








ONTARIO'S HIV SECTOR SERVICES

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT, 2022-2023 & 2023-2024

The HIV and Hepatitis C Programs Unit, Provincial Programs Branch, Ministry of Health (ministry), funds and oversees community-based HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) services. It also supports the distribution of sterile, single-use equipment to prevent the transmission of HIV, HCV and other bloodborne infections, as well as naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses.

Some decreases reported are associated with COVID restrictions (more so in 2022-2023), changes in reporting, and human resources-related issues (e.g., leaves, staff turnover, recruitment challenges).

		2022-2023	2023-2024
 HIV SUPPORT SERVICES	 SERVICE SESSIONS DELIVERED	169,357	193,634
	 CLIENTS LIVING WITH HIV SERVED	9,896	11,692
 PREVENTION, EDUCATION & OUTREACH	 ACTIVITIES DELIVERED	10,496	10,232
	 PEOPLE REACHED (NOT UNIQUE)	186,177	284,677
	 INTERACTIONS WITH PEOPLE WHO USE SUBSTANCES	434,045	456,434

About this factsheet. This factsheet draws on HIV-specific activity data reported in the Ontario Community HIV/AIDS Reporting Tool (OCHART) for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. It provides funders and community-based HIV service providers with an overview of their impact, including clients served, prevention, education and support services delivered, community-based HIV clinical and anonymous HIV testing services, and provincial capacity building.



The ministry's HIV and Hepatitis C Programs Unit invested approximately \$48.5M in base funding in 2022-2023, and \$66.52M in base funding and \$2.22M in one-time funding in 2023-2024, to support community-based HIV services, including:

86 

HIV-FOCUSED SERVICES

34 

OUTREACH SERVICES

to prevent disease transmission
for people who use substances

11 

**PROVINCIAL HIV SECTOR
SUPPORT SERVICES**

8 

**ANONYMOUS HIV
TESTING SITES**

5 

**COMMUNITY-BASED HIV
CLINICAL SERVICES**

In 2023-2024, 11 clinical
services were funded.

4 

**PROVINCE-WIDE HIV
CLIENT SERVICES**



In 2023-2024, the ministry provided new funding to support six additional HIV community-based clinical services, bringing the total number of clinical services to 11. However, 2023-2024 was focused on program setup with service delivery in 2024-25.

GIPA/MEPA

Represents average number $(H1+H2)/2$.
(PHA – people living with HIV/AIDS)

Average number of staff and volunteers living with HIV actively engaged in service delivery over the fiscal year:

2022-2023



**STAFF
(DESIGNATED PHA PEER POSITIONS)**

328



VOLUNTEERS (PHAs)

621

2023-2024

**STAFF
(DESIGNATED PHA PEER POSITIONS)**

293



VOLUNTEERS (PHAs)

734



WHAT?

These organizations work across the HIV care cascade and aim to:



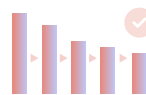
Reduce new HIV transmissions by providing education, support, and linking people to testing and other prevention services.



Increase the number of people in care and on treatment by providing support services to help people link to and stay in care, and manage other health and social issues.



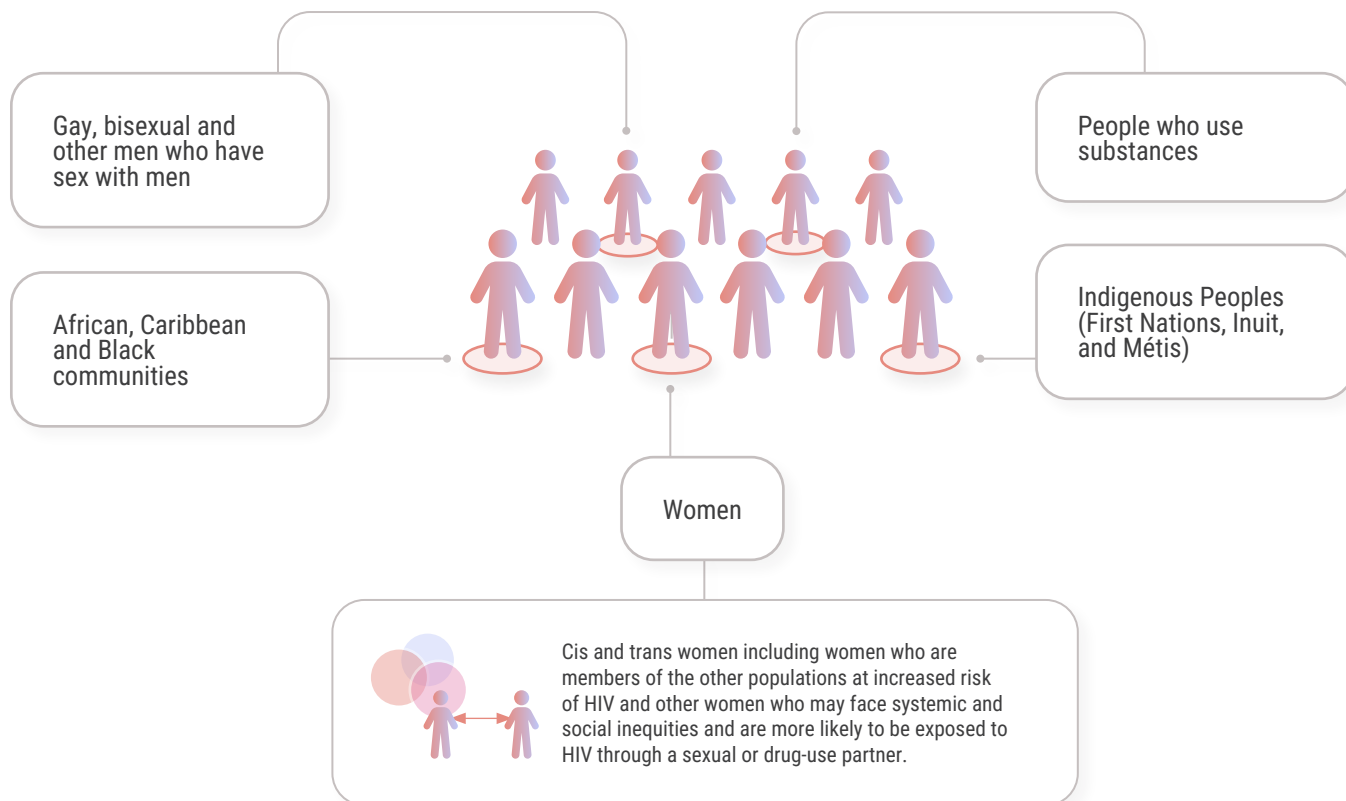
Minimize the burden of HIV on the health care system.



The HIV care cascade is a framework to understand how people are diagnosed with HIV, linked to care, start and stay in treatment and achieve viral suppression. (From ohesi.ca)

WHO?

