GIG CYMRU NHS WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru
Public Health Wales

Trends in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV in Wales

Annual report 2026
(Data to end 2025)

About Public Health Wales

Public Health Wales exists to protect and improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities for people in Wales. We work locally, nationally, and internationally, with our partners and communities.

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Glossary of key abbreviations

Anti-HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus Antibody	**PCR**	Polymerase Chain Reaction
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy	**POCT**	Point of Care Test
BBV	Blood Borne Virus	**SWS**	Sexual Health in Wales Surveillance Scheme
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus		
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System	**VL**	Viral Load
GBMSM	Gay and Bisexual men who have Sex with Men	**WHO**	World Health Organisation

Definitions[1]

Term	Definition
New HIV diagnoses	People, resident in Wales, receiving their first HIV diagnosis in Wales or England, with no evidence of a previous diagnosis elsewhere. Data are available from 2021 onwards. An individual's HIV diagnosis is assigned to the location of residence regardless of where the diagnosis took place.
People diagnosed with HIV before continuing care in Wales	People who had been previously diagnosed with HIV outside of the UK but continuing HIV care in Wales. Data are available from 2021 onwards.
All HIV diagnoses	All HIV diagnoses refer to new HIV diagnoses and people diagnosed with HIV before continuing care in Wales. Data are available from 2021 onwards.
Late diagnosis	This is defined as having a CD4 count below 350 cells per cubic millimetre within 91 days of first HIV diagnosis in the UK and no evidence of recent seroconversion. Evidence is either a negative HIV test within 24 months of diagnosis or a Recent Infection Testing Algorithm (RITA) result indicating recent infection. Persons with missing CD4 counts are excluded from the calculation of late diagnosis. Children aged 14 years and under at HIV diagnosis are excluded from the calculation of late diagnosis.

Purpose

The Welsh Government HIV Action Plan for Wales[2] 2023-26 identifies five priority areas for action: prevention, testing, clinical care, living well with HIV and tackling HIV-related stigma and has committed to achieving the UNAIDS HIV 95:95:95 targets[3].

This report provides information on the epidemiology, prevention and control of HIV in Wales to end of 2025, to support the Action Plan. The report is aimed at policy makers, health service clinicians and planners, commissioners, criminal justice, third sector agencies and academia.

1 UKHSA. HIV annual data tables. Appendix – Language changes following stakeholder consultation. 2025. Available at: HIV testing, PrEP, new HIV diagnoses and care outcomes for people accessing HIV services: 2025 report - GOV.UK
2 Welsh Government. Eliminating HIV, improving quality of life and tackling stigma associated with the virus – an action plan for 2023-26. Available at: HIV Action Plan for Wales
3 UNAIDS. Available at: Understanding measures of progress towards the 95–95–95 HIV testing, treatment and viral suppression targets

1 Executive summary

Prevention

- Since 2021, more than 6,391 people have been prescribed PrEP in Wales. The number of individuals receiving PrEP has increased annually between 2021 and 2024, equating to a 17% increase in uptake
- PrEP continues to be most frequently prescribed to males (98%) and those aged 25-34 years (35%)
- The increase in new HIV diagnoses in females would indicate a need to improve awareness and uptake of PrEP in females at risk of infection in Wales, as well as continuing and increasing provision and retention on PrEP in males

Testing

- Combining lab and home testing data, a total of 132,449 individuals were tested for HIV in 2025, a 4.3% increase on 2024 and the highest number since 2021
- Home testing via the Test and Post Scheme accounted for around 17% of individuals tested in 2025, the lowest proportion since its introduction in 2021
- Of those tested, 56% were female and 42% male, <1% non-binary and <2% not recorded
- HIV testing was most frequent in those aged 25–34 years (33%)

New HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents

- There were 82 new HIV diagnosis among Welsh residents in 2025. This represents a 4% increase compared with 2024
- The rate of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 population in Wales has increased slightly since 2024 (from 2.5 to 2.6 per 100, 000 population)
- The majority of new HIV diagnoses were in males (65%), however, the ratio of male to female new HIV diagnoses has decreased from 2.5:1 in 2021 to 1.9:1 in 2025
- The highest number of new HIV diagnoses were amongst those aged between 35-49 years, and those of White ethnicity
- Sex between men and women was again the most frequently reported route of exposure (39%), followed by sex between men (29%). The proportion of males reporting sex between men and women as their route of exposure is at a 5-year high (59%)
- Late diagnoses[4] suggest potential missed opportunities for testing and have implications for health outcomes. Where CD4 data[5] were available (83% of cases), evidence of late diagnosis was present for 62% of new diagnoses, the highest for the five-year period

[4] This is defined as having a CD4 count below 350 cells per cubic millimetre within 91 days of first HIV diagnosis in the UK and no evidence of recent seroconversion.

[5] CD4 cells are a type of white blood cell specifically targeted by HIV. In newly diagnosed HIV, a CD4 count of less than 350 cells/mm3 indicates a late diagnosis and a count of less than 250 cells/mm3 indicate a very late diagnosis.

All HIV diagnosis

- In 2025, there was a total of 115 HIV diagnoses, comprising 82 new HIV diagnosis and 33 people diagnosed with HIV before continuing care in Wales
- The 115 all HIV diagnoses in 2025 represent a decrease of 16.7% from 138 cases recorded in 2024
- The 2025 Wales all HIV diagnosis rate of 3.6 per 100,000 population remains lower than the rate in England and Scotland (7.0 and 4.0 respectively). No equivalent data are available for Northern Ireland for this period

Treatment and Care

- The prevalence of individuals living with HIV in Wales was 79.9 per 100,000 population in 2025, lower than that of England and Scotland (180.4 and 104.2 per 100,000 population respectively)
- Most individuals receiving care were male (73%); aged 50-64 years; and of White ethnicity
- 2,522 (99%) individuals reported receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), meeting the 95% UNAIDS target
- Of those receiving ART and where viral load is reported, 97% reported a viral load at 200 copies/ml or below indicating viral suppression, meeting the 95% UNAIDS target

Mortality

- Forty-nine deaths were recorded in people living with HIV, compared to 21 deaths in 2024
- In 2025, 19 deaths (39%) occurred within 5 years of diagnosis, and the majority of deaths were in those over the age of 65 years
- Further work is being undertaken to investigate trends in underlying cause of death and the contribution of HIV infection to mortality

