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

**Annual report 2025
(Data to end 2024)**

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.

Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre

Public Health Wales

Number 2 Capital Quarter

Tyndall Street

Cardiff

CF10 4BZ

www.publichealthwales.org

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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 | VL | Viral Load |
| LIMS | Laboratory Information Management System | WHO | World Health Organisation |
| GBMSM | Gay and Bisexual men who have Sex with Men | | |

Definitions¹

| Term | Definition |
|---|--|
| New HIV diagnosis | People, resident in Wales, receiving their first HIV diagnosis in Wales or England, with no evidence of previous diagnosis elsewhere. Data is available from 2020 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 is available from 2020 onwards. |
| All HIV diagnosis | All HIV diagnosis refer to new HIV diagnosis and people diagnosed with HIV before continuing care in Wales. Data is available from 2020 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 Wales² 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 targets³.

This report provides information on the epidemiology, prevention and control of HIV in Wales to end of 2024. 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

1.1 Prevention

- Since 2020, more than 5,745 people have been prescribed PrEP in Wales. 2,319 people were prescribed PrEP in 2024, a 4.1% increase on 2023 and the highest number since PrEP was introduced in Wales
- PrEP continues to be most commonly prescribed to males (98%) and those in the 25-34 year age category (35%)

1.2 Testing

- Combining lab and home testing data, 133,699 individuals were tested for HIV in 2024, an 8.3% increase on 2023 (123,350 people tested) and the highest number since 2020
- Home testing accounted for more than 18% of individuals tested in 2024
- Of those tested, 53% were female, 41% male, <1% non-binary with remaining 6% not recorded. Most HIV tests occurred in the 25-34 year age group (41.6%)

1.3 New HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents

- There were 73 new HIV diagnosis among Welsh residents in 2024. This represents a 19.7% decrease compared with 2023 when 91 cases were reported
- The majority of new diagnoses were: male (78%), aged between 35-49, and of White ethnicity
- Sex between men and women was the most reported route of exposure (45%), followed by sex between men (37%)
- The rate of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 population in Wales has decreased since 2023 (from 2.9 to 2.3 per 100, 000 population)

1.4 All HIV diagnosis

- All HIV diagnoses in Wales in 2024 totalled 130 cases, comprising 73 new HIV diagnosis and 57 people diagnosed with HIV before continuing care in Wales
- The number of all HIV diagnoses per year has been increasing in Wales since 2021 from a rate of 3.8 to 4.1 per 100,000 population in 2024. This is lower than the rate in England and Scotland (9.2 and 6.1 respectively). No equivalent data are available for Northern Ireland for this period
- Historically, where route of probable exposure was reported, most cases reported sex between men. However, since 2021 in Wales, as in the rest of the UK, the majority of all HIV diagnoses have reported transmission through sex between men and women
- 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. Where CD4 data were available (97.3% of cases), evidence of late diagnosis was present for 45.1% of new diagnoses, an increase of compared to 2023 at 36.6%

1.5 Treatment and Care

- The prevalence rate of individuals living with HIV in Wales was 84.4 per 100,000 population in 2024, lower than that of England and Scotland (179.7 and 99.9 per 100,000 population respectively)
- 73.7% of individuals living with HIV in Wales were male, an increase from 70.9% in 2023
- 2,616 (98%) individuals reported receiving ART, slightly lower than 2023 (99%), but still meeting the 95% UNAIDS target
- Of those living with HIV and where viral load is reported, 99% reported viral load at 1000 copies/ml or below, and 99% were reported with viral load at 200 copies/ml or below indicating viral suppression, again within the 95% UNAIDS target

1.6 Mortality

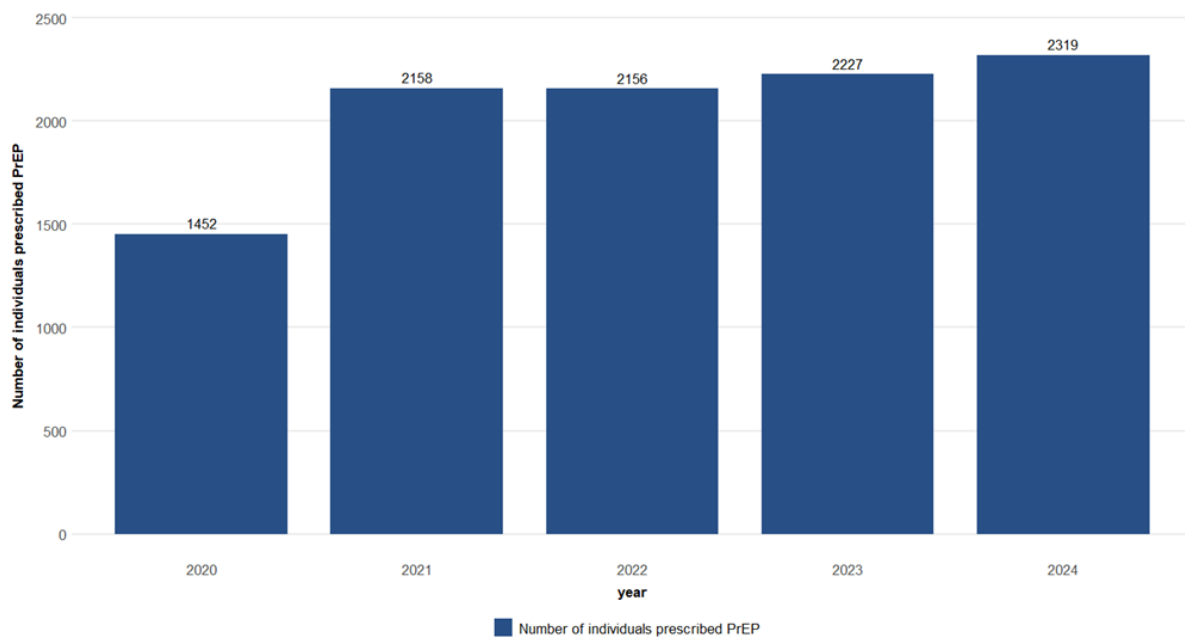
- 11 deaths were recorded in people living with HIV, compared to 30 deaths in 2023. Work is going to understand underlying cause of death in people living with HIV. In 2024, most deaths (57%) occurred more than 12 years after HIV diagnosis and the highest number were recorded in those aged 35-49 years