They provide services to the populations at increased risk of and most affected by HIV:



HIV PREVENTION, HEALTH EDUCATION, AND CONNECTION TO CARE

To prevent new HIV infections, organizations provide education and outreach (including direct outreach to people who use substances and distribution of sterile, single-use equipment to prevent the transmission of HIV) to people at risk, engage in community development and capacity building with local service providers, as well as provide linkage to other health and social services, including treatment, that address the health and social issues that increase HIV risk, such as mental health issues, addiction, poverty, homelessness, racism and discrimination.

HIV PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

2022-2023

N = 56
programs reporting

2023-2024


N = 58
programs reporting


PREVENTION EDUCATION

 **EVENTS**
4,381

 **PARTICIPANTS**
58,830

Not unique

EVENTS 
4,806


PARTICIPANTS 
77,663

Not unique

OUTREACH

 **ACTIVITIES**
6,115

 **CONTACTS**
127,347

ACTIVITIES 
5,426

CONTACTS 
207,014

2,176,120

**SAFER SEX SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED
(CONDOMS, LUBE)**

2,387,905



EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS

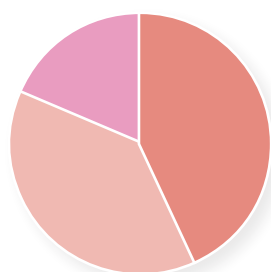
In 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, education activities for service providers included capacity building, consultations, and information sessions.

2022-2023

N = 53
programs reporting



**TOTAL NUMBER
OF SESSIONS**
1,418



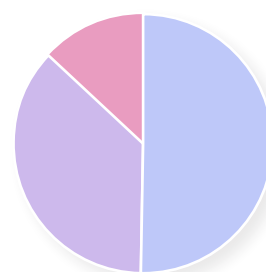
- 611 (43%)**
Capacity-building workshops
- 545 (38%)**
Information sessions
- 262 (19%)**
Consultations

2023-2024

N = 54
programs reporting



**TOTAL NUMBER OF
SESSIONS**
1,161

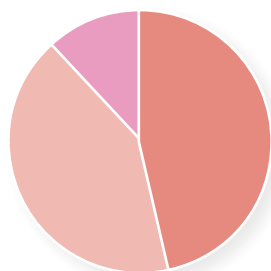


- 584 (50%)**
Capacity-building workshops
- 427 (37%)**
Information sessions
- 150 (13%)**
Consultations

PARTICIPANTS

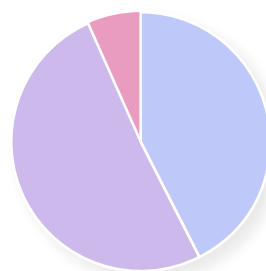


TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
29,492

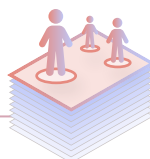


- 13,702 (46%)**
Capacity-building workshops
- 12,307 (42%)**
Information sessions
- 3,483 (12%)**
Consultations

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
34,746



- 14,781 (43%)**
Capacity-building workshops
- 17,698 (51%)**
Information sessions
- 2,267 (6%)**
Consultations



73%

**% OF SESSIONS WITH REPORTED USE OF PRIORITY
POPULATION NETWORK MATERIALS (ACCHO, GMSH, WHAI)**

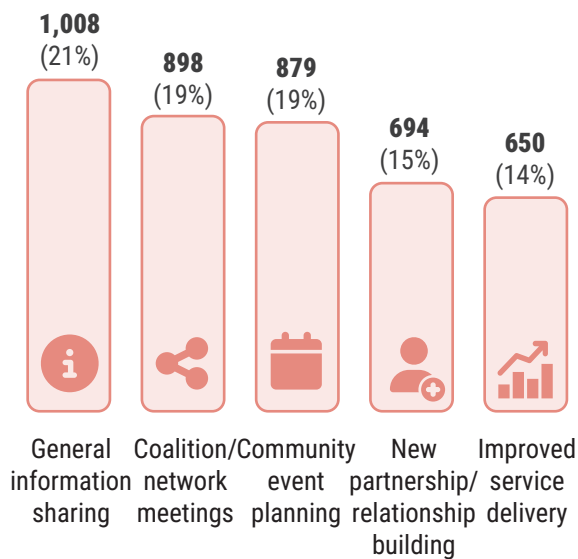
58%

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Community development work with local partners remained a strong focus ensuring service coordination, strong referral pathways, and engagement of community partners.