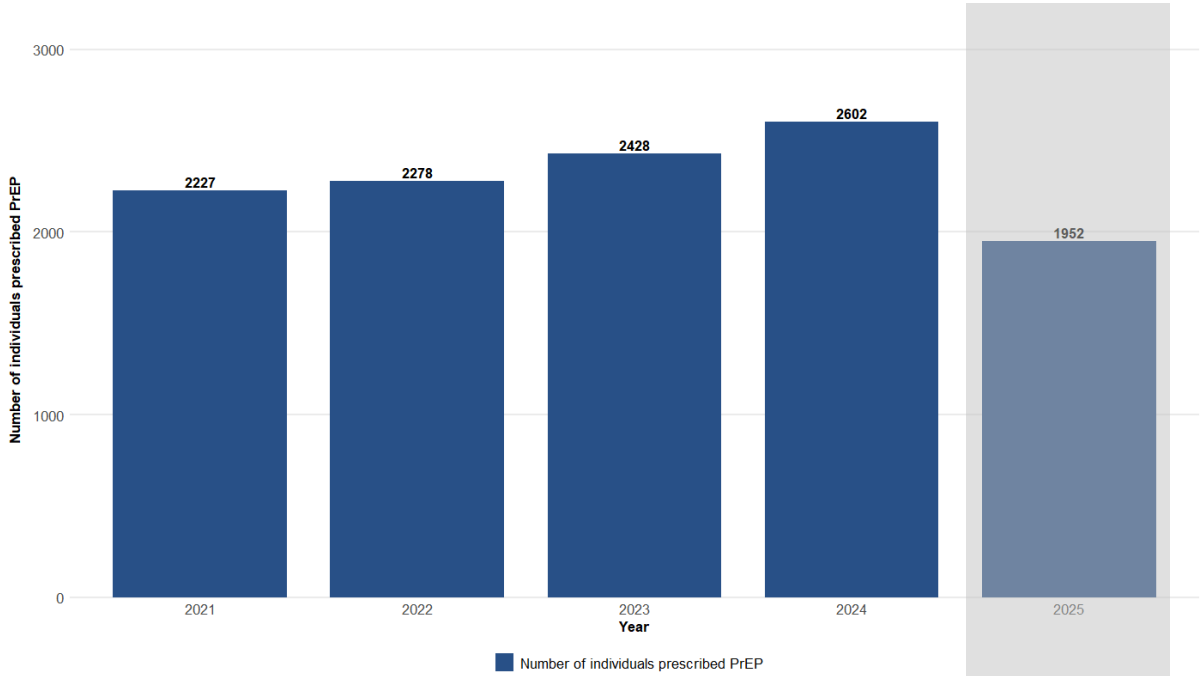
2 Prevention

Pre–Exposure prophylaxis for HIV

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a medicine shown to reduce the risk of acquisition of HIV through sex by >99% when taken as prescribed[6], was introduced in Wales in July 2017.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Ongoing data issues within Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB) have resulted in underreporting of clinical data for 2025. Trends including data from 2025 should be interpreted with caution.

Since 2021, at least 6,391 individuals have been prescribed PrEP through sexual health clinics in Wales, with the same individuals receiving prescriptions over multiple years. PrEP uptake has risen each year between 2021 and 2024, as shown in Figure 1, with 2,602 individuals prescribed in 2024, an increase of 16.8% since 2021.



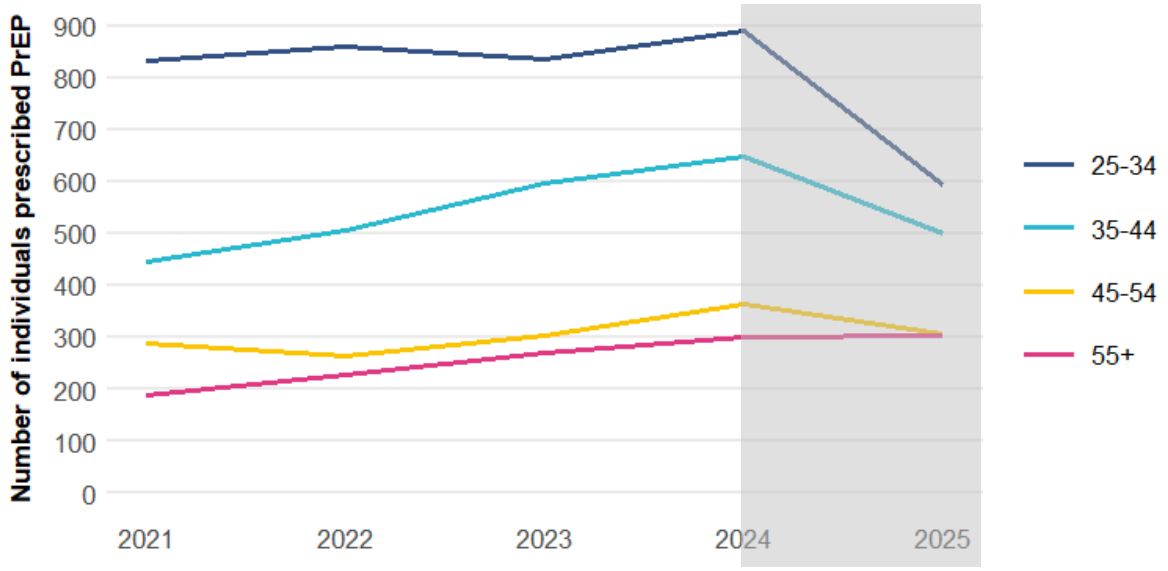
Source: SWS, 2026

Figure 1: Number of individuals prescribed PrEP in sexual health clinics, by year 2021-2025, Wales

Notes: Data for PrEP are incomplete from Cardiff and Vale UHB due to technical issues. Shaded area references incomplete data for 2025 and may be subject to change in future publications. Additional code mapping in 2026 led to an increase in PrEP prescriptions for previous years. Data in this report should not be compared to previous reports.

Overall, the majority of individuals receiving PrEP in sexual health clinics since 2021 were male (98%), self-reported as GBMSM (80%), and in the 25–34 year age-group (35%) (Figure 2). PrEP guidelines 2025/27 indicate suitability for PrEP for: GBMSM; Black African men and women; transgender women; recent migrants; people who inject drugs; people who report sex work or transactional sex. PrEP provision by Health Board of clinic attendance is shown in Table 1.

[6] CDC (2024) HIV Basics: Prep Effectiveness. https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/prep.html
[7] British Association for Sexual Health and HIV/British HIV Association guidelines on the use of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) 2025. Available at: 2025-PrEP-guidelines.pdf



Source: SWS, 2026

Figure 2: Number of individuals prescribed PrEP in sexual health clinics, by age-group, 2021-2025

Notes: Data for PrEP are incomplete from Cardiff and Vale UHB due to technical issues. Shaded area references incomplete data for 2025 and may be subject to change in future publications.