2 Prevention

2.1 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 prescribed⁴, was introduced in Wales in July 2017. The increase in the uptake of PrEP, due to widening accessibility, coincides with the downward trajectory of new HIV cases in the UK, particularly in Gay and Bisexual men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM)⁵.

Since 2020, 5,745 individuals have been prescribed PrEP through sexual health clinics in Wales with the same individuals prescribed over multiple years. PrEP uptake has risen each year between 2020 and 2024, as shown in Figure 1, with 2,319 individuals prescribed in 2024, an increase of 4.1% on the previous year.



Source: SWS, 2025

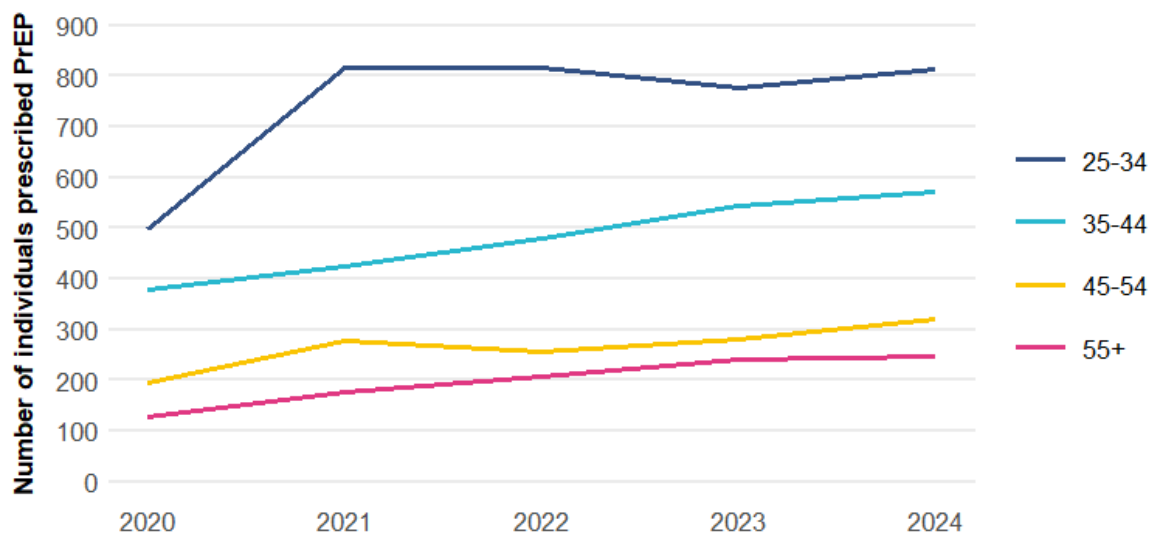
Figure 1: Number of individuals prescribed PrEP in sexual health clinics, by year 2020-2024, Wales

Overall, the majority of individuals receiving PrEP in sexual health clinics were male (98%), self-reported as GBMSM (48%), and in the 25-34 year age-group (35%) (Figure 2). PrEP guidelines 2025⁶ 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.

⁴ CDC (2024) HIV Basics: Prep Effectiveness. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/prep.html>

⁵ UK Health Security Agency (2023) HIV: Annual Data Tables. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hiv-annual-data-tables>

⁶ 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, 2025

Figure 2: Number of individuals prescribed PrEP in sexual health clinics, by age-group, 2020-2024

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has consistently provided the highest proportion of PrEP provision over the past five years (Table 1), and in the last year accounted for 47% of individuals prescribed PrEP.

Table 1: Number of individuals in Wales prescribed PrEP by Health Board clinic attendance and year, 2020-2024

| Health Board | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Aneurin Bevan | 218 | 264 | 358 | 379 | 386 |
| Betsi Cadwaladr | 197 | 246 | 320 | 280 | 214 |
| Cardiff and Vale | 709 | 1,278 | 952 | 973 | 1,090 |
| Cwm Taf Morgannwg | 47 | 62 | 100 | 91 | 99 |
| Hywel Dda | 49 | 30 | 42 | 46 | 23 |
| Powys* | - | - | - | - | - |
| Swansea Bay | 232 | 278 | 384 | 458 | 507 |
| Total | 1,452 | 2,158 | 2,156 | 2,227 | 2,319 |

Source: SWS, 2025

*Powys does not have static sexual health clinics

3 HIV Testing

3.1 Testing in Wales

The number of individuals tested for HIV in sexual health clinics, primary or secondary care or through the Test and Post Scheme⁷ (TAP) has doubled over the last five years. In 2024, around 18% of individuals tested via the TAP Scheme (see

⁷ [Wales STI Testing Kit - Sexual Health Wales](#)

Data sources for more information).

In 2024, a total of 133,699 individuals in Wales were tested, of which 53% were female, 41% male, <1% non-binary with remaining 6% not recorded.