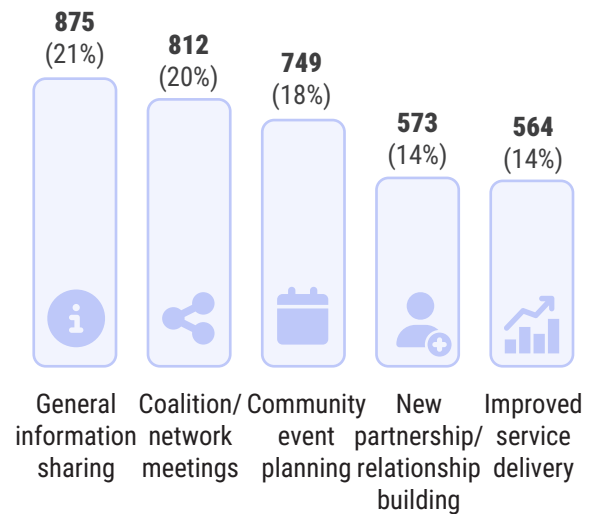
2022-2023

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS
4,747

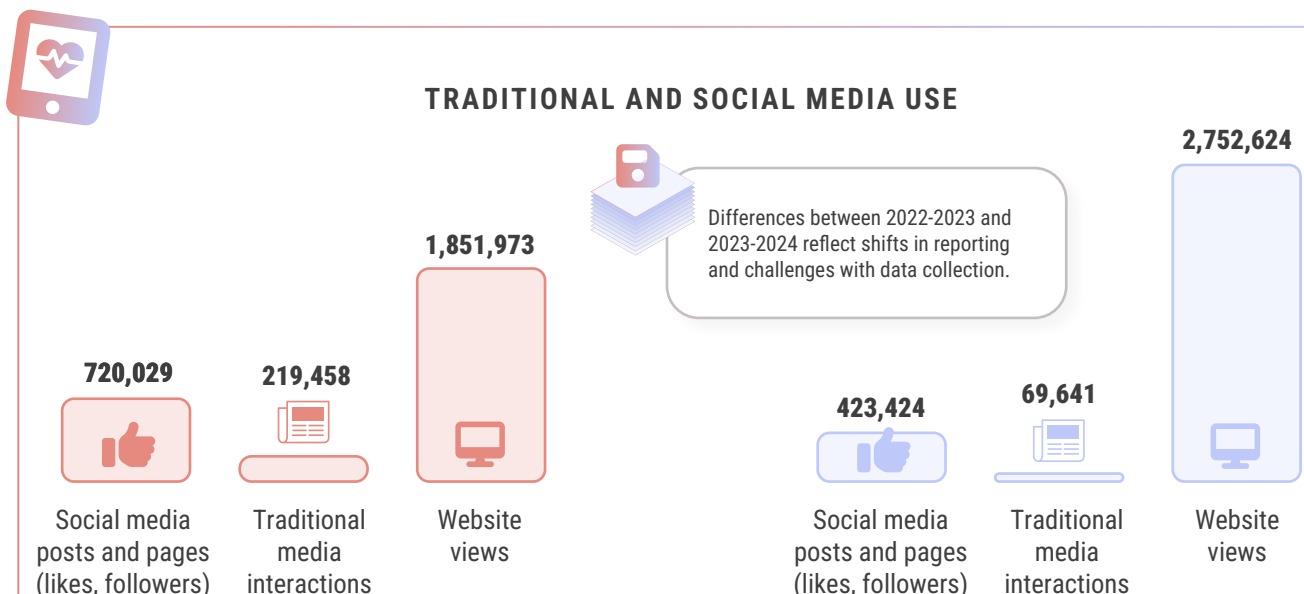


2023-2024

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS
4,129



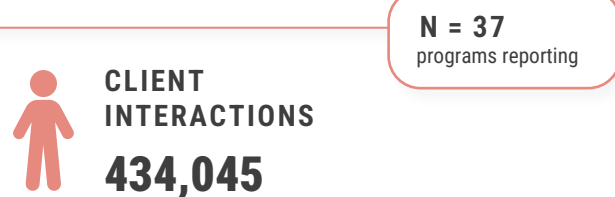
TRADITIONAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE



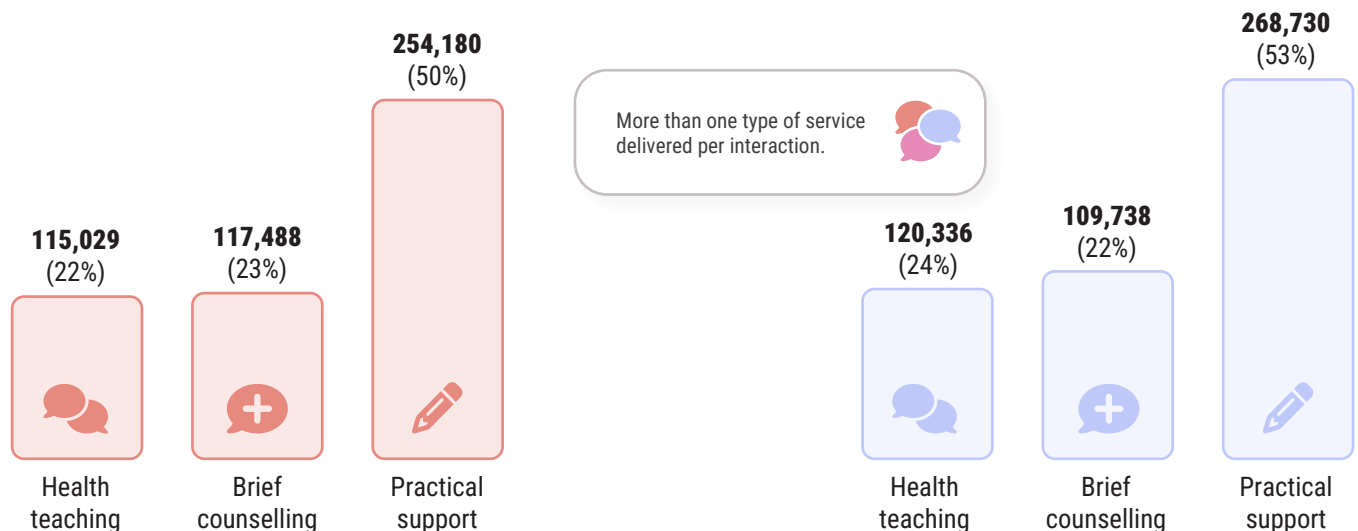
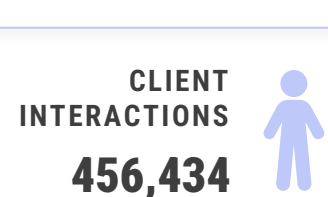
OUTREACH SERVICES TO PREVENT DISEASE TRANSMISSION FOR PEOPLE WHO USE SUBSTANCES

Outreach programs continued to serve people who use substances using innovative street-based and mobile outreach strategies, as well as numerous fixed onsite satellite sites. They distribute sterile, single-use equipment to prevent disease transmission, deliver health teaching to reduce harms and keep people well, and provide referrals to link people to care, including treatment and other needed health, community, and social services.

2022-2023



2023-2024



INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL SERVICES

25,092

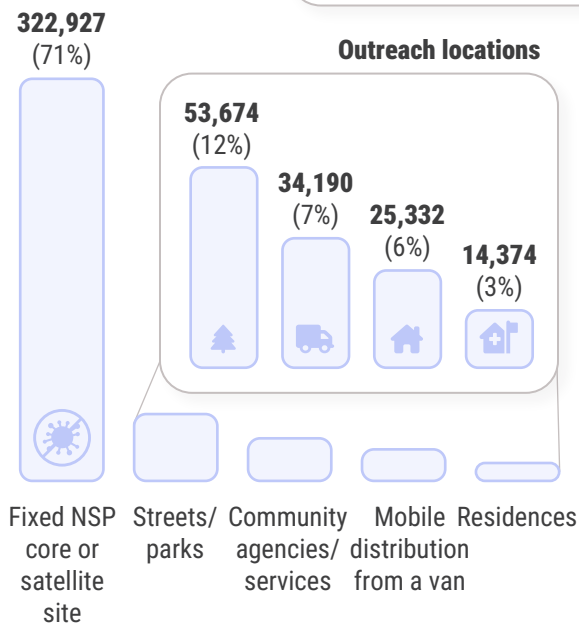
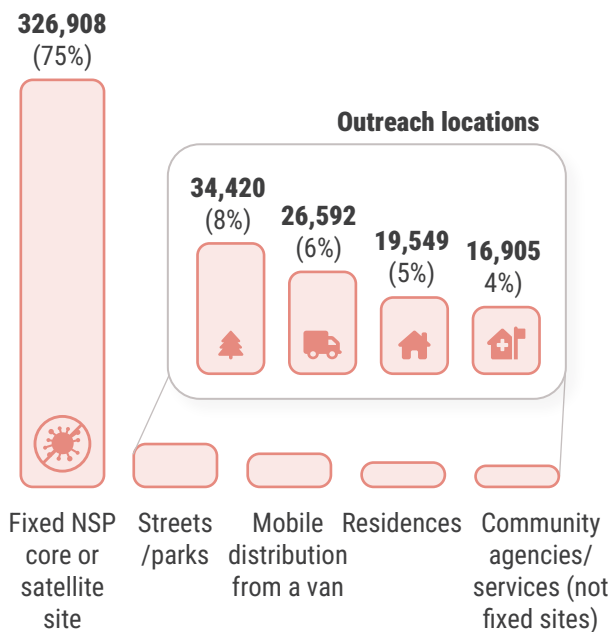
Increase in 2022-2023 for Indigenous traditional services due to one organization's increased activities in fiscal year.

9,742



Outreach is defined as work provided in locations where community members congregate or socialize.

