

# STBBI & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024 EDITION



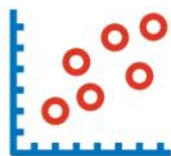
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our goal is **healthy** children

Welcome to the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute's Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections (STBBI) and Reproductive Health Newsletter. The Prevention Institute is a provincial, non-profit organization with the mandate of helping all children thrive through primary prevention and the promotion of well-being. Our goal is healthy children.

## In This Newsletter

This edition of the newsletter highlights new and updated Saskatchewan Prevention Institute resources and recently recorded webinars. Information about learning opportunities, HIV Testing Day, clinical documents for syphilis, and national publications and resources are also provided.

**Syphilis is on  
the rise in  
Saskatchewan.**



Its symptoms are often invisible.

Babies born with congenital syphilis can be born blind, deaf, and have lifelong problems with their teeth, bones, and joints.

**Up to 40% of babies with congenital syphilis die.**

You can prevent congenital syphilis.

**Test. Treat. Cure.**

HIV ... it's  
different  
now.

HIV testing is a routine  
part of prenatal care.

Say **YES**  
to the test.

Women with HIV can have healthy  
pregnancies and healthy babies.

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RESOURCE PAGE  
10/2024

# New & Updated Resources - Saskatchewan Prevention Institute

## Intimate Partner Violence During Pregnancy: A Narrative Literature Review

Report, 2023

Intimate partner violence during pregnancy is one of the biggest health risks in the prenatal period. It is associated with significant physical and psychological consequences that can be longstanding for pregnant people and fetuses. This literature review details prevalence rates, risk factors for perpetration and victimization, adverse pregnancy outcomes for both the mother and fetus, and economic impacts associated with intimate partner violence during pregnancy. Intervention strategies are also outlined.

Available for download: <https://skprevention.ca/resource-catalogue/pregnancy/intimate-partner-violence-during-pregnancy-a-literature-review/>

## Sexual Health Development Chart

Flipchart, Revised 2024

This resource is aimed at health professionals and childcare providers. It provides information and messages to promote sexual health in their interactions with children and families and to support parents as sexual health educators. The flipchart includes information for five age groups: Birth to Two Years; Two to Five Years; Five to Eight Years; Nine to Twelve Years; Thirteen to Sixteen Years.

Available for order or download: <https://skprevention.ca/resource-catalogue/sexual-health/sexual-development-flip-chart-and-notes/>

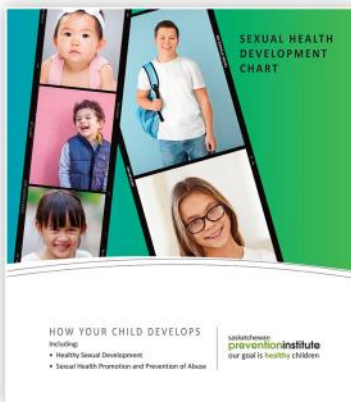
## Messages for Parents

Information Cards, Revised 2024

Caregivers are the first and primary sexual health educators of children. The recently updated *Messages for Parents* are a collection of five information cards that outline different age groupings (Birth to Two Years; Two to Five Years; Five to Eight Years; Nine to Twelve Years; Thirteen to Sixteen Years) with associated information to help caregivers promote their child's healthy sexual development. Early introduction of sexual health topics increases the confidence and comfort of both caregivers and children to talk about sexual health in later years. As children grow, it is important for caregivers to reinforce health messages and expand on sexual health topics.