Table 1: Number of individuals in Wales prescribed PrEP by Health Board clinic attendance and year, 2021-2025

Health Board	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aneurin Bevan	264	358	379	386	421
Betsi Cadwaladr	263	361	429	446	497
Cardiff and Vale	1,278	952	979	1,101	350[$]
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	75	107	97	130	129
Hywel Dda	68	112	82	23	25
Powys*	-	-	-	-	-
Swansea Bay	279	388	462	516	530
Total	2,227	2,278	2,428	2,602	1,952

Source: SWS, 2025

*Powys does not have static sexual health clinics

Notes: **$** Data for PrEP are incomplete from Cardiff and Vale UHB due to technical issues for 2025 and may be subject to change in future publications.
Additional code mapping in 2026 led to an increase in PrEP prescriptions for previous years. Data in this report should not be compared to previous reports.

3 HIV Testing

3.1 Trends in HIV testing in Wales

The number of individuals tested for HIV in sexual health clinics, primary or secondary care or through the Test and Post Scheme[8] (TAP) continues to increase with a total of 132,449 individuals tested in 2025, an increase of 4.3% on the previous year. In 2025, around 17% of individuals were tested via the TAP Scheme, the smallest proportion since its introduction in 2021 (see Data sources for more information).

[8] Wales STI Testing Kit - Sexual Health Wales

Of the 132,449 individuals tested in 2025, 56% were female, 42% male, 0.2% non-binary with remaining 1.8% not recorded.

360 individuals (0.27%) had a reactive HIV Ag/Ab test in 2025 (Table 2), indicating re-testing of individuals previously diagnosed with HIV. There were 82 new HIV diagnoses in Wales in 2025, representing a rate of 0.06% of individuals tested.

Table 2: Total HIV Ag/Ab tests undertaken in sexual health clinics, primary and secondary care and TAP, individuals tested, and reactivity recorded by Welsh labs, by year, 2021-2025 and number

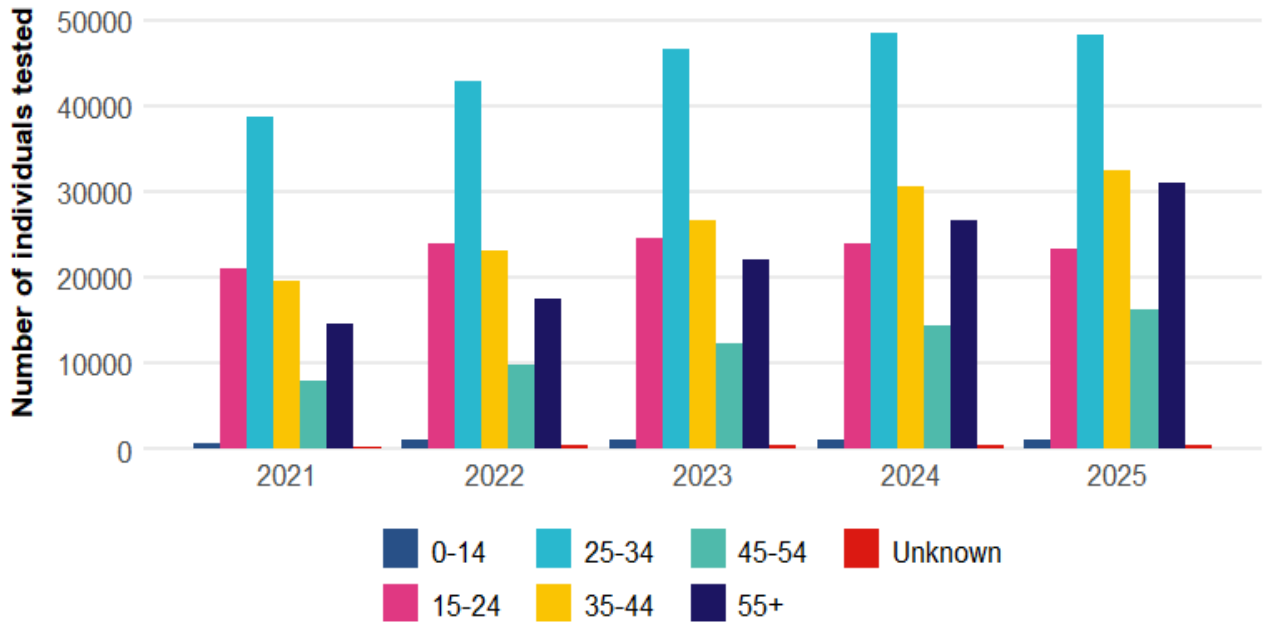
Year	Total HIV Ag/Ab tests	Individuals tested	Individuals with reactive test	Proportion reactive %	Number of new HIV diagnoses
2021	110,410	92,766	230	0.25	66
2022	126,937	105,996	322	0.30	105
2023	141,136	118,267	353	0.30	95
2024	153,348	126,990	389	0.31	79
2025	160,802	132,449	360	0.27	82

Source: LIMS and TAP, 2026

Notes: Previous reports included the number of individuals tested and reactive to a range of HIV diagnostic tests, as such the move to reporting HIV Ag/Ab tests only has led to a decrease across all years. Data in this report should not be compared to previous reports.

3.2 HIV testing by age group

The highest number of individuals tested were in the 25-34 age group (Figure 3), consistent with previous years.



Source: LIMS and TAP, 2026

Figure 3: Number of individuals tested for HIV Ag/Ab within sexual health clinics, primary and secondary care and TAP, by age-group and year

3.3 HIV testing rates by health board of residence

The number of individuals tested in each health board of residence is shown in Table 3, with the highest testing rate of 5,335.5 per 100,000 population in those resident in Swansea Bay University Health Board area.

Table 3: Number of individuals tested and rate per 100,000 population (n(rate)) for HIV Ag/Ab within sexual health clinics, primary and secondary care, and Test and Post service by health board of residence and year

Health board of residence	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aneurin Bevan	14,556 **(2,474.3)**	17,364 **(2,934.3)**	20,763 **(3,477.2)**	21,712 **(3,615.8)**	23,326 **(3,877.6)**
Betsi Cadwaladr	17,081 **(2,486.2)**	20,293 **(2,944.8)**	24,902 **(3,590.1)**	26,149 **(3,758.6)**	27,388 **(3,937.9)**
Cardiff and Vale	22,065 **(4,481.9)**	26,641 **(5,294.4)**	26,968 **(5,245.2)**	29,977 **(5,794.5)**	27,396 **(5,300.3)**
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	11,161 **(2,524.2)**	13,480 **(3,034.4)**	14,820 **(3,315.1)**	16,438 **(3,672.5)**	17,846 **(3,998.1)**
Hywel Dda	7,585 **(1,983.1)**	9,488 **(2,460.3)**	10,264 **(2,644.9)**	10,736 **(2,761.7)**	11,623 **(2,991.1)**
Powys	1,096 **(820.8)**	1,332 **(995.1)**	1,450 **(1,077.7)**	1,926 **(1,428.2)**	1,807 **(1,340.1)**
Swansea Bay	12,621 **(3,322.8)**	15,325 **(3,981.5)**	18,749 **(4,800.8)**	19,504 **(4,960.1)**	20,886 **(5,335.5)**

Source: LIMS and TAP, 2026

Note: Table does not include those where health board of residence is unknown

4 Diagnosis

From 1st January 2024, notification of new diagnoses of HIV in Wales are submitted by sexual health clinicians to Public Health Wales routinely via the HIV e-form. The introduction of the HIV e-form process has enabled an increase in data quality and completeness new HIV case data across Wales. Previously published data regarding new HIV diagnosis in earlier years should be interpreted with caution.