CLIENT INTERACTIONS BY TOP FIVE LOCATIONS



DISTRIBUTION OF STERILE, SINGLE-USE EQUIPMENT TO PREVENT DISEASE TRANSMISSION

2022-2023

PIECES OF EQUIPMENT
40 MILLION+

N = 39
programs reporting

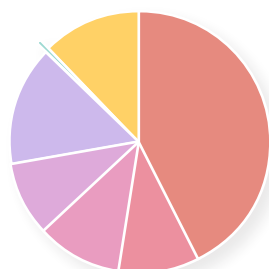
2023-2024

PIECES OF EQUIPMENT
45 MILLION+

N = 38
programs reporting



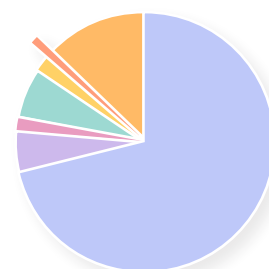
CONNECTION TO CARE: REFERRALS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE SUBSTANCES



94,388
total referrals

N = 37

40,360 (43%)	Prevention services for people who use substances (e.g., NSP, CTS)	48,189 (60%)
9,430 (10%)	Clinical services (HIV care, primary care, urgent care, other clinical services)	5,874 (7%)
9,857 (10%)	Hepatitis C services	1,786 (2%)
8,708 (9%)	Mental health & addiction services	7,364 (9%)
14,023 (15%)	HIV/STI testing	2,343 (3%)
539 (<1%)	HIV services (community-based)	725 (<1%)
11,471 (12%)	Other community-based services (e.g., housing, social services)	14,352 (18%)



80,633
total referrals

N = 36

HIV SUPPORT SERVICES

HIV programs provide a range of support services to help people living with HIV stay in care and on treatment, and connect them to other health, community, and social services. In addition, they help people living with or at risk of HIV navigate systemic barriers, stigma, racism/discrimination, and other inequities that negatively impact health service access and their overall health and well-being.

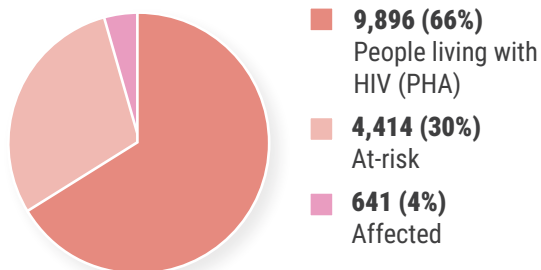
Types of support services can include general support, wellness checks, support groups, clinical counselling, support with managing HIV and medication adherence, as well as HIV pre-/post-test counselling among others.

WHO USES SUPPORT SERVICES?

2022-2023

N = 37
programs reporting

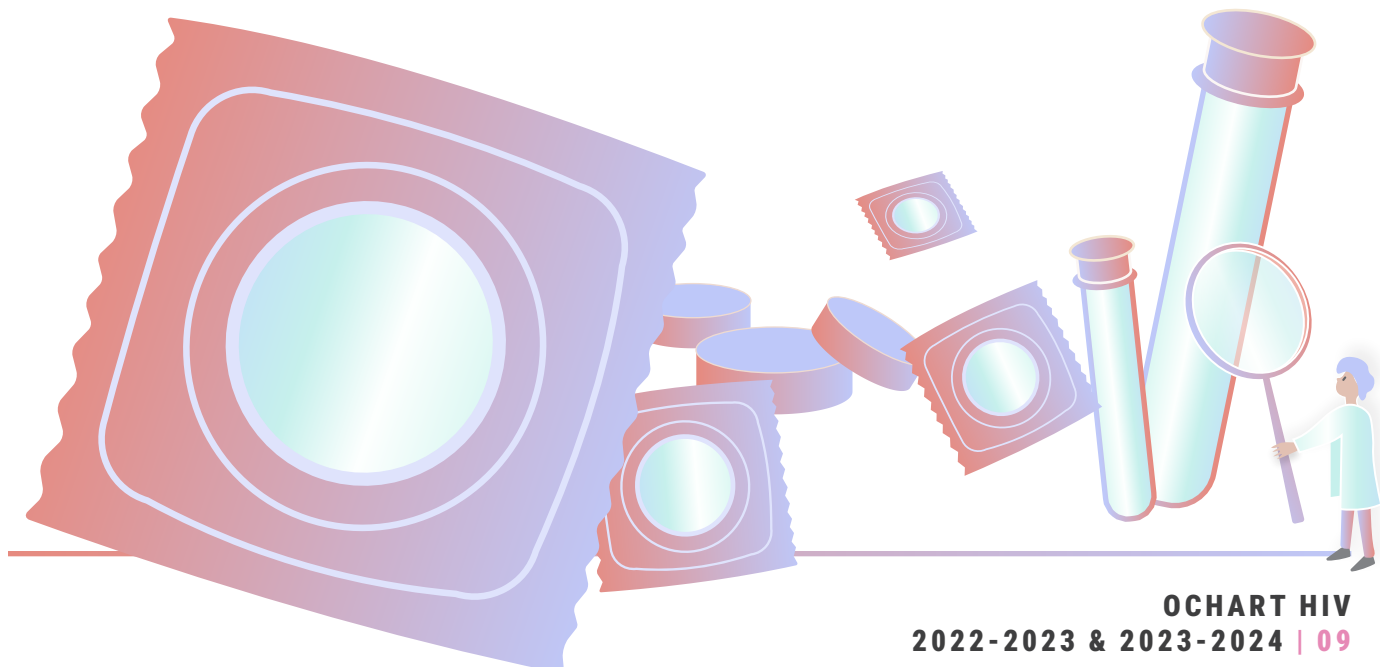
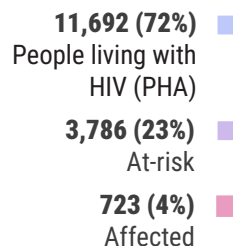
 **UNIQUE CLIENTS SERVED**
14,951 + **2,640**
new clients



2023-2024

N = 37
programs reporting

UNIQUE CLIENTS SERVED
4,917 + **16,201**
new clients



GENDER (WHERE KNOWN)

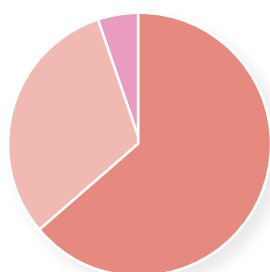
2022-2023

2023-2024

N = 13,894

ALL CLIENTS

N = 13,608



8,858 (64%)
Male

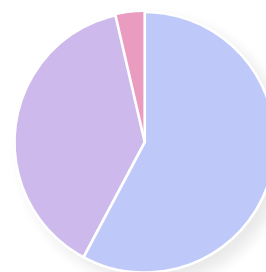
4,323 (31%)
Female

713 (5%)
Trans people & individuals who identify as two-spirit, non-binary and other gender expressions

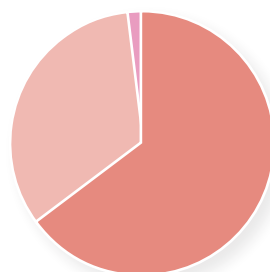
7,894 (58%)
Male

5,224 (38%)
Female

490 (4%)
Trans people & individuals who identify as two-spirit, non-binary and other gender expressions



CLIENTS LIVING WITH HIV (PHAs)



5,731 (65%)
Male

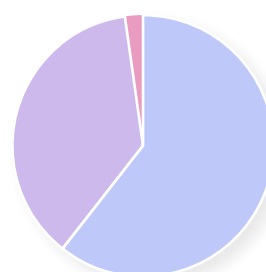
2,952 (33%)
Female

156 (2%)
Trans people & individuals who identify as two-spirit, non-binary and other gender expressions

5,517 (61%)
Male

3,384 (37%)
Female

198 (2%)
Trans people & individuals who identify as two-spirit, non-binary and other gender expressions



PRIORITY POPULATIONS

Community-based HIV programs focus their services on populations most affected by HIV. **Of the total number of clients living with HIV (PHA):**

5,753 PHAs

345 (6%)



People who use drugs

Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men

2,479 (43%)

187 (3%)



6,996 PHAs

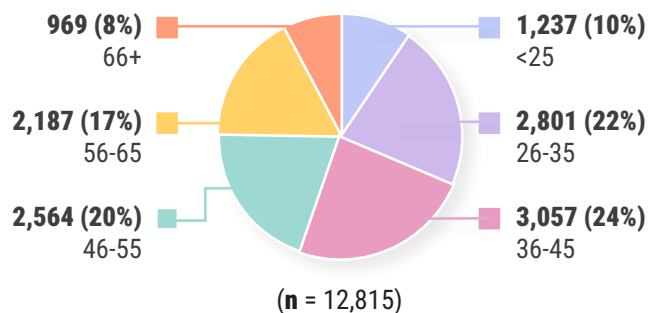
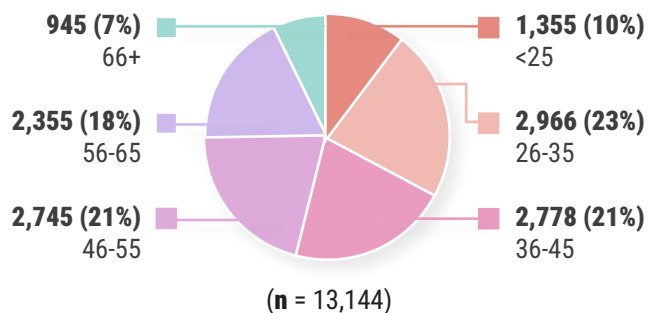
2,907 (42%)

CLIENT AGE (WHERE KNOWN)

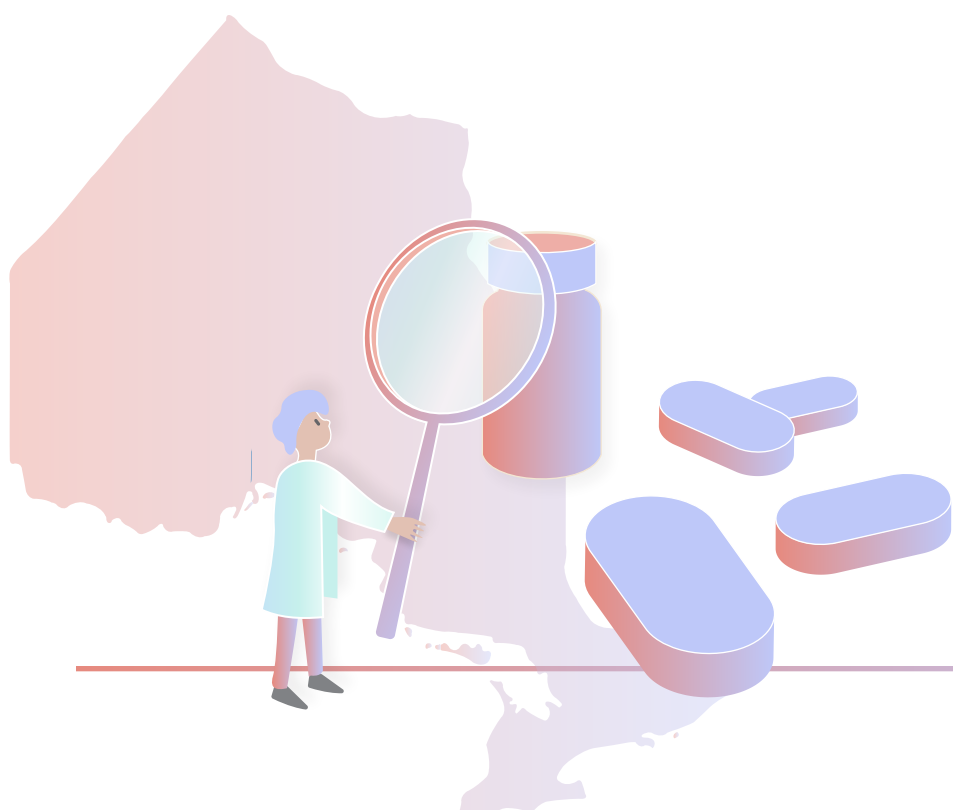
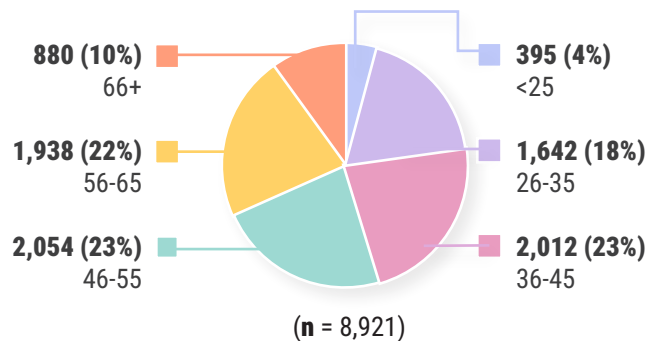
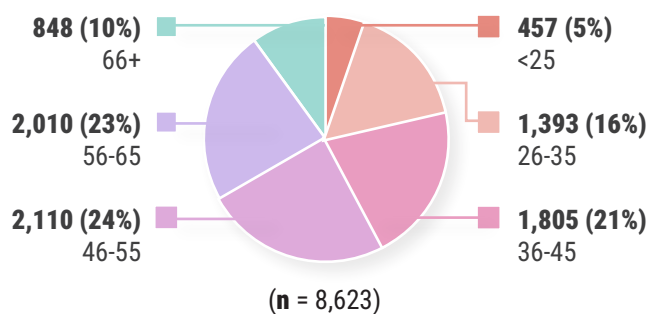
2022-2023

2023-2024

ALL CLIENTS



CLIENTS LIVING WITH HIV (PHAs)