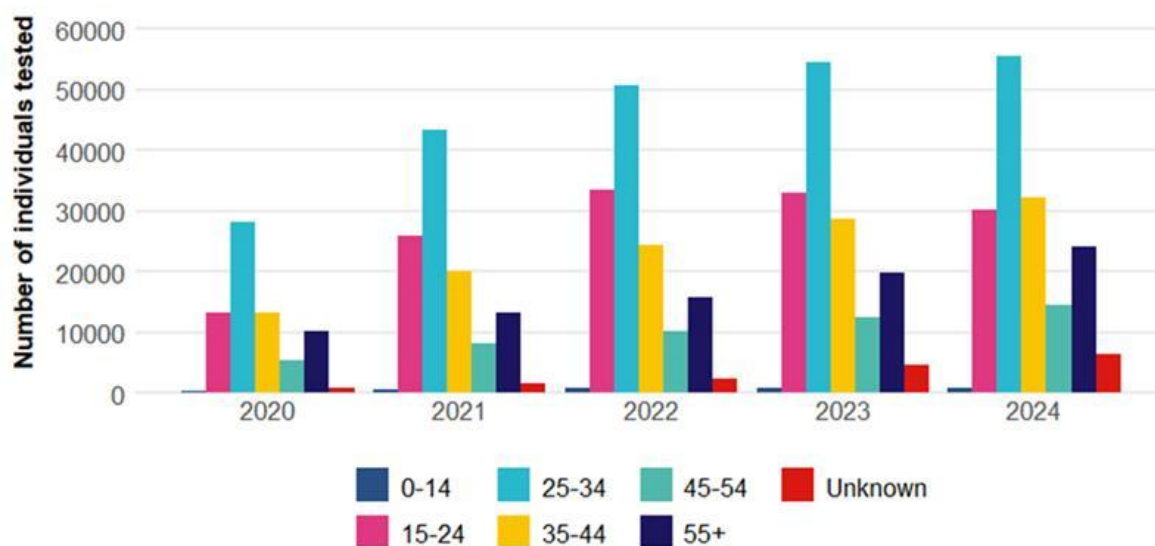
856 individuals had a reactive HIV Ag/Ab test in 2024 (Table 2), indicating re-testing of individuals diagnosed with HIV. There were 73 new HIV diagnoses in Wales in 2024 representing a rate of 0.05% of individuals tested.

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, 2020-2024 and number

| Year | Total HIV Ag/Ab tests | Individuals tested | Individuals with reactive test | Proportion reactive % | Number new HIV diagnoses |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2020 | 81,452 | 71,795 | 557 | 0.8 | 74 |
| 2021 | 115,665 | 95,975 | 503 | 0.5 | 63 |
| 2022 | 133,541 | 107,918 | 693 | 0.6 | 104 |
| 2023 | 148,455 | 123,350 | 754 | 0.6 | 91 |
| 2024 | 160,682 | 133,699 | 856 | 0.6 | 73 |

Source: LIMS and TAP, 2025

Most individuals tested were in the 25-34 age-groups (Figure 3).



Source: LIMS and TAP, 2025

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

The number of individuals tested in each health board of residence is shown in Table 3, with the highest testing rate of 4,716 per 100,000 population in residents of Cwm Taf Morgannwg 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 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Aneurin Bevan | 10,106 (1,720.9) | 14,118 (2,390.4) | 15,783 (2,652.1) | 18,072 (3,014.1) | 20,087 (3,314.1) |
| Betsi Cadwaladr | 9,789 (1,422.5) | 13,877 (2,011.7) | 15,938 (2,299.1) | 18,338 (2,631.3) | 19,469 (2,773.4) |
| Cardiff and Vale | 9,883 (2,010.7) | 13,482 (2,728.8) | 15,612 (3,076.6) | 16,213 (3,109.9) | 19,442 (3,717.9) |
| Cwm Taf Morgannwg | 6,985 (1,577.9) | 13,494 (3,012.9) | 17,398 (3,838.4) | 18,795 (4,119.7) | 19,967 (4,351.8) |
| Hywel Dda | 4,808 (1260.7) | 7,476 (1,944.6) | 9,434 (2,428.2) | 10,044 (2,563.9) | 10,610 (2,701.9) |
| Powys | 848 (641.5) | 1,596 (1,191.2) | 1,894 (1,406.3) | 2,109 (1,557.7) | 2,575 (1,892.4) |
| Swansea Bay | 6,196 (1,625.0) | 9,518 (2,491.2) | 11,921 (3,072.1) | 12,695 (3,225.1) | 13,198 (3,312.8) |

Source: LIMS and TAP, 2025

4 Diagnosis

From 1st January 2024, notification of new diagnoses of HIV in Wales are submitted by sexual health clinicians to Public Health Wales regularly via the new HIV e-form. The introduction of this e-form process has enabled an increase in confidence in Wales HIV data. 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 diagnosis⁸. New UK diagnosis rates provide evidence of within-country of transmission and are therefore an important measure for evidencing action towards achieving UNAIDS elimination targets⁹.

Incidence of new HIV diagnoses in Wales dropped to 2.3 per 100,000 population in 2024, and year on year remains lower than the rate in England but higher than that reported in Scotland. Northern Ireland have not submitted data since 2022. The rate per 100,000 population of new HIV diagnosis country-level comparison can be seen in Table 4.

⁸ 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.

