

HIV: HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS



HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that can weaken your immune system, the body's built-in defense against disease and illness.

Anyone can get HIV, no matter...your age, your sex, gender or sexual orientation, your race or ethnic origin.

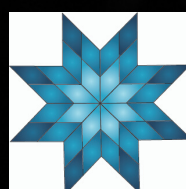
HIV can be passed when one of these fluids: blood, breast milk, vaginal fluid, rectal fluid, semen (including pre-cum) from a person with HIV gets into the bloodstream of another person.

There is no cure or vaccine. Once someone has HIV it is for life. However, HIV treatment that is adhered to can suppress the virus to an undetectable level, which will increase quality of life for the seropositive person, and greatly reduce the risk of transmission.

Undetectable = Untransmittable
U=U

HIV **cannot** be passed by:

- shaking hands,
- working or eating with someone who has HIV
- hugs or kisses
- coughs, sneezes or spitting
- swimming pools
- toilet seats
- water fountains
- insects or animals



Today Indigenous communities strive to work towards integration of the western biomedical health model and indigenous ways of knowing, a dual system that is grounded in the history, context and relevancy of the people.

9.6%

of people living with HIV in Canada are Indigenous

2.7X

Indigenous populations have incidence rates 2.7 times higher than people of other ethnicities

11.3%

In 2016, Indigenous people made up 11.3% of new HIV infections in Canada

THE WAYS HIV ENTERS THE BODY

The two main ways that HIV can be passed are:

- through sex
- by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs.

HIV can also be passed:

- to a fetus or baby during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding
- Through sharing needles or ink to get a tattoo
- Sharing needles or jewelry to get a body piercing
- Also by sharing acupuncture needles

NORTHREACH SEEKS TO:

- Increase knowledge of HIV/AIDS centering on identifying needs to promote health and well-being, as it relates to the prevention and management of HIV.
- Increase awareness and reduce stigma related to HIV/AIDS, through the promotion of testing, prevention strategies, harm reduction, care and management, including supportive environments for those at risk.
- Improved access to care, treatment, and support for community members with or at high risk of being exposed to HIV/AIDS.
- Improved coordination of prevention, harm reduction, educational opportunities, treatment and resources within the community