

HIV in Greater Manchester



The PaSH  Partnership
Passionate about Sexual Health across Greater Manchester





This 'fact pack' has been created to summarise the facts and figures relating to HIV in Greater Manchester. Last year, we continued to see a decline overall in new diagnoses which is incredibly positive, however the reality is that we've still got work to do to achieve our shared goals of ending new diagnoses by 2030 and ensuring everyone is accessing the care and support that they need to live well with HIV.

As many more people grow older with HIV, persisting health inequalities continue to shape people's experiences and the demographics of people diagnosed shift, we need to ensure that services, plans and strategies include the needs of people living with HIV at every level and continue to ensure that lived experience and community is at the heart of Greater Manchester's HIV response.

Darren Knight, *Chief Executive, George House Trust*



Interventions such as the prevention drug PrEP and people on effective treatment are driving down new HIV diagnoses in Greater Manchester, with 99% of people on effective treatment unable to pass on HIV. Emergency Department Blood Borne Virus Testing, which is now live in 8 out of 10 Greater Manchester boroughs, and community testing have shown us progress will only continue if we reach those who don't see themselves at risk and keep working creatively to engage people who don't engage with established testing offers.

My clinical colleagues and I, together with the voluntary and community sector and decision makers are committed to doing all we can to end new diagnoses of HIV and ensure everyone who is diagnosed lives well. By working together across community and healthcare, we can expand prevention and testing, re-engage those not in care and ensure everyone living with HIV thrives.



Doctor Orla McQuillan

Consultant in HIV and Sexual Health at Manchester Foundation Trust and Co-Chair of Fast Track Cities Greater Manchester



1. 95-95-95 targets



UNAIDS¹ set ambitious new targets of 95-95-95 in 2021 to be achieved by 2025.



95% of all people living with HIV to be diagnosed



95% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection to receive sustained antiretroviral therapy



95% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy to have viral suppression²



2. HIV in Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester met (and exceeded) the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets in 2024.



95% of people living with HIV were diagnosed



99% were on treatment



97% were virally suppressed (undetectable)

UKHSA have not updated their estimate for the number of people living with undiagnosed HIV in Greater Manchester in 2024. Their estimate for 2023 was around 400 people are living with undiagnosed HIV in Greater Manchester.

There is uncertainty about the estimated number of people living with undiagnosed HIV due in part to the impact of opt-out HIV testing in emergency departments on modelling the estimates.

The definition of the "second 95" is the percentage of people who are diagnosed with HIV that are on antiretroviral therapy, however, the data provided nationally is based on the number of people accessing HIV care that are on ART. This does not account for the people that have received a diagnosis but are not accessing HIV treatment and care.

¹ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

² UKHSA (2023) 'HIV Action Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 2023'



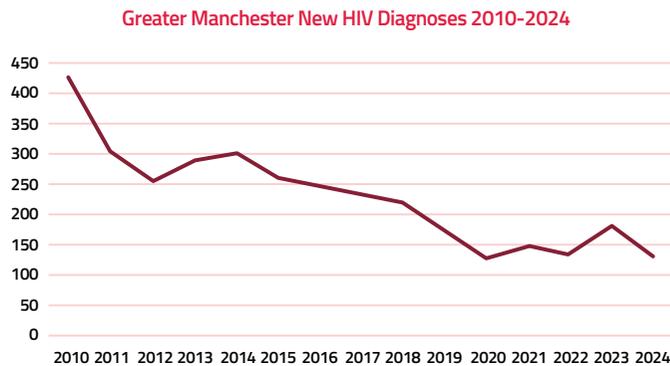
3. National HIV Action Plan 2025 – 5 Years, 5 populations, 5 Priorities

In January 2019, the health secretary committed England to ending new HIV transmissions by 2030. In December 2025 the new HIV action plan for England was published.³

The Plan sets out how the government will enable every level of the healthcare system to work together to engage everyone in prevention, testing and treatment, tackle stigma, and to reach our ambition to end new HIV transmissions by 2030.

The plan states that in 2024 England once again achieved “95% of all adults living with HIV diagnosed, 99% of adults diagnosed receiving treatment, and 98% of adults on treatment having suppressed viral loads”.