Available for order or download:

- Birth to Two Years - <https://skprevention.ca/resource-catalogue/sexual-health/messages-for-parents-birth-to-two-years/>
- Two to Five Years - <https://skprevention.ca/resource-catalogue/pregnancy/messages-for-parents-two-to-five-years/>
- Five to Eight Years - <https://skprevention.ca/resource-catalogue/sexual-health/messages-for-parents-five-to-eight-years/>
- Nine to Twelve Years - <https://skprevention.ca/resource-catalogue/sexual-health/messages-for-parents-nine-to-twelve-years/>
- Thirteen to Sixteen Years - <https://skprevention.ca/resource-catalogue/sexual-health/messages-for-parents-thirteen-to-sixteen-years/>



# Recently Recorded Webinars - Saskatchewan Prevention Institute

## Teaching Sex-Ed: Healthy Relationships and Consent

Presented by Diana Wark and Darren Silva, Centre for Sexuality

This webinar discusses the importance of teaching healthy relationships and consent as part of comprehensive sexual health education. Diana and Darren outline strategies to teach healthy communication and consent, and explore methods to cultivate safe, supportive environments for learners. Trauma-informed approaches, as well as resources and activities, are highlighted to support educators teaching healthy relationships and consent.

Recording available: <https://skprevention.ca/event/teaching-sex-ed-healthy-relationships-and-consent/>



**TEACHING SEX-ED:  
HEALTHY  
RELATIONSHIPS  
AND CONSENT**

**PRESENTERS: DIANA WARK & DARREN SILVA,  
CENTRE FOR SEXUALITY**

Friday, March 8, 2024  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
Register in advance for this webinar!

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## Syphilis in Saskatchewan

Presented by Dr. Cara Spence

This webinar outlines the current trends of syphilis and congenital syphilis in Saskatchewan. Dr. Spence discusses reasons for the rise of syphilis in Saskatchewan and explores innovative public health approaches to prevent syphilis. This webinar also highlights strengths and opportunities in Saskatchewan regarding syphilis.

Recording available: <https://skprevention.ca/event/syphilis-in-saskatchewan/>



Presented by: Dr. Cara Spence  
Research Director, Wellness Wheel Medical Clinic  
Research Associate, Department of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

**SYPHILIS  
IN SASKATCHEWAN**

March 19, 2024  
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Register in advance.

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## Syphilis in Saskatchewan: Impacts and Opportunities in Indigenous Communities

Presented by Dr. Ibrahim Khan and Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka

This webinar outlines current syphilis and congenital syphilis trends in Indigenous communities throughout Saskatchewan, including a discussion regarding syphilis-related risk factors and inequities. Dr. Khan and Dr. Ndubuka discuss solutions for the rising rates of syphilis and strategies for reaching communities most affected by syphilis. Anthony Blackburn, a Registered Nurse with Prince Albert Grand Council, and Brandi Jimmy and Pam Martens, Registered Nurses from Onion Lake First Nation, provide community approaches and perspectives in response to syphilis.

Recording available: <https://skprevention.ca/event/syphilis-in-saskatchewan-impacts-and-opportunities-in-indigenous-communities/>



**Syphilis in Saskatchewan:  
Impacts and Opportunities in  
Indigenous Communities**

Presented by Dr. Khan and Dr. Ndubuka

March 28, 2024  
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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## HIV Testing Day - June 27

- Community-based organizations from across Saskatchewan coordinated the first HIV Testing Day on June 27, 2017 in response to high rates of HIV infections in the province. Stay tuned to <https://skhiv.ca/national-hiv-testing-day/> to learn more about events happening across Saskatchewan.

## Learning Opportunities

### Know Your Status Conference (Prince Albert, SK)

Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority  
October 16 – 17, 2024

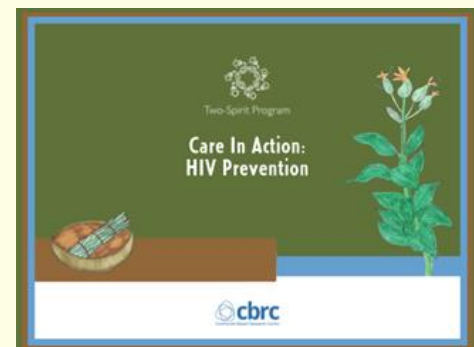
The 2024 conference theme is “Harm Reduction is Love”. The conference will focus on decreasing harms including strategies to reduce stigma; the importance of traditional medicine; success of current harm reduction programs, peer engagement, and training projects; STBBI education/updates, and more. This is an opportunity for First Nations communities (leadership, Elders, community members), healthcare professionals, community-based organizations, peers, front-line workers, researchers, and the public to sit together, hear from each other, and build important connections that will positively impact Indigenous people in the future. The formal invitation and registration will be posted in early June at <https://www.nitha.com>.