⁹ UNAIDS [Recommended 2030 targets for HIV](#) | UNAIDS

Table 4: Number and rates of new HIV diagnoses reported in the UK, by country and year 2020-2024

| Country/Region | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK | Rate of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000 | Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK | Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000 | Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK | Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000 | Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK | Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000 | Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK | Number of new HIV diagnoses in UK per 100,000 |
| England | 2,240 | 4 | 2,280 | 4 | 2,493 | 4.3 | 2,838 | 4.9 | 2,773 | 4.8 |
| Northern Ireland | 50 | 2.6 | 62 | 3.2 | 54 | 2.8 | - | - | - | - |
| Scotland | 112 | 2.1 | 88 | 1.6 | 115 | 2.1 | 123 | 2.2 | 123 | 2.2 |
| Wales | 74 | 2.4 | 63 | 2 | 104 | 3.3 | 91 | 2.9 | 73 | 2.3 |
| Total | 2,476 | 3.7 | 2,493 | 3.7 | 2,766 | 4.2 | 3,052 | 4.6 | 2,969 | 4.6 |

Source: UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2025

4.2 Demographic profile of new HIV cases in Wales

4.2.1 Age and gender profiles

In 2024, the gender ratio of new HIV cases in Welsh residents was 3.5: 1 male to female, higher than in the previous three years (Table 5 and 6). Most new cases were in the 35-49 year age-group and those of White ethnicity (see Table 5).

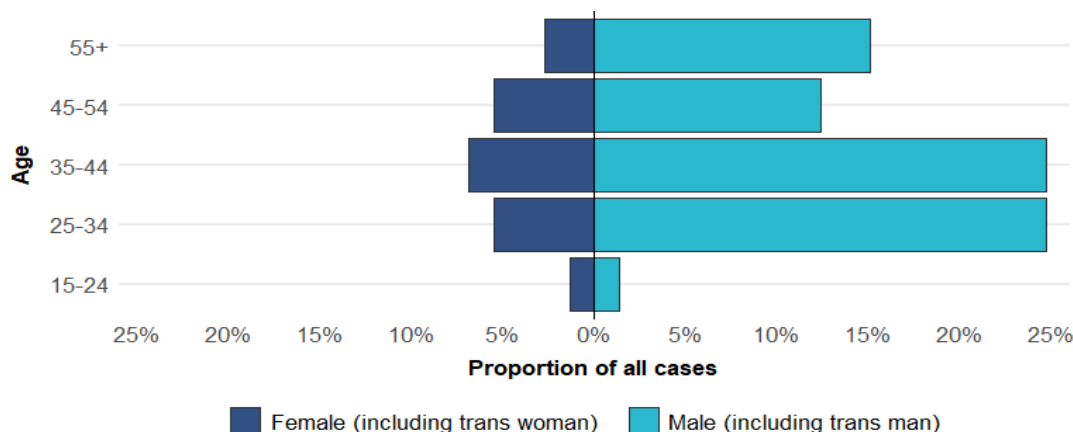
Table 5: Age, gender and ethnicity* frequencies for residents of Wales with a new HIV diagnosis in the UK, 2020-2024

| New HIV diagnoses | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| All | 74 | 63 | 104 | 91 | 73 |
| Male (including transgender men) | 58 (78%) | 46 (73%) | 73 (70%) | 63 (69%) | 57 (78%) |
| Female (including transgender women) | 16 (22%) | 17 (27%) | 30 (30%) | 28 (31%) | 16 (22%) |
| 0-14 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 | 0 |
| 15-24 | <10 | <10 | <10 | 10 | <5 |
| 25-34 | 29 | 16 | 22 | 32 | 22 |
| 35-49 | 23 | 24 | 49 | 37 | 33 |
| 50-64 | 10 | 15 | 22 | 11 | 11 |
| 65+ | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 5 |
| White | 42 | 30 | 55 | 30 | 45 |
| Black African | <10 | <10 | 22 | 15 | 17 |
| Unknown | 15 | 19 | 23 | 39 | 8 |

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025

*Black Caribbean, mixed and other ethnicities have been removed due to very low numbers

In 2024, the age group profile of new HIV infection differed between males and females (Figure 4).



Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025

*No non-binary cases were reported in 2024

Figure 4: Age-gender distribution of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, 2024

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 2020-2024

| Gender | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Total | 74 (2.4) | 63 (2.0) | 104 (3.3) | 91 (2.9) | 73 (2.3) |
| Male (including transgender men) | 58 (3.8) | 46 (3.0) | 73 (4.8) | 63 (4.1) | 57 (3.7) |
| Female (including transgender women) | 16 (1.0) | 17 (1.1) | 30 (1.9) | 28 (1.7) | 16 (1.0) |

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2025

In 2024, decreases in the rate per 100,000 population were observed amongst the 15-24 and 25-34 year age groups, and in the 15-24 year age group was the lowest rate recorded in the last five years. The number of new HIV diagnosed over the age of 65 years was the highest since 2020 (Table 7).

Table 7: Number and rate per 100,000 population of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by age-group and year 2020-2024

| Age Group | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0-14 | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | <5 (0.2) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) |
| 15-24 | <10 (2.2) | <10 (1.9) | 7 (1.9) | <15 (2.7) | <5 (0.5) |
| 25-34 | 29 (7.6) | 16 (4.2) | 22 (5.7) | 32 (8.2) | 22 (5.5) |
| 35-49 | 23 (4.2) | 24 (4.4) | 49 (8.9) | 37 (6.6) | 33 (5.8) |
| 50-64 | 10 (1.6) | 15 (2.3) | 22 (3.4) | 11 (1.7) | 11 (1.7) |
| 65+ | <5 (0.6) | <5 (0.2) | <5 (0.4) | <5 (0.1) | <10 (0.7) |
| Total | 74 (2.4) | 63 (2.0) | 104 (3.3) | 91 (2.9) | 73 (2.3) |