The plan uses the **UNAIDS Definition of ending new transmissions**⁴ with an overarching ambition to reduce new infections by 90% from 2010 by 2030. The number of new diagnoses in Greater Manchester has fallen from 426 in 2010 to 131 in 2024, a reduction of 69%. The target for Greater Manchester is to reduce new diagnoses to less than 43 in 2030.



³ HIV Action Plan for England, 2025 to 2030 - GOV.UK

⁴ Recommended 2030 targets for HIV | UNAIDS

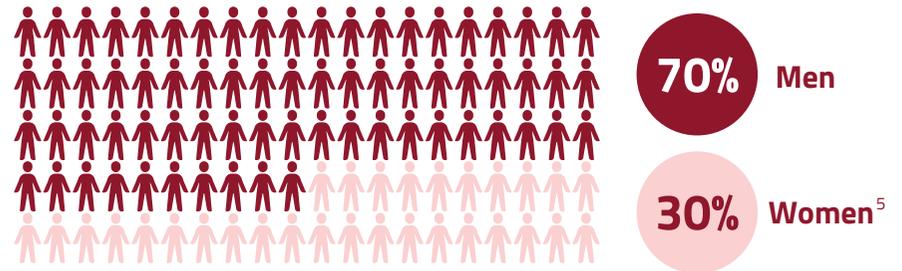
⁵ UKHSA (2023) HIV surveillance data tables for local authorities

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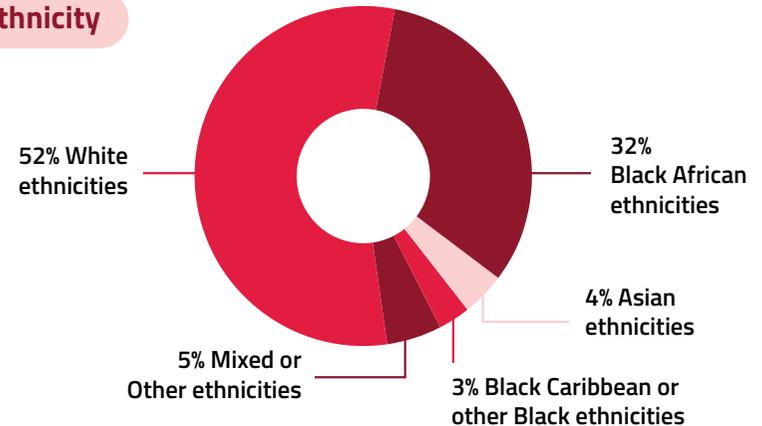
4. People living with HIV in Greater Manchester

From 2013 to 2024 the number of people accessing HIV care increased by 40.5% (4,709 to 6,618). The demographic breakdowns of this total are below:

Gender



Ethnicity



8.2%
of people of White ethnicity receiving HIV care were female

64.8%
of people of Black African ethnicity receiving HIV care were female

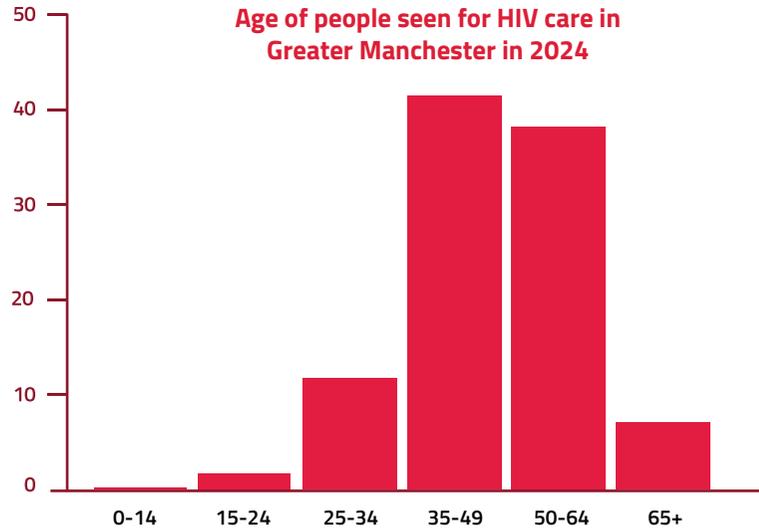
33.6%
of people of Black Caribbean ethnicity receiving HIV care were female

20.7%
of people of Asian ethnicity receiving HIV care were female⁶



Age

As people live longer, healthier lives with HIV we have seen the number of people with an HIV diagnosis who are aged 50 and over increase in recent years.