### Care in Action – HIV Prevention and HPV Awareness in Indigenous Communities

Community-Based Research Centre

Care in Action is a two-part series for service providers on providing information on HIV prevention and HPV Awareness in Indigenous communities. Guided by lived experience, Care in Action is an Indigenous-led resource created by the Two-Spirit Program at Community-Based Research Centre to initiate conversations, reduce stigma, and access resources for people wanting to be proactive in their sexual health care. Learn more: <https://cbrc.learn.trakstar.com/catalog/?ca=5117170233797>.



## Clinical Documents - Syphilis

### Saskatchewan Health Authority

For syphilis clinical procedures and related documents, including the recently published *Syphilis Staging Algorithm for Primary Health Care Providers*, *Syphilis Treatment - Aftercare Information Sheet*, and *Syphilis Reactive Serology - Practitioner Checklist*, visit: <https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/intranet/health-provider-resources/clinical-resources/z-list-clinical-resources/public-health/syphilis-public-health>.

### Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority

For *Decision Making Algorithm for Syphilis for Primary Care Providers*, visit: [https://www.nitha.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Decision-Making-Algorithm-for-Syphilis\\_2024\\_Final\\_February-2024.pdf](https://www.nitha.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Decision-Making-Algorithm-for-Syphilis_2024_Final_February-2024.pdf).

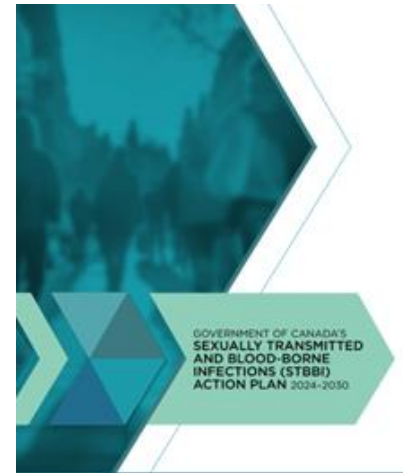
# National Publications & Resources

## Government of Canada's STBBI Action Plan 2024 – 2030

Report, Health Canada

The renewed Government of Canada's STBBI Action Plan aims to accelerate prevention, diagnosis, and treatment to reduce the health impacts of STBBI in Canada by 2030 and meet global commitments. Action Plan priorities include enabling environments, prevention, testing, initiation of care and treatment, and ongoing care and support.

Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/sexually-transmitted-blood-borne-infections-action-plan-2024-2030.html>



## Diagnosis and Management of Congenital Syphilis - Avoiding Missed Opportunities

Position Statement, Canadian Paediatric Society

Published in March 2024, this position statement provides information for clinicians caring for newborns to guide effective management and follow up of infants exposed in utero to syphilis.

Available at: <https://cps.ca/en/documents/position/congenital-syphilis>

## Where Do Youth Aged 15 to 17 Get Their Sexual Health Information?

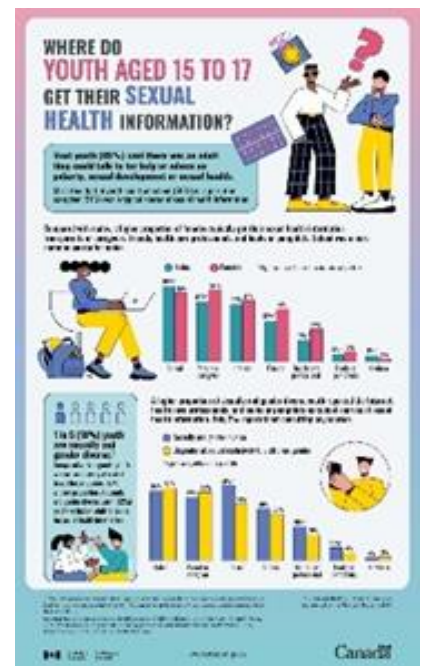
Report & Infographic, Statistics Canada

This report and infographic highlights where Canadian youth aged 15 to 17 get their sexual health information, based on data collected from the 2019 Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth. Key findings include the following:

- 85% of youth said there was an adult they could talk to for help or advice on puberty, sexual development, or sexual health.
- More than half of youth said that school (56%) or caregivers (51%) were a typical source of sexual health information.
- 1 in 5 youth reported being sexually and gender diverse.

Infographic available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2024010-eng.htm>

Full report available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-003-x/2024001/article/00001-eng.htm>



# National Publications & Resources Continued

## Let's Talk About Syphilis

Infographic, Health Canada

This infographic outlines the pivotal role health professionals play in the prevention and control of syphilis. It provides tips for screening and management of syphilis in Canada.

Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/lets-talk-about-syphilis/lets-talk-about-syphilis.pdf>



## INCLUSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT: A GUIDE FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

### THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Despite advances in prevention and treatment services, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and other significant public health concerns, including HIV, remain prevalent. Genital herpes (HSV), syphilis, human papillomavirus (HPV), genital warts, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and chlamydia. Access to inclusive sexual health assessment and testing is an essential component of health care and can contribute to interventions tailored to the needs of people of gendered sex for infection.

Sexual health assessment is an important part of a routine medical exam for all patients, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation or status. While necessary, clinicians (PCPs) need a broader range of educational, social and gender-responsive (gender, age, cultural, linguistic, spiritual/religious, ethnic, national, class, LGBTQ2SL, gender identities) and patients with low socioeconomic status often face discrimination and health disparities, including reduced access to healthcare and risk of being in unmet sexual health care<sup>1,2</sup>. In the majority of recognized STIs to effectively provide sexual health, health care services must be inclusive, culturally competent and accessible to all patient populations.

STIs are best understood to provide sexual health services that helps to address health disparities and other barriers based on sexual, gender, racial/ethnic, linguistic, health status, religion and other factors of oppression, it may also be providing inclusive sexual health assessment is to adopt a person-centred approach to address each patient's sexual healthcare needs.

### TIPS FOR INCLUSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT WITH PATIENTS

Engagement is an essential component of overall health and well-being, yet providers often face uncertainties and social stigma associated with STIs in the context of sex questions. Normalizing discussions about sexual health with patients can help providers understand, increase personal relevant knowledge, reduce stigma and correct myths or misconceptions. All sexually active individuals are at risk for STIs to some extent. It is important to screen, assess and discuss STI risk to reduce them.

s e c c a n t r o j a n

## Inclusive Sexual Health Assessment: A Guide for Healthcare Providers

Infographic, SIECCAN

This guide includes tips for inclusive sexual health assessment with patients, ways to create a culturally safe and welcoming environment, an assessment tool for patient sexual health, and an inclusive checklist.

Available at: <https://www.sieccan.org/resources/inclusive-sexual-health-assessment%3A-a-guide-for-healthcare-providers>

## Syphilis Guide for Two-Spirit People and Gay, Bisexual and Queer+ Guys

Video, CATIE in partnership with Community-Based Research Centre

This animated video provides key information about syphilis prevention, testing, and treatment for a diverse Two-Spirit, gay, bisexual, and queer+ audience.

Available at: <https://www.catie.ca/syphilis-guide-for-two-spirit-people-and-gay-bisexual-and-queer-guys>



Feel free to distribute this newsletter to others. If someone you know is interested in receiving future editions of the newsletter, or if you have a contribution for a future newsletter, contact

Jasmin at [jogren@skprevention.ca](mailto:jogren@skprevention.ca).