4.1 New HIV diagnosis – country level comparison

Where individuals have no evidence of a previous HIV diagnosis, they are recorded as a new UK diagnosis[9]. New UK diagnosis rates can provide evidence of within-country transmission and recent migration of previously undiagnosed individuals to UK and are therefore an important measure for evidencing action towards achieving UNAIDS elimination targets[10].

[9] Identifying a case as a new UK diagnosis is dependent on a complete HIV testing history being submitted to UKHSA on the clinical HIV report form. Assumptions may have been made where data was missing.

[10] UNAIDS Recommended 2030 targets for HIV | UNAIDS

Rate of new HIV diagnoses in Wales increased slightly to 2.6 per 100,000 population in 2025, compared to 2.5 per 100,000 population in 2024. The rate for HIV in Wales remains lower than that for England but is higher than that reported for Scotland, a trend consistent in previous years except 2024 (Table 4). Comparable data are not available for Northern Ireland from 2022.

Table 4: Number and rates of new HIV diagnoses reported in the UK, by country and year 2021-2025

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Country/ Region	Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK	Rate of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000	Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK	Rate of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000	Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK	Rate of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000	Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK	Rate of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000	Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK	Rate of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000
England	2,233	3.9	2,418	4.2	2,745	4.7	2,789	4.8	2,604	4.4
Northern Ireland	62	3.3	55	2.9	-		-		-	
Scotland	96	1.8	112	2.1	116	2.1	171	3.1	125	2.3
Wales	66	2.1	105	3.4	95	3.0	79	2.5	82	2.6
Total	2,457	3.7	2,690	4.0	2,956	4.3	3,039	4.4	2,811	4.2

Source: UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2025

Note: UK-wide data is processed annually for a 10-year period. This can lead to small changes in numbers and rates for previous years. Data in this report should not be compared with previous reports.

4.2 Demographic profile of new HIV cases in Wales

4.2.1 Age and gender profiles

In 2025, males accounted for 65% of new HIV cases, the lowest proportion in recent years. The male to female ratio of new HIV cases in Wales has moved from 2.5:1 in 2021 to 1.9:1 in 2025.

Most new HIV cases were in those aged 35–49 years and amongst those of White ethnicity (see Table 5).

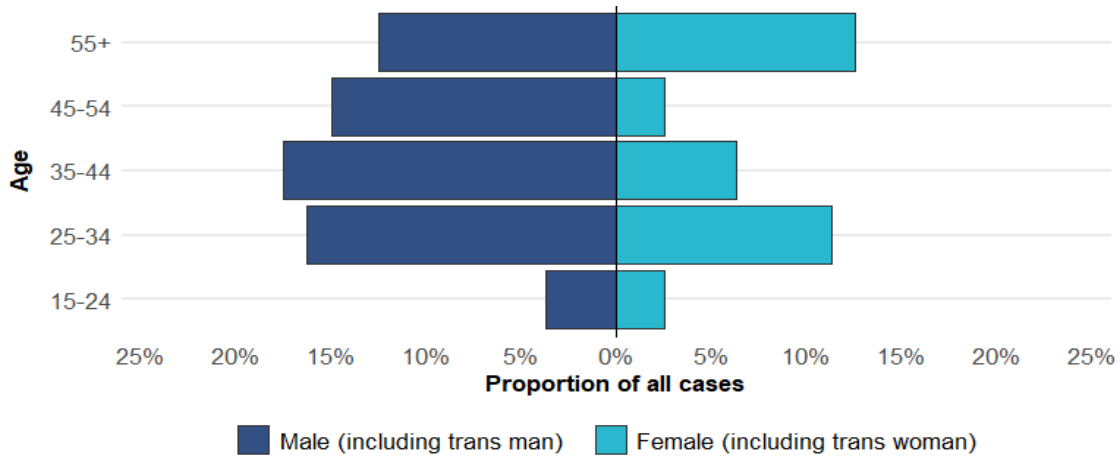
Table 5: Age, gender (not including non-binary) and ethnicity* frequencies for residents of Wales with a new HIV diagnosis in the UK, 2021-2025

New HIV diagnoses	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All	66	105	95	79	82
Male (including transgender men)	47(71%)	75(71%)	66(69%)	62(78%)	53(65%)
Female (including transgender women)	19(29%)	29(28%)	29(31%)	17(22%)	28(34%)
0-14	0	<5	0	<5	<5
15-24	<10	7	<10	<5	<10
25-34	16	21	32	21	22
35-49	26	50	40	33	28
50-64	14	22	13	13	13
65+	<5	<5	<5	10	13
White	31	55	32	44	41
Black African	5	23	16	15	19
Black Caribbean, mixed and other ethnicities*	9	<5	6	<5	5
Unknown	21	23	41	17	17

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025

*Due to very low numbers, the ethnicity categories of Black Caribbean, mixed and other ethnicities have been aggregated

In 2025, the age group profile of new HIV infection differed between males and females (Figure 4), with the highest proportion of cases in females diagnosed in those aged 55+ years and 25-34 years.



Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2026

Figure 4: Age-gender distribution of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, 2025

The number and rate per 100,000 population of new HIV diagnoses by gender is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Number and rate per 100,000 population (n(rate)) of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by gender and year 2021-2025

Gender	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	66 (2.1)	105 (3.4)	95 (3.0)	79 (2.5)	82 (2.6)
Male (including transgender men)	47 (3.1)	75 (4.9)	66 (4.3)	62 (4.0)	53 (3.4)
Female (including transgender women)	19 (1.2)	29 (1.8)	29 (1.8)	17 (1.0)	28 (1.7)

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2025

In 2025, decreases in the rate per 100,000 population were only observed amongst the 35–49 year age group, with all other age groups showing either an increase or maintenance from the previous year. The largest increases in rate were in the 15-24 and 65+ year age groups. The number of new HIV diagnosed over the age of 65 years was the highest since 2021 (Table 7).