Route of transmission

6,150 people (96.77%) had acquired HIV via sexual transmission:

<p>50.9%</p> <p>3,236 men had acquired HIV via sex with other men</p>	<p>28.3%</p> <p>1,797 women had acquired HIV via heterosexual sex</p>	<p>17.6%</p> <p>1,117 men had acquired HIV via heterosexual sex</p>
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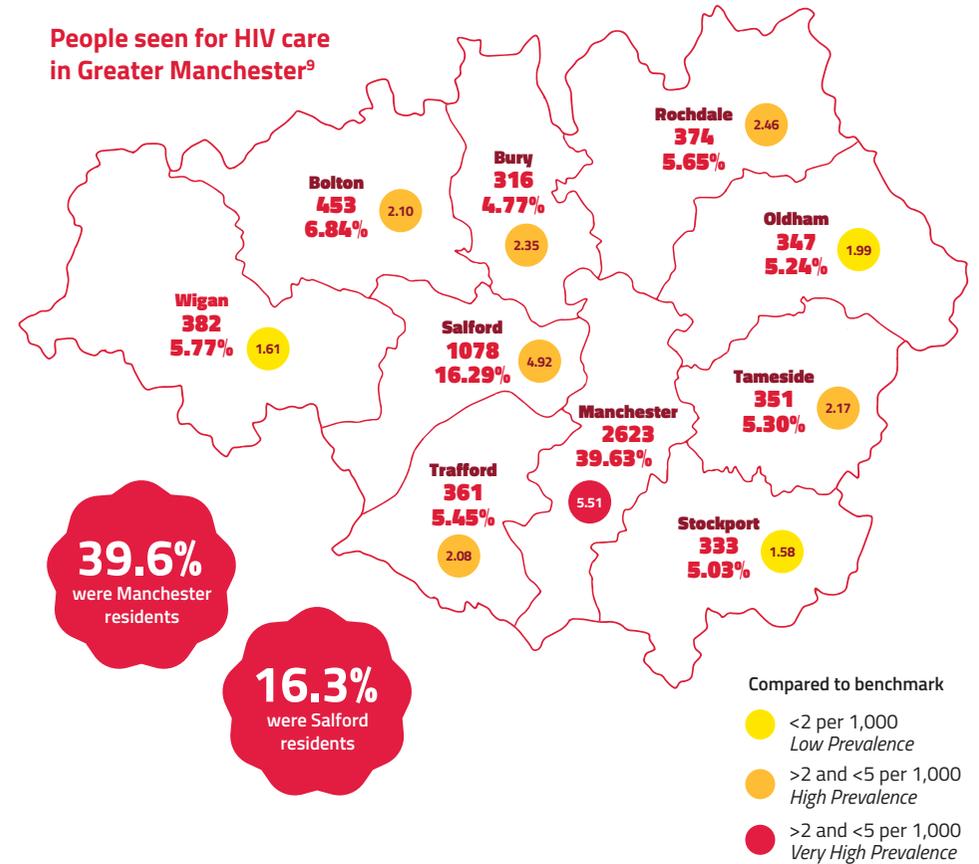
205 people had acquired HIV via other routes of transmission including injecting drug use (1.16%) or vertical transmission (2.06%).⁷

⁷ UKHSA (2023) HIV surveillance data tables for local authorities
⁸ UKHSA Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles
⁹ ONS Mid year population estimates as used on UKHSA Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles

Area of residence

Residents of Greater Manchester accounted for 6.38% (6618) of the 103,689 people seen for HIV care in England in 2024.⁸

People seen for HIV care in Greater Manchester⁹



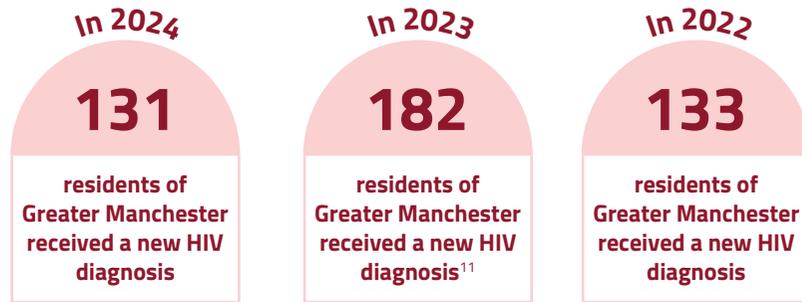
Diagnosed prevalence is based on the population aged 15 to 59 seen for HIV care.

