

**Provincial HIV Goals for Saskatchewan:
Progress Highlights from April 1, 2017- December 1, 2018**

**Five goals were identified by the Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative
in consultation with stakeholders**

**Three goals align with the UNAIDS
90-90-90 targets:**

- 90% of people living with HIV are diagnosed
- 90% of all those who are diagnosed with HIV are on treatment
- 90% of all those on treatment have a suppressed viral load

Two additional goals were identified:

- Optimize the HIV Care Environment
- Improve HIV Surveillance and Program Monitoring & Evaluation

**The progress made in Saskatchewan is due to the dedicated work
and collaborative efforts of HIV partner organizations and stakeholders**

People living with HIV
Communities
Community Based Organizations
Health Care Providers
Pharmacies
First Nation Communities
Tribal Councils
Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA)
First Nation Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) – Indigenous Services Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada
Researchers
Saskatchewan Ministry of Health
Saskatchewan Health Authority

Please note that the progress is not a complete list of all of the HIV-related work that occurred in 2017-18.; this overview only includes highlights that were shared with the Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative in relationship to the goals outlined in the provincial work plan.

The provincial HIV work plan objectives and activities, can be found at <http://skhiv.ca/work-plan/>.

Key Terms

Harm Reduction Program: Programs that provide supplies and services to reduce the risks associated with injection drug use. They include a range of services to enhance the knowledge, skills, resources, and supports for individuals engaging in high-risk behaviour.

HIV Strategy Coordinators: Employees of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, HIV Strategy Coordinators work together and in collaboration with their local service areas (and other assigned areas) and relevant stakeholders including community-based partner organizations and peer advisors/programs.

Know Your Status Program: A community-developed, culturally-grounded, client-based approach, which exhibits flexibility to mobilize STBBI related services to those locations that are best for the client. KYS model employs a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectorial and cross - jurisdictional approach. Core components include testing, specialized nursing and/or outreach, prevention and harm reduction.

SK HIV Collaborative: An advisory group comprised of representatives who provide technical and subject knowledge, regional perspectives and medical expertise on prevention, harm reduction, education, treatment and support services for communicable diseases. Their work helps to inform the development of provincial policy and programming.

Take Home Naloxone Program: A program that provides Naloxone kits and training to people who may witness an overdose, including friends and family members of those at risk. Naloxone is a medication used to block the effects of opioids, especially in overdoses.

Wellness Wheel: A Mobile Outreach Clinic working to improve access to care in Saskatchewan First Nations, utilizing a clinical (Western) model of care while integrating a traditional Indigenous health approach. Chronic and communicable diseases, including HIV and Hepatitis C are managed by dedicated primary care and specialist physicians who collaborate with First Nation communities to offer integrated care in partnership with communities and the health professionals within those communities.

Optimize the HIV Care Environment

Objectives:

1. Reduce Stigma & Discrimination
2. Ensure Patient Centered Care
3. Increase Community Engagement
4. Support Health Care Providers to Deliver Evidence-Based Care
5. Offer Better Services by Using Multi-Disciplinary Teams
6. Expand Harm Reduction & Take-Home Naloxone Program

Progress:

- www.wrapitupsk.com (Sexual Health Centre Saskatoon and AIDS Saskatoon)
- Test.Support.Treat (SK Ministry of Health) social media campaign, video and posters
- 50 infants born to women living with HIV received free formula through the Saskatchewan Infant Formula Program (SK Ministry of Health)
- www.skhiv.ca redeveloped and includes new “Living with HIV” section designed in consultation with peer mentors and peer programs (SK Prevention Institute)
- Know Your Status Forum - 2nd annual First Nation hosted knowledge exchange event held in February 2018
- 71 First Nation communities have full (22) or partial (49) access to Know Your Status services (funded by FNIHB)
- 153 community education and awareness sessions delivered by HIV Strategy Coordinators (SK Health Authority)
- Delivering Primary Care to People Living with HIV virtual classroom pilot project for physicians and nurse practitioners (SK Infectious Disease Care Network)
- 15 SK HIV Education Series presentations (SK HIV Collaborative)
- 70 training and education sessions delivered to health care providers by HIV Strategy Coordinators (SK Health Authority)
- 3 HIV and Sexual Health Train-the-Trainer workshops offered; 27 new “trainers” (SK HIV Strategy Coordinators)
- Clinic Management for Diagnosing & Treating HIV online tool developed (SK Health Authority)
- Wellness Wheel and SK Infectious Disease Care Network mobile clinics
- HIV Primary Care Capacity Building – 3 scholarship recipients, 2 virtual classroom sessions
- Increased funding to community-based organizations for additional HIV supports (Ministry of Health)
- Harm reduction sites expanded to 29 provincially-funded and 30 FNIHB-funded and operated by Indigenous partners
- Harm reduction sites listed on www.skhiv.ca
- Harm reduction services to include safer inhalation supplies and education
- Take Home Naloxone for opioid overdoses expanded to 36 provincially-operated sites. The FNIHB-funded program has trained 1646 people in SK First Nation communities and over 971 kits have been dispensed

Work in progress and carried over into 2018-2019

- Exploring transportation policies and options for people living with HIV to access care (SK Health Authority)
- Patient Provider Tool Kit (SK HIV/AIDS Research Endeavour)
- Continued expansion of Harm Reduction and Take-Home Naloxone programs (SK Ministry of Health)
- Creating an RN HIV Speciality Practice document (SK Health Authority)
- Planning for second HIV Primary Care Capacity Building Workshop and including hepatitis C

Improve HIV Surveillance and Program Monitoring & Evaluation

Objectives:

1. Share HIV data
2. Strengthen data collection
 - 2017 HIV Prevention and Control Report released 3 months earlier
 - Saskatchewan’s progress toward reaching the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets released August 2018 (Ministry of Health)
 - PHAC’s 90-90-90 Report for 2016 included estimates for the second and third 90s for SK First Nations communities (FNIHB)
 - First Track surveillance study implemented in SK First Nations communities (NITHA, FNIHB and Public Health Agency of Canada)
 - Research conducted on HIV strain in SK

Work in progress and carried over into 2018-2019

- Including standard collection of data about pregnant women living with HIV and babies born to HIV positive women (SK Ministry of Health)
- Finalize program indicators to inform decision making and monitor impact (SK Ministry of Health)

**Increase HIV Testing Coverage and Linkage to Care
Target: 90% of people living with HIV are diagnosed**

Objectives:

1. Promote the provincial HIV routine testing policy
2. Increase HIV Point of Care Testing
3. Increase Community-Based HIV Testing
4. Connect patients to HIV care soon after diagnosis
5. Promote Canadian Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) guidelines

Progress:

- Routine testing information postcards created and distributed to over 14,000 health care providers to encourage HIV testing (SK Ministry of Health)
- Testing pilot projects in some emergency and acute care settings (SK Health Authority)
- Numerous HIV awareness and testing fairs
- Two provincial HIV Testing Days (Community Based Organizations, FNIHB, Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority and SK Health Authority) held on June 27
- 84 sites licensed to perform HIV point of care testing (up from 20 in 2012)
- Dried Blood Spot testing projects, including training sessions (First Nation partners, FNIHB, Roy Romanow Provincial Lab, National Microbiology Lab)
- Peer to Peer Program Evaluation (Ministry of Health)
- Provincial HIV Peer Training Event (SK Health Authority)
- Peer Program Coordinators Networking Event (SK Health Authority)
- Saskatchewan PrEP Guidelines released (SK HIV Collaborative) and 16 clinics held

Work in progress and carried over into 2018-2019

- Including peers living with HIV in the care team working with newly diagnosed patients (SK Health Authority, Community Based Organizations)
- Developing a peer training manual
- Using case managers and patient navigators to ensure patients have transportation to attend their appointment (SK Health Authority)
- HIV testing pharmacy pilot project

Increase HIV Treatment Coverage

Target: 90% of all those who are diagnosed are on treatment

Objectives:

1. Monitor how HIV medication is prescribed
2. Explore options for HIV medication coverage for all patients living with HIV

Progress:

- Presentations by the Provincial HIV Clinical Pharmacist to pharmacists and health care providers (SK Health Authority)
- Evidence gathered on HIV medication adherence and treatment initiation barriers (SK Ministry of Health)
- Full coverage of HIV medications effective April 11, 2018 (SK Ministry of Health)

Work in progress and carried over into 2018-2019

- Creating a medication checklist for pharmacists (SK Health Authority)
- Developing a standard lab requisition for ongoing HIV care (SK Health Authority)

**Increase Retention in Care, Treatment Adherence and
Viral Suppression**

Target: 90% of all those who are on treatment have a suppressed viral load

Objectives:

1. Monitor if patients are staying connected to care and re-connect those lost to care

Progress:

- Pilot project to re-engage persons living with HIV and standard work for annual public health patient review developed