Table 7: Number and rate per 100,000 population of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by age group and year 2021-2025

Age Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
0-14	0 (0.0)	<5 (0.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	<5 (0.2)
15-24	<10 (1.9)	7 (1.9)	<10 (2.4)	<5 (0.5)	<10 (1.4)
25-34	16 (4.2)	21 (5.4)	32 (8.1)	21 (5.3)	22 (5.6)
35-49	26 (4.8)	50 (9.1)	40 (7.1)	33 (5.8)	28 (4.9)
50-64	14 (2.2)	22 (3.4)	13 (2.0)	13 (2.0)	13 (2.0)
65+	<5 (0.5)	<5 (0.4)	<5 (0.1)	<15 (1.4)	13 (1.8)
Total	66 (2.1)	105 (3.4)	95 (3.0)	79 (2.5)	82 (2.6)

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales 2026

4.2.2 Ethnicity and country/region of birth

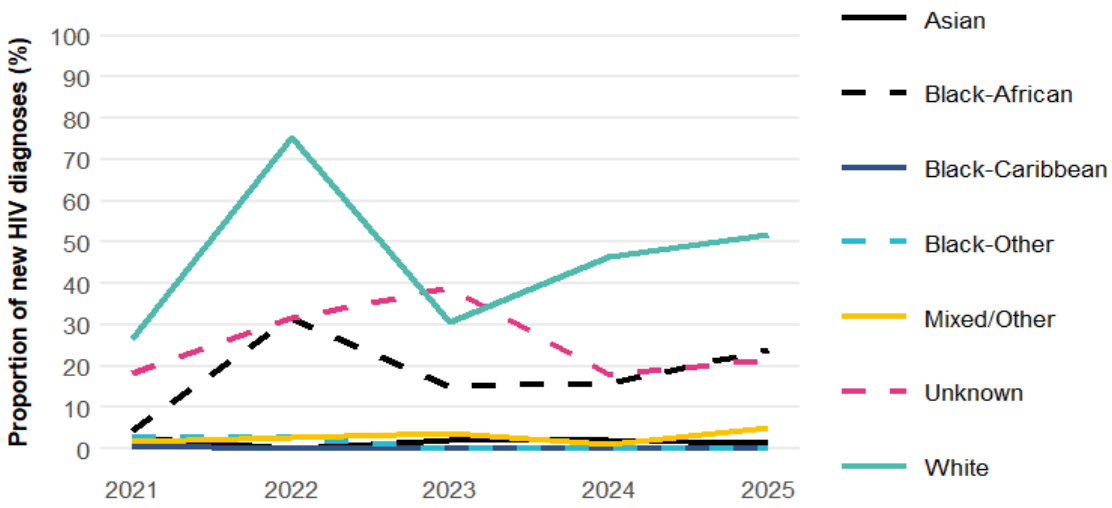
The number of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents remain consistently highest amongst those of White ethnicity, in line with the ethnicity profile of Wales[11] (see Table 8 and Figure 5). However, the rate per 100,000 population of new HIV continues to be highest in those of Black-African ethnicity and has been increasing since 2023, following a large spike in 2022. The proportion of incomplete or missing data for ethnicity decreased sharply in 2024, following the introduction of the HIV surveillance e-form.

[11] ONS census data 2021 indicated 93.8% of White ethnicity in Wales: Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics

Table 8: Number and rate per 100,000 of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by ethnicity group and year 2021-2025

Ethnicity Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
White	31 (1.1)	55 (1.9)	32 (1.1)	44 (1.5)	41 (1.4)
Black-Caribbean	<5 (27.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Black-African	5 (25.1)	23 (115.5)	16 (80.4)	15 (75.4)	19 (95.5)
Black-Other	<5 (76.0)	<5 (50.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Asian	<5 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	<5 (2.2)	<5 (2.2)	<5 (1.1)
Mixed/Other	<5 (2.7)	<5 (2.7)	<5 (5.3)	<5 (1.3)	<5 (5.3)
Total	66 (2.1)	105 (3.4)	95 (3.0)	79 (2.5)	82 (2.6)

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2026



Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2026

Figure 5: Proportion of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by ethnicity group and year 2021-2025

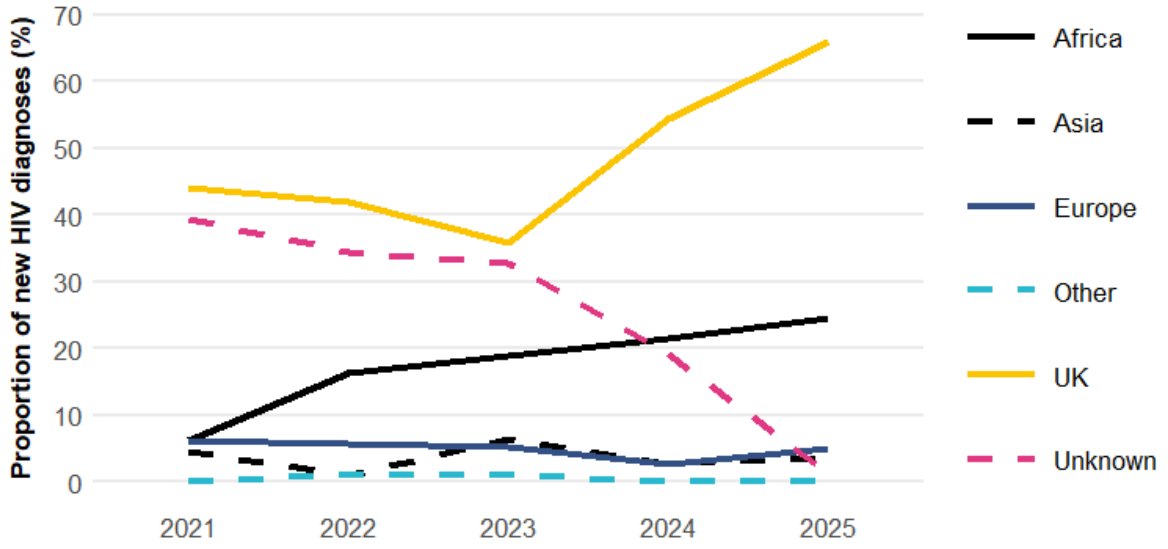
In 2025, new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents were highest amongst those UK born, followed by those born in Africa, a consistent trend since 2022 (Table 9). The proportion of individuals with an unknown country of birth is at a 5-year low due to improved data quality via the HIV e-form.

Table 9: Number of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by region of birth and year

Region of Birth	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UK	29	44	34	43	54
Europe	<5	6	<5	<5	<5
Africa	<5	17	18	17	20
Asia	<5	<5	6	<5	<5
Other	0	<5	<5	0	0
Unknown	26	36	31	15	<5

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2026

The country of birth of new HIV cases can be seen by proportion in Figure 6, where the proportion of those UK-born is increasing, along with small increases observed in those born in Africa and Asia. Those with an unknown country of birth have decreased substantially due to improved data quality via the HIV e-form.



Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2026

Figure 6: Proportion of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by region of birth and year

4.2.3 Health board of residence

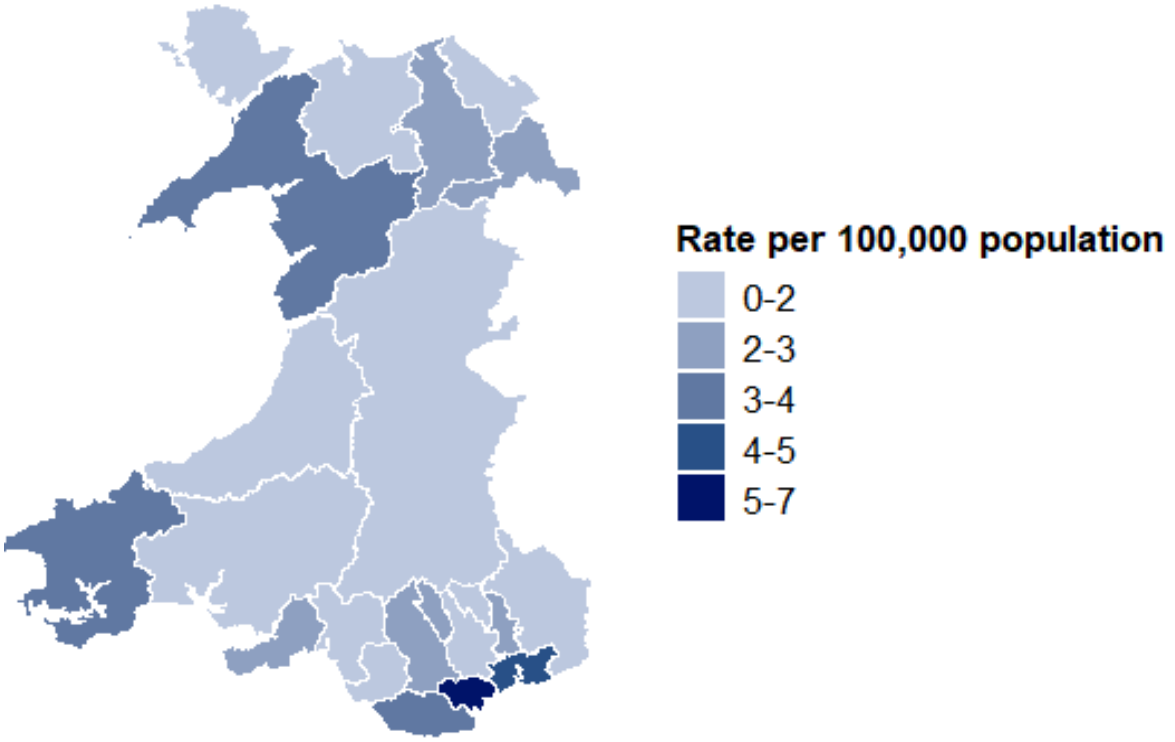
The rate of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 population varies by health board of residence across Wales (Table 10), however, rates are consistently highest amongst those resident in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board area.

Table 10: Number and rate per 100,000 population (n(rate)) of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by residential health board and year 2021-2025

Health Board of Clinic Attendance	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aneurin Bevan	13 (2.2)	13 (2.2)	17 (2.8)	18 (3)	19 (3.2)
Betsi Cadwaladr	9 (1.3)	24 (3.5)	13 (1.9)	14 (2)	12 (1.7)
Cardiff and Vale	21 (4.3)	34 (6.8)	38 (7.4)	21 (4.1)	21 (4.1)
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	<10 (1.1)	13 (2.9)	10 (2.2)	8 (1.8)	14 (3.1)
Hywel Dda	9 (2.4)	12 (3.1)	<10 (1.8)	8 (2.1)	<10 (1.5)
Powys	<5 (0.7)	<5 (2.2)	<5 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	<5 (0.7)
Swansea Bay	8 (2.1)	<10 (1.6)	8 (2.0)	10 (2.5)	9 (2.3)
Total	66 (2.1)	105 (3.4)	95 (3.0)	79 (2.5)	82 (2.6)

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2025

At local authority of residence (Figure 7), the highest new HIV rates per 100,000 population were recorded in Cardiff and Newport local authority areas using combined 2021-2025 data. N.B. location rates are based on individuals' residential postcode and do not reflect site of diagnosis.



Source: PHW, UKHSA & Stats Wales, 2026

Figure 7: Rate of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents by local authority, combined years 2021-2025

4.2.4 Patient reported probable risk of exposure

Historically, sex between men has been most frequently reported as the route of probable exposure, however, in recent years, sex between men and women has become the most frequent self-reported transmission route (see Table 11). This is consistent with the increases in new HIV cases amongst females and, in 2025, the proportion of males reporting sex between men and women as probable exposure is also at a 5-year high (59%).

Table 11: Number of new HIV diagnoses in the UK among residents in Wales, by self-reported route of exposure* and year 2021-2025

Probable exposure category*	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sex between men	21	33	34	26	24
Sex between men and women	21	38	31	30	32

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2026

*Not all diagnoses include self-reported probable exposure and non-sexual exposures including injecting drug use were excluded due to very low figures

4.3 Late Diagnoses of new HIV cases

Late diagnoses[12] suggest potential missed opportunities for testing and have implications for health outcomes. Based on sexual health clinic data provided directly to Public Health Wales on new HIV diagnoses in Wales in 2025, a CD4 count within 91 days of diagnosis was provided for 82.9% of new diagnoses, of which 61.8% were identified as late diagnoses

[12] This is defined as having a CD4 count below 350 cells per cubic millimetre within 91 days of first HIV diagnosis in the UK and no evidence of recent seroconversion.

(see Table 12). The number of late diagnoses increased in 2025 compared to 2024 and is the highest for the five-year period.

Table 12: Number and proportion (%) of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents with a reported CD4 count within 91 days and late diagnoses in Wales where CD4 count was reported, by year 2021-2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
CD4 count reported	41 (62.1%)	93 (88.6%)	81 (85.3%)	67 (84.8%)	68 (82.9%)
Late diagnosis reported	17 (41.5%)	38 (40.9%)	31 (38.3%)	35 (52.2%)	42 (61.8%)

Source: PHW, 2025

Note: Data provided here is based on direct contact with clinicians in Wales and may not fully align with data published by UKHSA as official statistics.

4.4 All HIV diagnoses – country level comparison

All HIV diagnoses in Wales in 2025 totalled 115 cases, comprising 82 new HIV diagnoses and 33 people diagnosed with HIV before continuing care in Wales. This represents a decrease of 16.7% in all HIV diagnosis compared to 2024.

The rate of all HIV diagnoses in the UK in 2025, including those diagnosed with HIV before continuing care in the UK, varies by nation, with rates in Wales being more comparable to Scotland than England (Table 13 and Figure 8).