Manchester is the only Greater Manchester area with very high diagnosed prevalence, defined as being higher than 5 per 1,000, along with 14 London Boroughs and Brighton.



5. New diagnoses of HIV in Greater Manchester 2024

The general trajectory of new diagnosis in Greater Manchester is down; decreasing by 63% since we saw a peak number in 2014 (302 new diagnoses).¹⁰ Those first diagnosed abroad do not reflect transmission within the UK.



Some of these changes may be driven by the implementation of opt-out ED testing in Manchester and Salford.

Probable route of Transmission

Of the 131 residents of Greater Manchester who received a new HIV diagnosis in 2024, probable route of exposure has been reported for 101 people (77% of the total). Where reported:



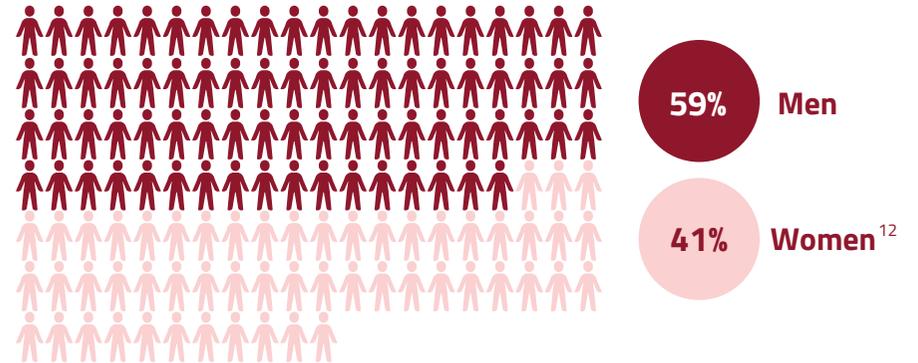
¹⁰ UKHSA Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles

¹¹ Note this figure was originally reported as 155 but revised to 182 with the 2024 data release

¹² UKHSA Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles

Gender

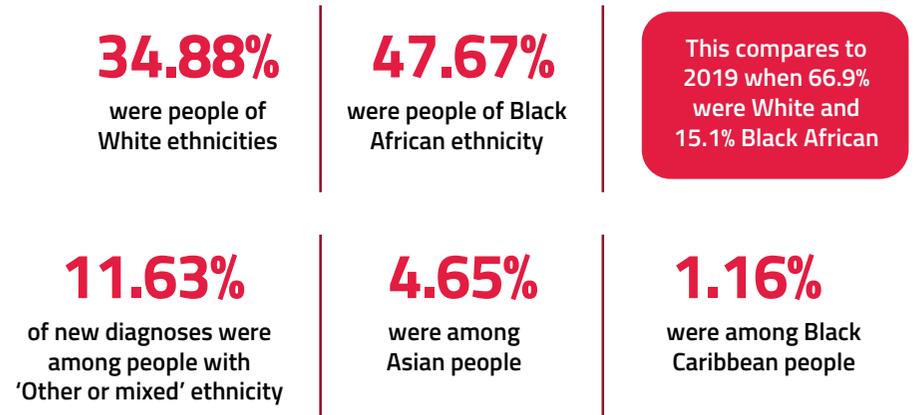
There is an accelerating trend of a smaller percentage of men being diagnosed and higher percentage of women.



Since 2019 the number of new diagnoses for males has decreased 41.7%. Since 2019 the number of new diagnoses for women has increased 25.6%.

Ethnicity

Of the 131 residents of Greater Manchester who received a new HIV diagnosis in 2024, ethnicity was reported for only 86 people (65% of the total). Where ethnicity was reported:





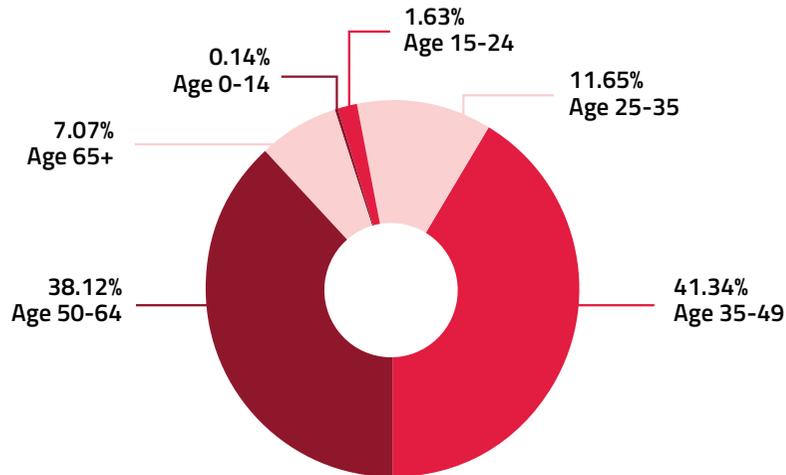
Age

As people live longer, healthier lives with HIV we have seen the number of people with an HIV diagnosis who are aged 50 and over increase in recent years.

68%

of people newly diagnosed with HIV in Greater Manchester 2024 were aged between 25 and 49.

Age of people seen for HIV care in Greater Manchester in 2024



6. Late diagnosis

People who are diagnosed late have been living with undiagnosed HIV for around three to five years, on average. Late diagnosis increases the risk of ill-health, early death and onward transmission of HIV. For public reporting via UKHSA late diagnosis is reported over a three year period with the latest being 2022-24.

39.5%

of people were diagnosed late

27%

of Gay, BI and men who have sex with men were diagnosed late

56.25%

of heterosexual men were diagnosed late

38.54%

of heterosexual and bisexual women were diagnosed late

7. HIV testing in Sexual Health Services

In 2024 the HIV testing rate within Sexual Health services for Greater Manchester residents was 2106 per 100,000 which is lower than the England average of 2842.

Manchester (3479) and Salford (2860) rates were higher than the England rate with all other areas being lower.

62,127

HIV tests were reported for Greater Manchester residents in 2024, 25% increase on 2023

32%

were for Manchester residents

13%

were for Salford residents



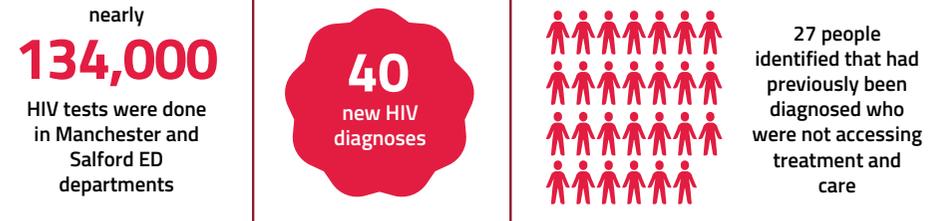
8. PrEP

In 2024, 9553 Greater Manchester residents were assessed as having a PrEP need by sexual health services. Of these 74.3% accessed PrEP.

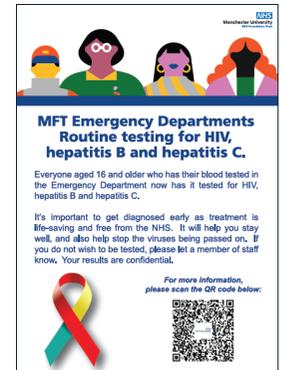


9. Opt-out testing in ED departments

Opt-out testing for HIV and hepatitis C in ED departments commenced in Manchester in December 2021 starting in Manchester Royal Infirmary followed by Wythenshawe March 2022 and North Manchester General Hospital in September 2022. Salford ED began opt-out testing in October 23 and 5 further areas commenced in 2025. In 2024:



There were also 172 new diagnoses for Hepatitis B (testing for HBV commenced in Manchester EDs in July 2024) and 98 new diagnoses for Hepatitis C.



Acknowledgements

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