Apps on Google Play](#).



Updated Prevention Institute Resources

The Saskatchewan Prevention Institute recently updated two posters on HIV and pregnancy based on input from community-based professionals. Revisions include the mention of syphilis, HIV, and other STBBIs, emphasizing the role of partners in preventing negative pregnancy outcomes.

HIV and Pregnancy Poster

This poster brings awareness to the importance of HIV testing, treatment, and prenatal care for the health of pregnant people and their babies.



To view, download, or order the *HIV and Pregnancy* poster, visit: [HIV and Pregnancy - Saskatchewan Prevention Institute \(skprevention.ca\)](#).

Are You Positive You're Negative? Poster

This poster brings awareness to how HIV, syphilis, and other STBIs can negatively impact pregnancies and shows that both partners have a responsibility to access testing and treatment to reduce the risk of potential harm.



To view, download, or order the *Are You Positive You're Negative?* poster, visit: [Are You Positive You're Negative? - Saskatchewan Prevention Institute \(skprevention.ca\)](https://www.skprevention.ca).

Upcoming Prevention Institute Webinars

Trauma-Informed Approaches to Sexual and Reproductive Care

September 14, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Cara Taylor from Oaks Mental Health

In the webinar, Cara will outline the fundamentals of a trauma-informed care approach and its importance within sexual and reproductive health care, including strategies, resources, and practices for providers to deliver trauma-informed care.

Grooming for the Purposes of Exploitation and Abuse: What Caregivers and Educators Should Know

September 28, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Dr. Linzi Williamson

The webinar will summarize findings from the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute's report, [Grooming for the Purposes of Exploitation and Abuse: A Literature Review](#) (2022). Specifically, the webinar will provide an overview of grooming for exploitation and abuse, prevalence and types of grooming, information regarding victims and perpetrators of grooming, prevention and intervention strategies, and resources for educators.

Teaching Sex-Ed: Healthy Relationships and Consent

October 13, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Presented by Erica McNabb

The webinar will discuss the importance of teaching healthy relationships and consent as part of comprehensive sexuality education. Erica will outline methods to cultivate safe, supportive environments when teaching, explore strategies for teaching healthy communication and consent, and highlight resources and activities to aid educators and individuals who support youth.

[Webinar registrations will be available in the coming weeks at: Upcoming Events – Saskatchewan Prevention Institute \(skprevention.ca\)](#).

Feel free to distribute this newsletter to others. If someone you know is interested in receiving future editions of the newsletter, please contact Jasmin via email at jogren@skprevention.ca.

If you have a contribution for a future newsletter, contact Jasmin at jogren@skprevention.ca.