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales 2025

4.2.2 Ethnicity and country/region of birth

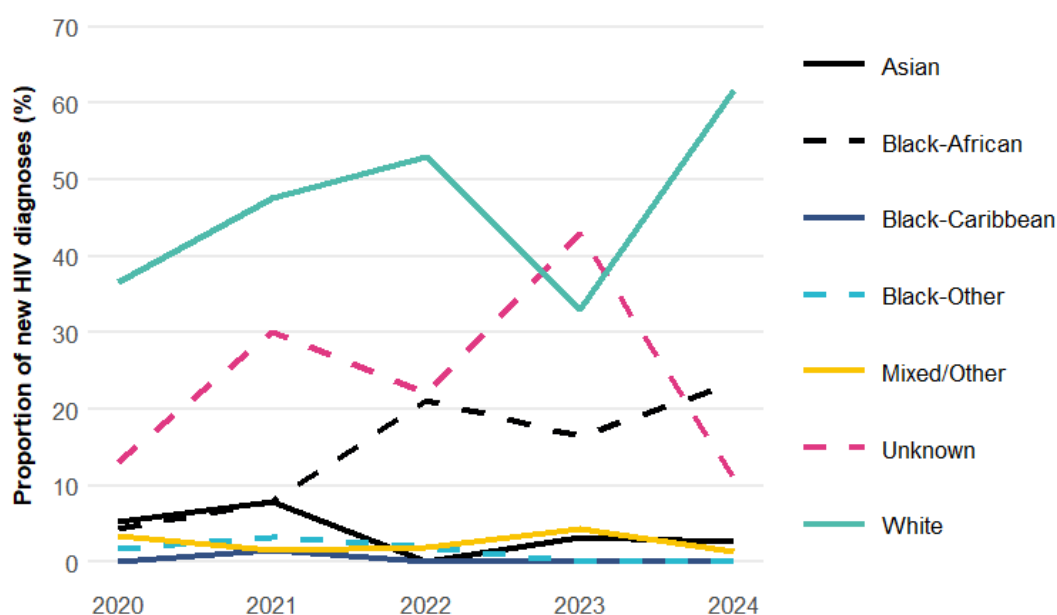
Whilst new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents are consistently highest amongst those of White ethnicity, in line with the ethnicity profile of Wales¹⁰ (see Table 8 and Figure 5). However, in 2022, an increase was seen in the number and proportion reporting 'Black African' ethnicity, which has continued into 2024. The proportion of incomplete or missing data for ethnicity decreased sharply in 2024.

Table 8: Number and rate per 100,000 (n(rate)) of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by ethnicity* group and year 2020-2024

| Ethnicity Group | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| White | 42 (1.4) | 30 (1.0) | 55 (1.9) | 30 (1.0) | 45 (1.5) |
| Black-African | <10 (42.1) | <10 (25.1) | <25 (110.5) | 15 (75.4) | 17 (85.4) |
| Asian | 6 (8.6) | 5 (5.6) | 0 (0.0) | <5 (3.4) | <5 (2.2) |
| Mixed/Other | <5 (8.5) | <5 (1.3) | <5 (2.7) | <5 (5.3) | <5(1.3) |
| Total | 74 (2.4) | 63 (2.0) | 104 (3.3) | 91 (2.9) | 73 (2.3) |

*Black Caribbean and Black other have been removed due to small figures

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2025



Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025

Figure 5: Proportion of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by ethnicity group* and year 2020-2024

In 2024, 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 new HIV e-form.

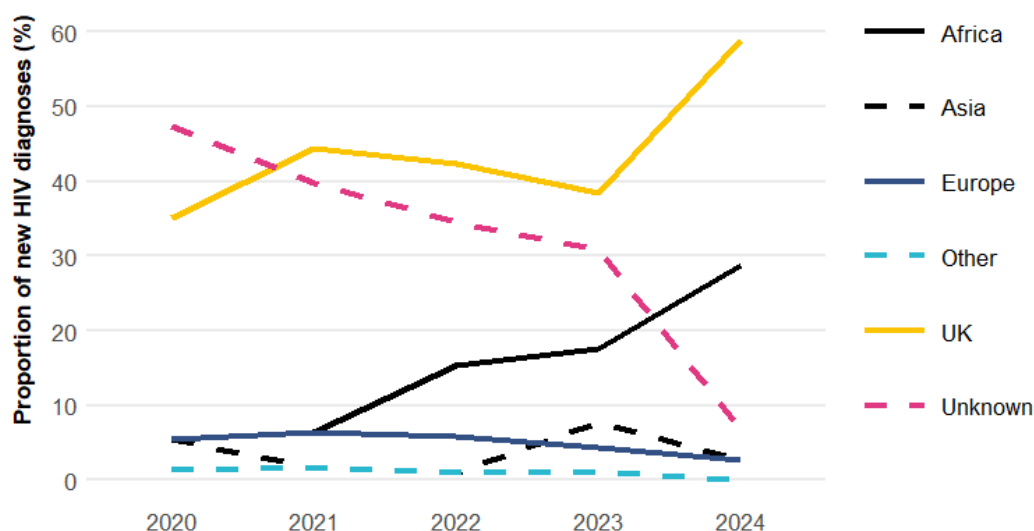
¹⁰ ONS census data 2021 indicated 93.8% of White ethnicity in Wales: [Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](https://www.ethnicity.gov.uk/Ethnic-Group-England-and-Wales-2021)

Table 9: Number and proportion (%) of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by region of birth* and year

| Region of Birth | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| UK | 26 (35.1) | 28 (44.4) | 44 (42.3) | 35 (38.5) | 43 (58.9) |
| Europe | <5 (5.4) | <5 (6.3) | 6 (5.8) | <5 (4.4) | <5 (2.7) |
| Africa | <5 (5.4) | <5 (6.3) | 16 (15.4) | 16 (17.6) | 21 (28.8) |
| Asia | <5 (5.4) | <5 (1.6) | <5 (1) | 7 (7.7) | <5 (2.7) |
| Other | <5 (1.4) | <5 (1.6) | <5 (1) | <5 (1.1) | 0 (0) |
| Unknown | 35 (47.3) | 25 (39.7) | 36 (34.6) | 28 (30.8) | 5 (6.8) |