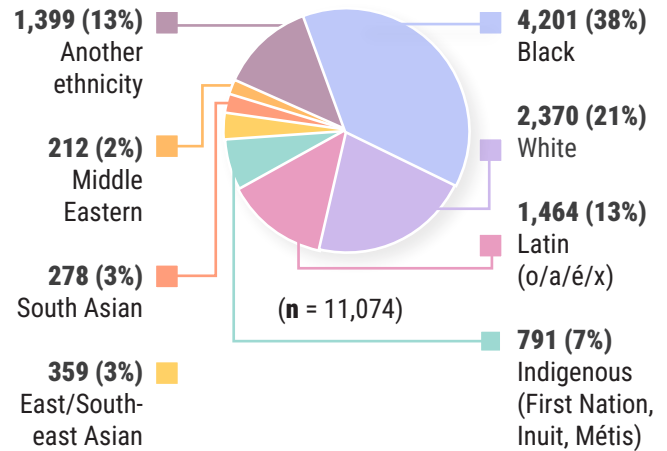
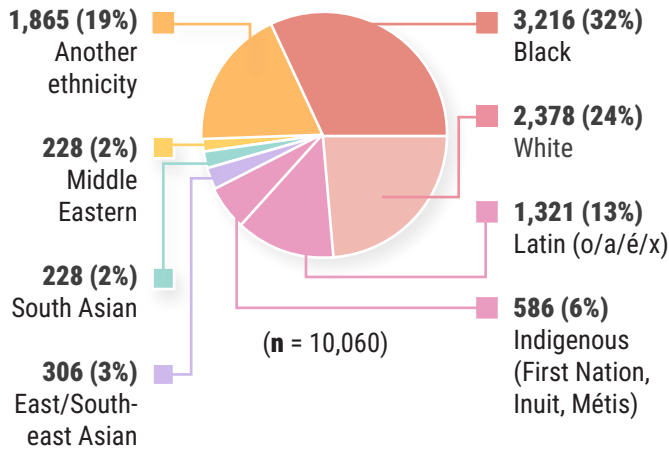


ETHNICITY (WHERE KNOWN)

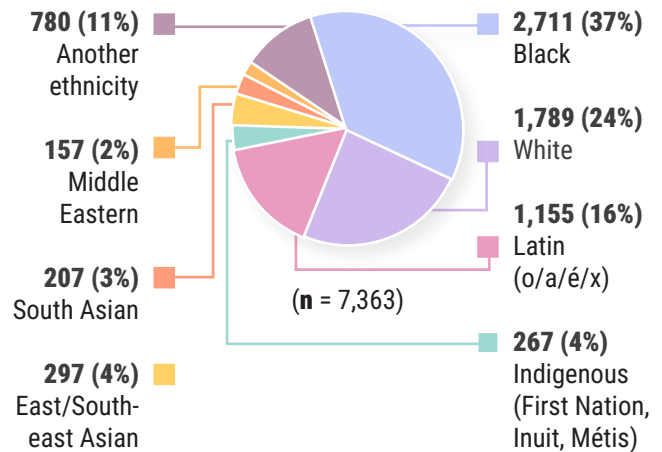
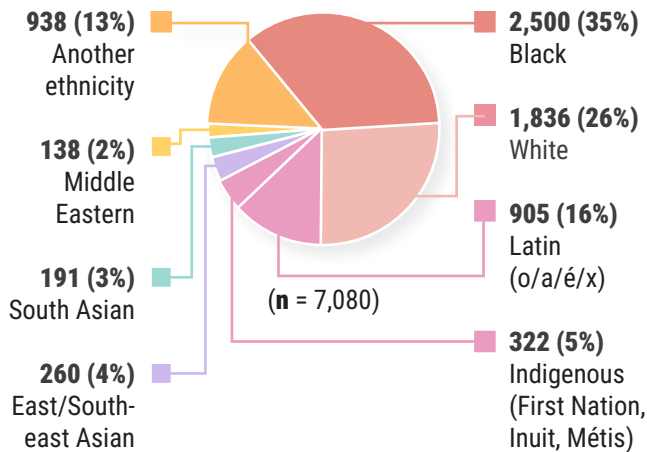
2022-2023

2023-2024

ALL CLIENTS



CLIENTS LIVING WITH HIV (PHAs)

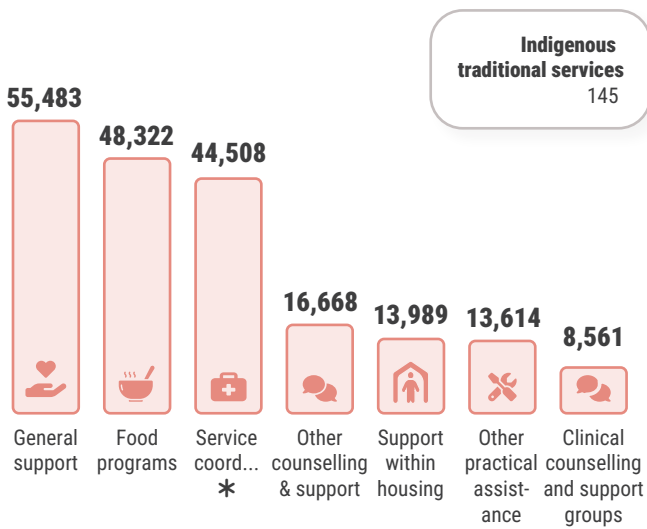


SERVICE SESSIONS

2022-2023

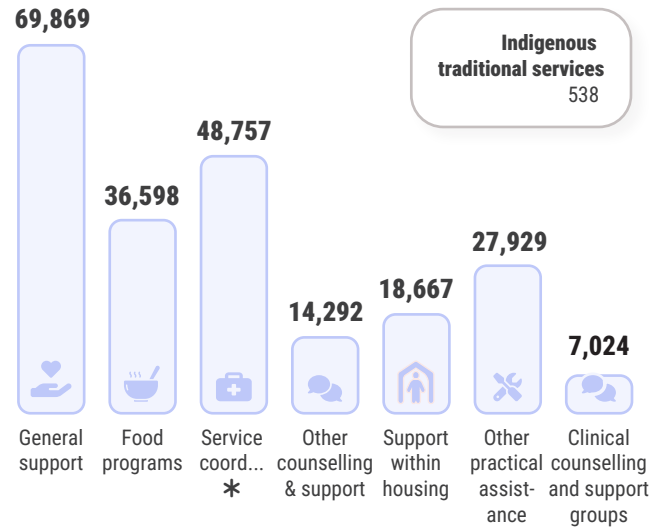
 **TOTAL SERVICE SESSIONS**
201,290

ALL CLIENTS



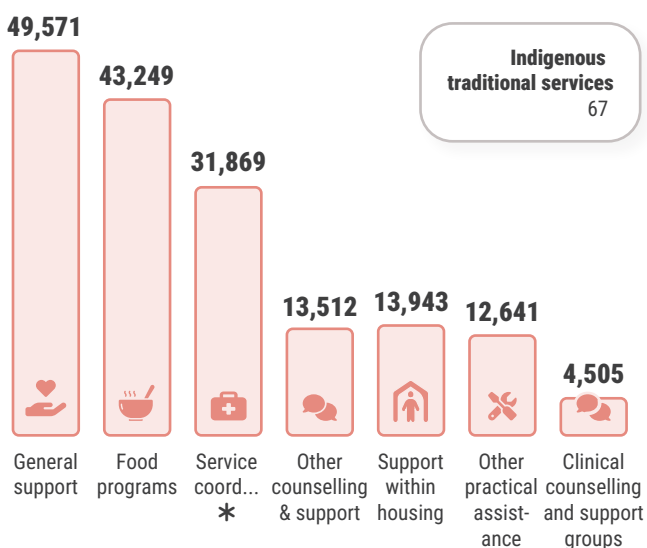
2023-2024

TOTAL SERVICE SESSIONS 
223,674

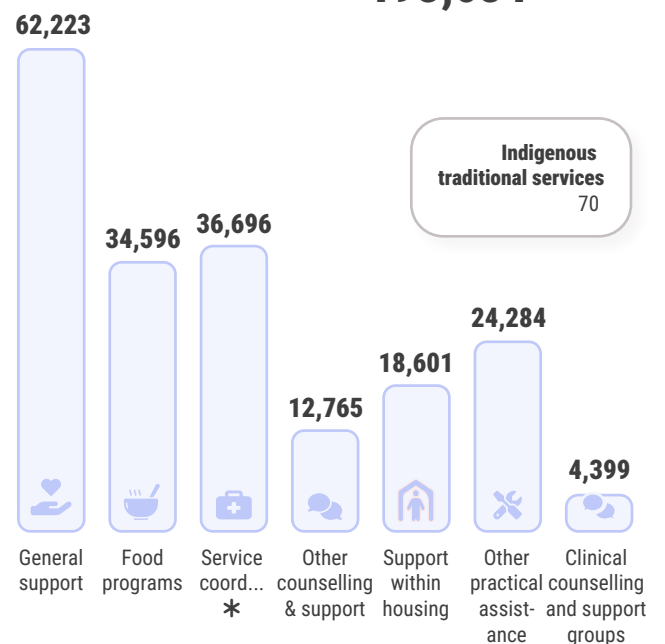


CLIENTS LIVING WITH HIV (PHAs)

 **TOTAL SERVICE SESSIONS**
169,357



TOTAL SERVICE SESSIONS 
193,634



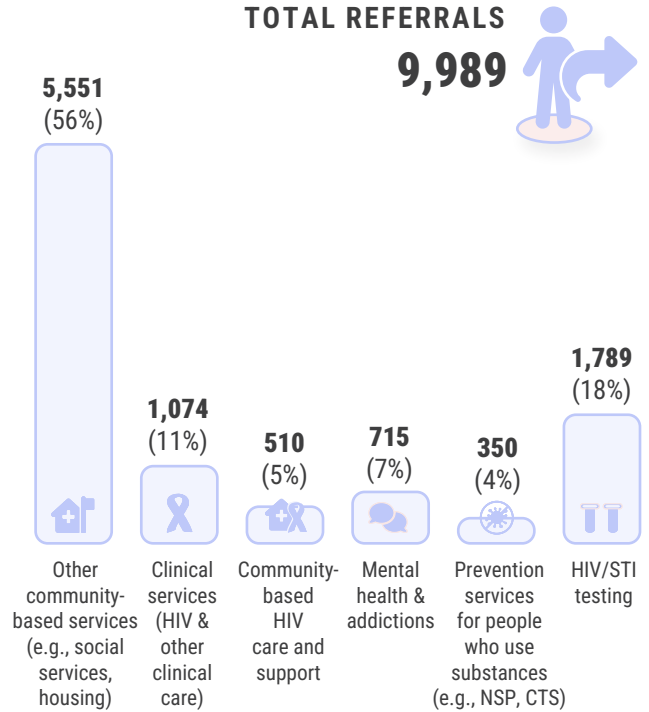
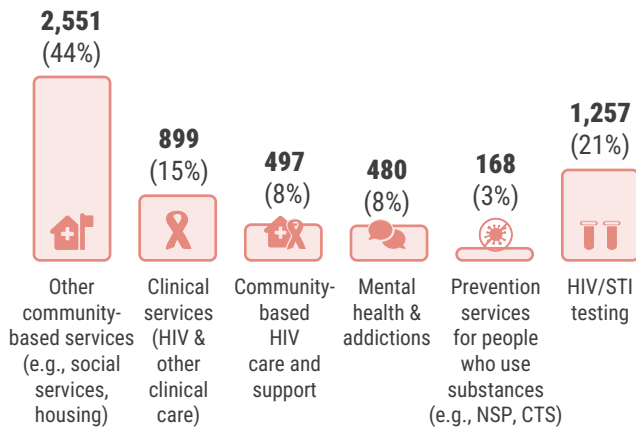
* Service coordination, Case management, and new Intakes

REFERRALS

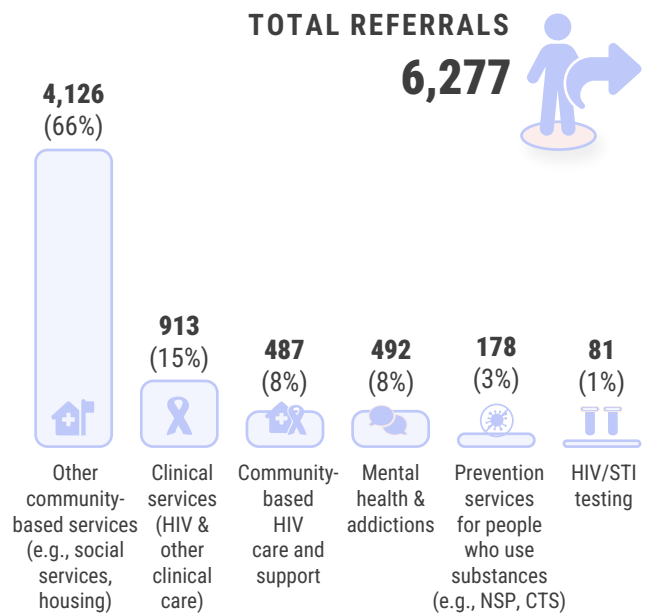
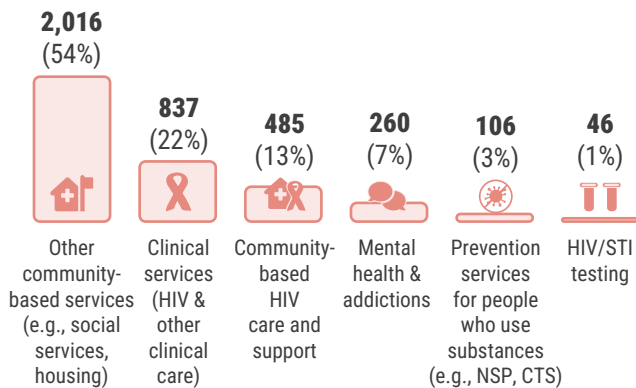
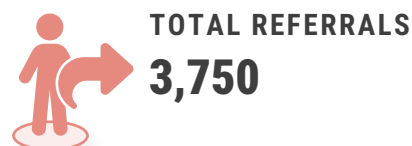
2022-2023

2023-2024

ALL CLIENTS

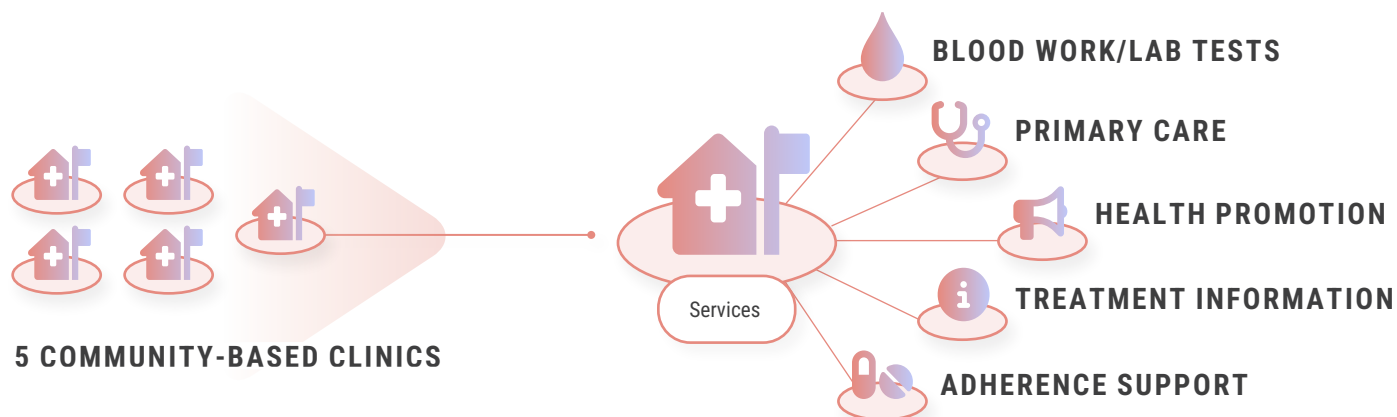


CLIENTS LIVING WITH HIV PHAS)



COMMUNITY-BASED HIV CLINICS


In addition to the hospital-based HIV clinics and primary care providers funded by the larger health care system, the HIV & Hepatitis C Programs funds five community-based HIV clinics that serve people who face barriers using traditional health services, such as people who use injection drugs, and who live in parts of the province with little access to HIV care. Note: In 2023-2024 the six newly funded sites were focused on program setup and their service data will be reflected in 2024-25.



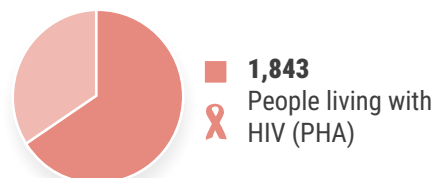
2022-2023


2023-2024

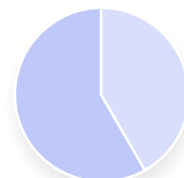
N = 5
programs reporting


 **CLIENTS SERVED ***
2,804


CLIENTS SERVED * 
3,254



1,895
People living with
HIV (PHA) 



 **REFERRALS FOR PHA
CLIENTS**
(Other health and social
services)
5,232

 **REFERRALS FOR PHA
CLIENTS**
(Other health and social
services)
4,729

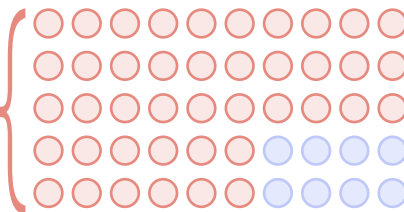
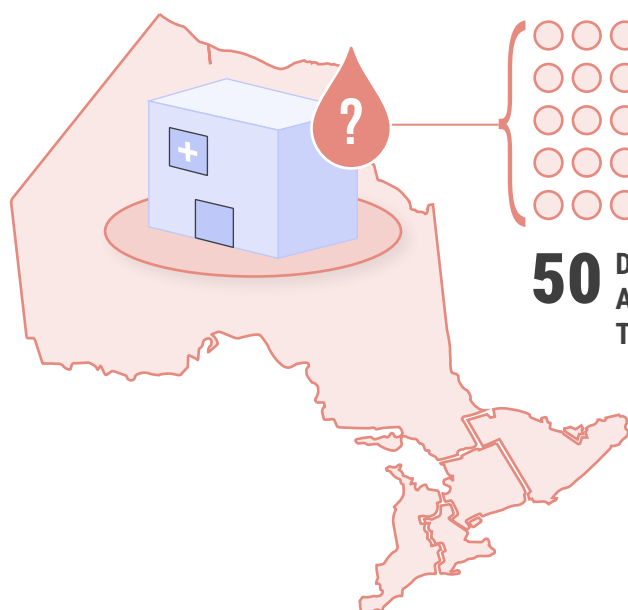
* Average of the fiscal year

ANONYMOUS TESTING

To protect their health and prevent new infections, it's important to engage individuals infected with HIV but not aware of their status, and those at risk of acquiring HIV, in testing. Most HIV testing in Ontario is conducted by primary care physicians and other practitioners funded by the larger health system. In addition, within Ontario, there are also **50 designated anonymous HIV testing sites** (providing either rapid point-of-care or standard blood drawn anonymous HIV tests), of which the ministry's HIV & Hepatitis C Programs funds eight testing sites that report their activities in OCHART.



Anonymous tests use an anonymous HIV test requisition form so that clients' results cannot be linked back to their identity. Information pertaining to anonymous testing is kept in anonymized files.



50 DESIGNATED
ANONYMOUS HIV
TESTING SITES

8 of these sites
funded by the
ministry's **HIV
& Hepatitis C
programs**

2022-2023

7,565 Rapid tests + 13 Standard blood draws =

ANONYMOUS HIV TESTS

7,578



ANONYMOUS REACTIVE TESTS

55



REFERRALS

(Health & other social services)

134

2023-2024

6,572 Rapid tests + 13 Standard blood draws =

ANONYMOUS HIV TESTS

6,585



ANONYMOUS REACTIVE TESTS

48



REFERRALS

(Health & other social services)

125



REFERRALS TO PREP SERVICES

608

New question added in 2023-2024

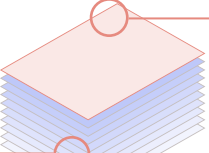
BUILDING PROVINCIAL SECTOR CAPACITY


The provincial sector support services deliver capacity building activities (presentations, training, consultations) to build skills, support worker wellness, strengthen organizational development and practices, address racism and discrimination, increase awareness of evidence (scientific and practice-based) to inform service delivery, and promote culturally responsive and tailored services to meet the needs of populations most impacted by HIV across Ontario.

2022-2023

 **SESSIONS**
900 ▶  **PARTICIPANTS**
7,549



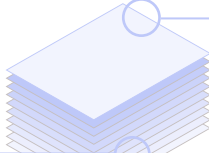
 **ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS AND NEWSLETTERS**
74


 **ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION & CAPACITY-BUILDING RESOURCES (TOOLKITS, TRAINING GUIDES, FACT SHEETS)**
24

2023-2024

 **SESSIONS**
752 ▶  **PARTICIPANTS**
6,667



 **ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS AND NEWSLETTERS**
77

 **ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION & CAPACITY-BUILDING RESOURCES (TOOLKITS, TRAINING GUIDES, FACT SHEETS)**
29