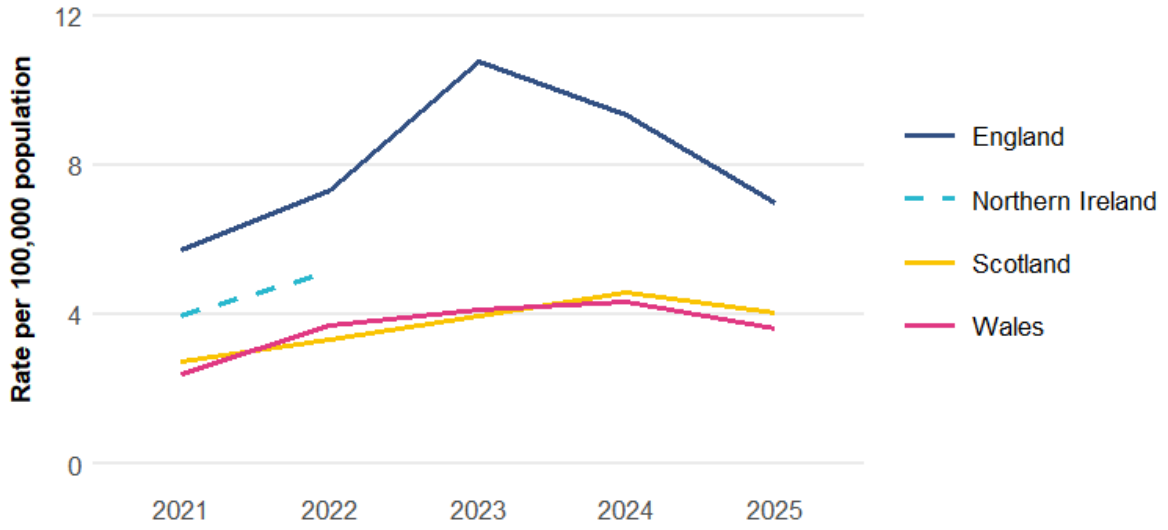
For 2025, the rate in Wales decreased to 3.6 from 4.3 per 100,000 in 2024. Northern Ireland have not submitted data since 2022. Where data available, rates of all HIV diagnoses by country have declined since 2023. Trends in migration in recent years have likely impacted all HIV incidence rates in the UK.

Table 13: All HIV diagnoses reported in the UK and rate per 100,000 population, by country and year 2021-2025

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Country/Region	All HIV Diagnoses	Rate of all HIV Diagnoses per 100,000	All HIV Diagnoses	Rate of all HIV Diagnoses per 100,000	All HIV Diagnoses	Rate of all HIV Diagnoses per 100,000	All HIV Diagnoses	Rate of all HIV Diagnoses per 100,000	All HIV Diagnoses	Rate of all HIV Diagnoses per 100,000
England	3,232	5.7	4,174	7.3	6,241	10.8	5,464	9.3	4,101	7.0
Northern Ireland	75	3.9	98	5.1	-		-		-	
Scotland	149	2.8	181	3.3	218	4.0	254	4.6	223	4.0
Wales	75	2.4	116	3.7	130	4.1	138	4.3	115	3.6
Total	3,531	5.3	4,569	6.8	6,589	9.6	5,856	8.5	4,439	6.6

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2026

Note: UK-wide data is processed annually for a 10-year period. This can lead to small changes in numbers and rates for previous years. Data in this report should not be compared with previous reports.



Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2026

Figure 8: All HIV diagnosis rate per 100,000 population, by UK country and year 2021-2025

4.5 HIV in Pregnant Women

In 2025, 11 HIV positive mothers, all diagnosed in previous years, gave birth in Wales. Of the 11 babies born, 9 showed no evidence of HIV infection, with the remaining awaiting results. Further development of congenital HIV surveillance is currently ongoing in Wales.

5 Treatment and Care

From 2024 onwards, those receiving HIV care in Wales are defined as: individuals receiving a viral load test within a 14-month window, (e.g. 01/12/2023-31/01/2025 for 2024). The reduction in the number of people living with HIV seen between 2023 and 2024 is largely due to removal of individuals without identifiers and recorded in 'Unknown' demographic categories, previously reported via the manual reporting method used prior to 2024.

5.1 People living with HIV – country level comparison

The total number of individuals resident in Wales and receiving HIV treatment and care has increased from 2,461 in 2021, to 2,538 in 2025, resulting in an increasing trend in the rate per 100,000 population (see Table 14).

The prevalence of individuals living with HIV in Wales per 100,000 population was 79.9 per 100,000 population in 2025, remains lower than that of both England and Scotland (180.4 and 104.2 per 100,000 population, respectively).

Table 14: Number and rate per 100,000 population of people living with HIV in the UK, by country and year, 2021-2025

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Country	Number of Individuals Living With HIV	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of Individuals Living With HIV	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of Individuals Living With HIV	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of Individuals Living With HIV	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of Individuals Living With HIV	Rate per 100,000 population
England	91,409	161.6	94,418	165.1	99,667	171.9	104,033	177.5	106,115	180.4
Northern Ireland	1,291	67.8	1,312	68.7	-		-		-	
Scotland	5,125	94.7	5,313	97.5	5,314	96.4	5,525	99.7	5,781	104.2
Wales	2,461	79.2	2,535	80.9	2,764	87.3	2,520	79.3	2,538	79.9
Total	100,286	149.7	103,578	153	107,745	157.1	112,078	161.8	114,434	169.4

Source: PHW, UKHSA & Stats Wales, 2025

Note: UK-wide data is processed annually for a 10-year period. This can lead to small changes in numbers and rates for previous years. Data in this report should not be compared with previous reports.

5.2 People living with HIV – by demographics

A small increase in individuals living with HIV was seen between 2024 and 2025 (Table 15). The majority of individuals receiving HIV treatment and care in Wales were male (73.1%); aged 50-64 years (38.4%); and of White ethnicity (64.3%, Table 15).

Table 15: Demographic profile of those living with HIV and receiving treatment and care in Wales, by year, 2021-2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	2,461	2,535	2,764	2,520	2,538
Female	563	598	642	651	680
Male	1,845	1886	1,955	1,865	1,856
0-14	0	<5	6	7	6
15-24	36	<35	31	30	37
25-34	296	272	287	260	249
35-49	953	958	1,038	983	948
50-64	945	1,008	1,086	951	975
65+	231	260	315	288	323
White	1,831	1,852	1,883	1,670	1,632
Black African	330	347	363	404	423
Black Caribbean	10	8	12	16	19
Black Other	42	41	43	35	35
Asian	73	77	68	69	72
Other or mixed	59	71	71	68	68

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2026

The highest rate of individuals receiving HIV care in Wales is consistently reported within those resident in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (Table 16).