*Other region of birth was excluded due to low figures

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales 2025



Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025

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

4.2.3 Health board of residence

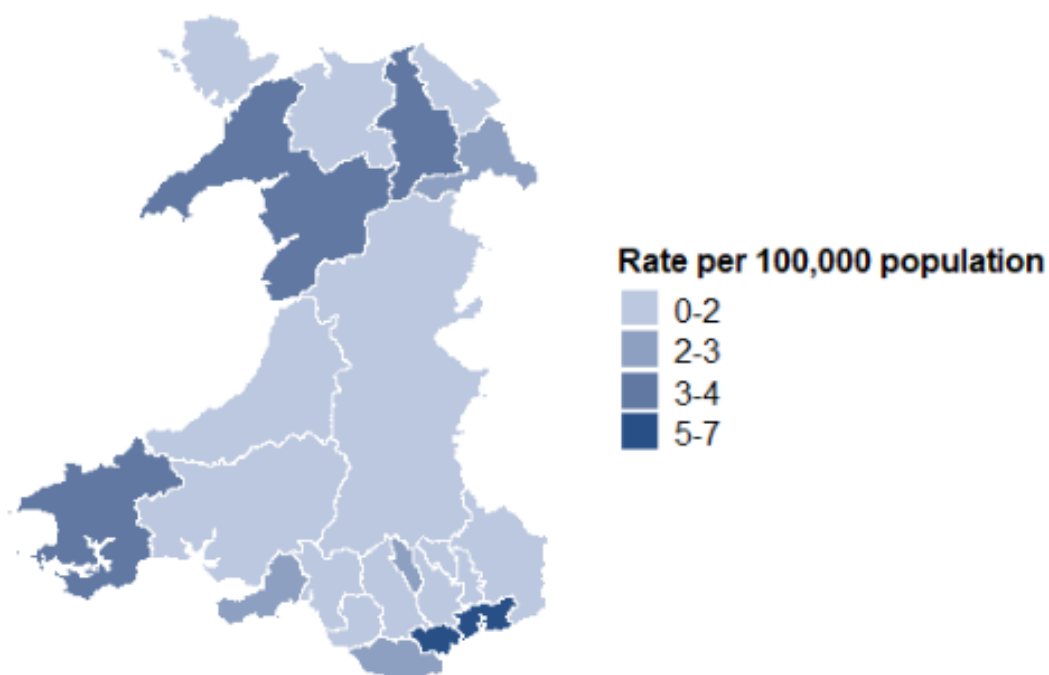
The rate of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 population varies by health board of residence across Wales (Table 10), however, rates are consistently highest amongst those resident in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board area.

Table 10: Number and rate per 100,000 population (n(rate)) of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by residential health board and year 2020-2024

| Health Board | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Aneurin Bevan | 12 (2) | 12 (2) | 14 (2.4) | 17 (2.9) | 18 (3) |
| Betsi Cadwaladr | 9 (1.3) | 9 (1.3) | 24 (3.5) | 13 (1.9) | 13 (1.9) |
| Cardiff and Vale | 22 (4.5) | 19 (3.9) | 32 (6.3) | 35 (6.8) | 21 (4) |
| Cwm Taf Morgannwg | 10 (2.3) | <10 (1.1) | 13 (2.9) | 10 (2.2) | 5 (1.1) |
| Hywel Dda | <5 (1) | 8 (2.1) | 12 (3.1) | <10 (1.8) | 7 (1.8) |
| Powys | <5 (2.3) | <5 (0.7) | 6 (2.2) | <5 (0.7) | 0 (0) |
| Swansea Bay | 12 (3.1) | 8 (2.1) | 6 (1.6) | 8 (2.1) | 9 (2.3) |
| Total | 74 (2.4) | 63 (2) | 104 (3.3) | 91 (2.9) | 73 (2.3) |

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2025

When considering 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 2020-2024 data. It should be noted that location rates are based on individuals' residential postcode and do not reflect site of diagnosis.



Source: PHW, UKHSA & Stats Wales, 2025

Figure 7: Rate of new HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents by local authority, combined years 2020-2024

4.2.4 Patient reported probable risk of exposure

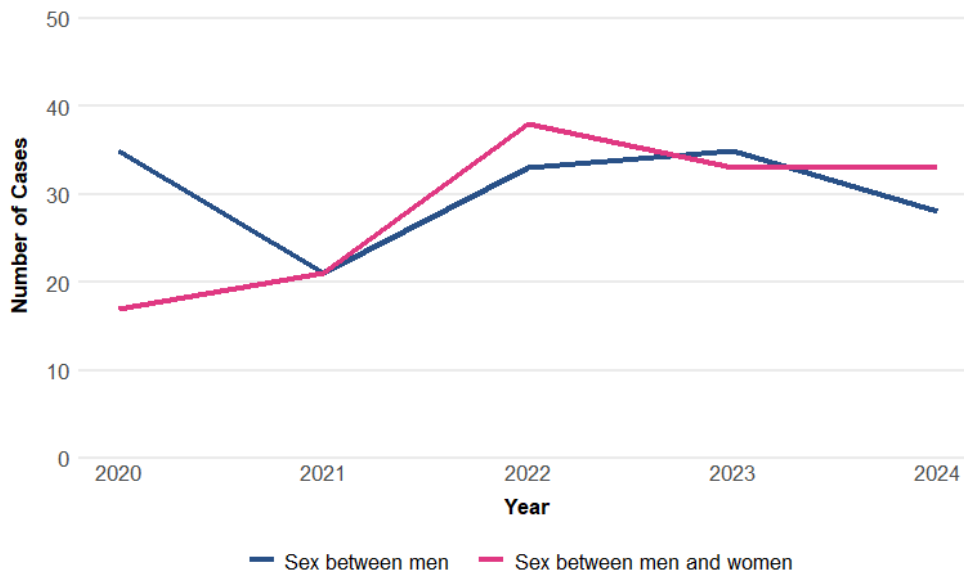
Historically, sex between men has been reported most frequently as the route of probable exposure (see Table 11 and Figure 8), however, in 2024 sex between men and women was most frequent. Given the gender profile of new HIV cases, this represents an increase in males reporting sex between men and women as their probable exposure category.

Table 11: Number of new HIV diagnoses in the UK among residents in Wales, by route of exposure* and year 2020-2024

| Probable exposure category | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Sex between men | 35 | 21 | 33 | 35 | 28 |
| Sex between men and women | 17 | 21 | 38 | 33 | 33 |

*Non-sexual exposures were excluded due to low figures

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025



Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025

*Non-sexual exposures have been excluded from the graph due to low numbers

Figure 8: New HIV diagnoses in Welsh residents, by sexual exposure* and year 2020-2024

4.3 Late Diagnoses of new HIV cases

Late diagnoses suggest potential missed opportunities for testing and have implications for health outcomes. Based on official statistics, in 2024, a CD4 count within 91 days of diagnosis was provided for 97.3% of new diagnoses, of which 45.1% were identified as late diagnoses (see Table 12). The number of late diagnoses increased in 2024 compared to 2023, although the proportion with a reported CD4 also increased.

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 2020-2024

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CD4 count reported | 57 (77.0%) | 42 (66.7%) | 93 (89.4%) | 82 (90.1%) | 71 (97.3%) |
| Late diagnosis reported | 15 (26.3%) | 9 (21.4%) | 22 (23.7%) | 30 (36.6%) | 32 (45.1%) |

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025

4.4 All HIV diagnoses

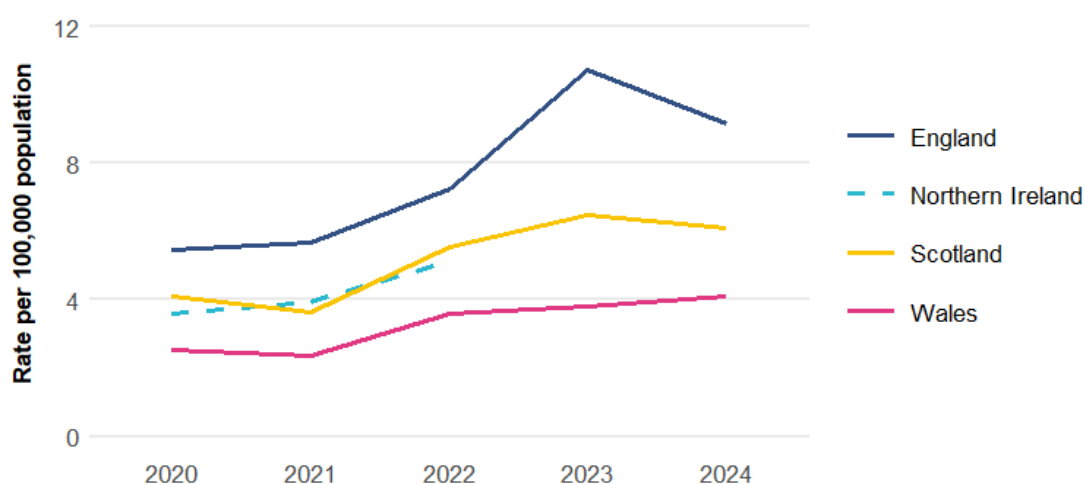
All HIV diagnoses in Wales in 2024 totalled 130 cases, comprising 73 new HIV diagnosis and 57 people diagnosed with HIV before continuing care in Wales.

The rate of all HIV diagnoses in the UK in 2024, including those diagnosed with HIV before continuing care in the UK, varies by nation (Table 13 and Figure 9). Rates are highest in England, with fluctuating rates and trends across Wales, Scotland. In 2024, Wales rates increased to 4.1 from 3.8 per 100,000 population in 2023. Northern Ireland have not submitted data since 2022. Increased migration in recent years has 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 2020-2024

| Country/Region | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 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 | 3,070 | 5.5 | 3,218 | 5.7 | 4,147 | 7.3 | 6,201 | 10.7 | 5,298 | 9.2 |
| Northern Ireland | 68 | 3.6 | 75 | 3.9 | 98 | 5.1 | - | - | - | - |
| Scotland | 222 | 4.1 | 198 | 3.7 | 303 | 5.6 | 353 | 6.5 | 334 | 6.1 |
| Wales | 79 | 2.5 | 73 | 2.4 | 113 | 3.6 | 120 | 3.8 | 130 | 4.1 |
| Total | 3,439 | 5.2 | 3,564 | 5.3 | 4,661 | 6.9 | 6,674 | 10.1 | 5,843 | 8.8 |

Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2025



Source: PHW, UKHSA and Stats Wales, 2025

Figure 9: All HIV diagnosis rate per 100,000 population, by UK country and year 2020-2024

4.5 HIV in Pregnant Women

In 2024, 7 HIV positive mothers gave birth in Wales, and no infants were found to have congenital HIV. Further development of congenital HIV surveillance is currently in development in Wales.

5 Treatment and Care

5.1 People living with HIV

The total number of individuals receiving HIV care has increased, as expected, from 2,414 in 2020, to 2,670 in 2024 (see Table 14). The prevalence of individuals living with HIV in Wales per 100,000 population was 84.4 per 100,000 population in 2024, lower than that of both England and Scotland (179.7 and 99.9 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, 2020-2024

| Country | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 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 | 89,569 | 159 | 91,550 | 161.9 | 94,563 | 165.6 | 99,791 | 173 | 103,689 | 179.7 |
| Northern Ireland | 1,208 | 63.6 | 1,291 | 67.8 | 1,312 | 68.7 | - | - | - | - |
| Scotland | 4,871 | 90 | 5,014 | 92.5 | 5,212 | 95.7 | 5,081 | 93.3 | 5,484 | 99.9 |
| Wales | 2,414 | 77.8 | 2,437 | 78.5 | 2,515 | 80.3 | 2,741 | 86.6 | 2,670 | 84.4 |
| Total | 98,062 | 146.9 | 100,292 | 149.7 | 103,602 | 153.2 | 107,613 | 162.3 | 111,843 | 168.6 |

Source: PHW, UKHSA & Stats Wales, 2025

Due to improvements in HIV data processing in 2024 that has reduced the number of individuals in “Unknown” demographic categories, a drop in individuals receiving HIV care was recorded for Wales between 2023 and 2024.

Most individuals receiving care were male (70.8%); those aged 35-49 years and those of White ethnicity (Table 15).

Table 15: Demographic profile of those living with HIV and receiving care in Wales, by year, 2020-2024

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 2,414 | 2,437 | 2,515 | 2,741 | 2,670 |
| Female | 557 | 556 | 595 | 638 | 686 |
| Male | 1,856 | 1,830 | 1,868 | 1,943 | 1,969 |
| 0-14 | 6 | 0 | <5 | 6 | 6 |
| 15-24 | 49 | 36 | 33 | 30 | 32 |
| 25-34 | 326 | 295 | 271 | 287 | 279 |
| 35-49 | 957 | 942 | 951 | 1,028 | 1,041 |
| 50-64 | 877 | 933 | 999 | 1,076 | 1,006 |
| 65+ | 199 | 231 | 259 | 313 | 305 |
| White | 1,817 | 1,810 | 1,827 | 1,862 | 1,607 |
| Black African | 342 | 326 | 344 | 360 | 352 |
| Black Caribbean | 7 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 14 |
| Black Other | 37 | 38 | 40 | 41 | 35 |
| Asian | 69 | 74 | 78 | 70 | 60 |
| Other or mixed | 65 | 59 | 69 | 70 | 64 |

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025

5.2 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 decreased slightly in 2024 (see Table 16), however, the 95% target of 'At least 95% of people who know their HIV status are on treatment' set by UNAIDS is still being met. The proportion of those on treatment reporting a VL increased in 2024 (91%), with the proportion with an undetectable VL remaining above the 95% UNAIDS target.

Table 16: Number and proportion (%) of individuals receiving ART, reporting a viral load and having an undetectable viral load, by year 2020-2024

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Receiving ART | 2,411 | 2,428 | 2,494 | 2,701 | 2,616 |
| % | 100% | 100% | 99% | 99% | 98% |
| Reported VL | 1,623 | 1,617 | 1,619 | 2,326 | 2,435 |
| % | 67% | 66% | 64% | 85% | 91% |
| % with undetectable VL (<200 copies per ml) | 97% | 98% | 98% | 97% | 99% |

Source: PHW and UKHSA, 2025

6 Mortality

In 2024, there were 11 deaths in people living with HIV (Table 17). Most deaths occurred in those aged 35-49. It was most common for death to occur more than 12 years after diagnosis. Further work is being undertaken to evidence trends in underlying cause of death overtime and the contribution of HIV infection to mortality.

Table 17: Number of deaths recorded in those living with HIV in Wales, by year, 2020-2024

| Year | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of deaths | 13 | 22 | 10 | 30 | 11 |

Source: PHW and UKHSA

7 Data sources

The data found in this report has been collected from a number of sources, including:

- NHS Wales laboratory Information Management system (LIMS)
- UKHSA annual data
- Sexual Health in Wales Surveillance Scheme (SWS)

Where required, population data has been sourced from the Stats Wales¹¹ mid-year population estimates 2023, which are based ONS figures.

Laboratory Information Management Service

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 laboratory tests undertaken in NHS Wales laboratories and as such provides information on all population in Wales.

Clinical HIV Reporting (CHR)

Information from all people living with a diagnosed HIV infection and accessing care at NHS services in Wales are reported using the Clinical HIV Reporting (CHR) form, with England and Northern Ireland utilising the comparable HARS system. CHR data are published by UKHSA and used to plan services, monitor the quality of care received by patients and their clinical outcomes.

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 BBV testing and diagnostic information for individuals utilising sexual health services along with some key demographic and behavioural data for those individuals such as sex, age, ethnicity, and local authority of residence. The number of tests recorded in SWS have changed since the 2023 annual HIV report was published and investigations are underway to fully understand the changes in the data provided through SWS.

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 2022 mid-year figures.¹² Population estimates for Ethnicity are based on the 2021 ONS census.¹³

¹¹[Stats Wales](#)

¹² Office for National Statistics. Mid-2023 population estimates. [ONS mid-year population estimates](#)

¹³ 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>

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 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 TAP tests are recorded along with SWS tests in section 3 of this report. Individuals receiving a positive result through the TAP service should be seen through sexual health clinics and their results recorded through SWS.