Table 16: Number and rate per 100,000 population (n(rate)) of people living with HIV by health board of residence and year, 2021-2025

Health board of residence	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aneurin Bevan	441 **(75.0)**	450 **(76.0)**	439 **(73.5)**	347 **(57.8)**	407 **(67.7)**
Betsi Cadwaladr	440 **(64.0)**	457 **(66.3)**	485 **(69.9)**	481 **(69.1)**	495 **(71.2)**
Cardiff and Vale	700 **(142.2)**	707 **(140.5)**	868 **(168.8)**	724 **(139.9)**	742 **(143.6)**
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	279 **(63.1)**	287 **(64.6)**	288 **(64.4)**	302 **(67.5)**	272 **(60.9)**
Hywel Dda	200 **(52.3)**	223 **(57.8)**	248 **(63.9)**	244 **(62.8)**	230 **(59.2)**
Powys	58 **(43.4)**	63 **(47.1)**	60 **(44.6)**	67 **(49.7)**	61 **(45.2)**
Swansea Bay	343 **(90.3)**	348 **(90.4)**	376 **(96.3)**	333 **(84.7)**	331 **(84.6)**

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2026

Note: Twenty-two individuals had an unknown residential health board in 2024 and have been excluded from the table.

5.3 HIV Treatment and viral load

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is used to treat HIV and reduces the viral load (VL) to a point where onward transmission is not possible.

The number of individuals reportedly receiving treatment is related to the number of individuals receiving care and the 95% target of 'At least 95% of people who know their HIV status are on treatment' set by UNAIDS has been met for the past 5 years (Table 16).

The proportion of those on treatment with a reported VL increased in 2025 to 99%, reaching the UNAIDS target for the first time. Of those with a VL, the proportion with an undetectable VL remains above the 95% UNAIDS target.

Table 17: Number and proportion (%) of individuals receiving ART, reporting a viral load and having an undetectable viral load, by year 2021-2025

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Receiving ART	2,450	2,515	2,720	2,487	2,522
%	100	99	98	99	99
Reported VL	1,628	1,632	2,335	2,349	2,491
%	66	65	86	94	99
% with undetectable VL (<200 copies per ml)	98	98	98	99	97

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2026

Note: The number and proportion of individuals with a VL is a subset of those receiving ART not a full representation of those considered as in care.

6 Mortality

In 2025, there were 49 deaths in people living with HIV resident in Wales (Table 17)[13]. The majority of deaths occurred in those over the age of 65 (57.1%). A total of 19 individuals (38.8%) died within 5 years of their HIV diagnosis.

Table 18: Number of deaths recorded in those living with HIV in Wales, by year, 2021-2025

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of deaths	22	10	32	21	49

Source: PHW and UKHSA

Notes: Delays in reporting can lead to changes to the number of deaths reported in previous years. Data in this report should not be compared with previous reports.

A number of reported new HIV diagnoses at time of death have led to an increase in both the new HIV diagnoses and death figures in 2025.

In 2025, of the 49 reported deaths:

- 33 were identified through ONS
- 15 were reported through the National HIV Mortality Review (NHMR), of which
    - 12 were reported by Welsh trusts
    - 3 were reported by English trusts and matched to an initial diagnosis in Wales
- 1 was reported via HARS from an English clinic regarding a Welsh resident

Further work is being undertaken to investigate trends in underlying cause of death and the contribution of HIV infection to mortality.

[13] Deaths in people with HIV are identified through Office of National Statistics (ONS) by comparing NHS numbers of HIV positive individuals in Welsh laboratory data and NHS numbers of those recorded as deceased on ONS. Additional deaths, identified via the submissions from the National HIV Mortality Review (NHMR), and any reported by clinics in England relating to a Welsh resident, are appended. Unique identifiers are used to match each death notification to an initial diagnosis date, typically from a previous year. Where no matching is possible, individuals are considered a new HIV diagnosis at death.

7 Data sources

The data in this report are drawn from several main sources, including:

- NHS Wales laboratory Information Management system (LIMS)
- All Wales New HIV: Diagnosis e-form data
- Sexual Health in Wales Surveillance Scheme (SWS)
- Test & Post Service (T&P)/ The Doctors Lab (TDL)

Data from LIMS and HIV surveillance e-forms are combined and submitted to UKHSA via the Clinical HIV Reporting (CHR) form, where they are joined with UK-wide data. Data is processed and returned as a disaggregate dataset for Wales, including those diagnosed and seen for care in other UK countries but resident in Wales.

Where required, population data have been sourced from the Stats Wales[14] mid-year population estimates 2025, which are based ONS figures.

Laboratory Information Management Service (LIMS)

Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) is a computerised information system into which laboratory staff key in requests from wards, theatres, A&E, and clinics for pathology tests to be undertaken. Samples are fed through pathology analysers which are connected to the LIMS, and which pass the measurements and the results data to LIMS via dedicated interfaces. Test results are then aligned to the patients' identity by LIMS ready for use by the clinicians and their team.

The LIMS data source includes all HIV Ag/Ab tests undertaken in NHS Wales laboratories and as such provides information on all populations tested in Wales (see T&P/TDL on page 25). Additionally, individuals receiving HIV care in Wales are identified using the presence of an HIV viral load test conducted within a 14-month window.

All Wales New HIV: Diagnosis e-form

A New HIV Diagnosis e-form is completed by clinicians in Wales for all new HIV cases. Information collected allows for epidemiological trend analysis and includes: test result and diagnostic data; demographic details; and treatment status. This process was introduced in 2024 and is the national new HIV surveillance process for Wales.

Sexual Health in Wales Surveillance Scheme (SWS)

The Sexual health in Wales Surveillance scheme (SWS) introduced in 2011, collates information from the electronic patient management systems currently used within sexual health clinics in Wales. SWS provides a Wales-wide dataset that includes individuals receiving prescriptions of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) via sexual health services along with some key demographics for those individuals such as sex, age, ethnicity, and local authority of residence.

The Test and Post service (T&P) / The Doctors Lab (TDL)

The Welsh T&P screening programme was established in 2020 by Public Health Wales in collaboration with the government and Local Health Boards (LHBs), as a self-screening postal testing service for BBVs and sexually transmitted infections. Self-screening kits are requested via online or from community settings and completed by individuals. The

[14] Stats Wales

resultant samples are processed by a private laboratory, The Doctors Lab (TDL), and therefore are not included in LIMS. Results are texted to individuals with signposting to for clinical treatment services as required. Negative HIV T&P tests are counted along with all HIV Ag/Ab tests from LIMS, when summing the total tests conducted in Wales. Individuals receiving a positive result through the T&P service should be seen through sexual health clinics and their results recorded through the All Wales New HIV: Diagnosis e-form.

Office for National Statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) provides national and subnational mid-year population estimates for the UK and its constituent countries by administrative area, age, and sex (including components of population change, median age, and population density). Population statistics for gender, age and location of residence are based on 2025 mid-year figures.[15] Population estimates for Ethnicity are based on the 2021 ONS census.[16] Deaths in those with HIV are also taken from ONS.

[15] Office for National Statistics. Mid-2025 population estimates. ONS mid-year population estimates
[16] Office for National Statistics. 2021 census - Ethnicity, national identity and religion in the UK and non-UK born population: 2021. https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity