

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2024/25

HIV

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a chronic health condition that damages the cells in your immune system and weakens your ability to fight everyday infections and disease. The development of antiretroviral treatments over the past few decades has transformed HIV infection from an often fatal infection into a manageable chronic condition with the potential for normal life expectancy when diagnosed promptly. However, being diagnosed late is linked with increased rates of illness, hospital admission and reduced life expectancy. Whilst great strides have been made around HIV treatment, people living with HIV remain a stigmatised group who can have a poorer quality of life due to their HIV status.

HIV affects all sectors of the community, but there are some groups that are disproportionately affected, including men who have sex with men and the black African population.

Summary points

- The Bristol prevalence rate of 2.37 per 1,000 (aged 15-59) was similar to England's rate of 2.4 per 1,000 in 2023. Bristol was ranked the 57th highest in England (out of 152 UTLAs/UAs).
- There were 20 people newly diagnosed with HIV in Bristol in 2023 which gives the incidence rate of 4.1 per 100,000, similar to the England average of 4.9 per 100,000.
- There were 64 cases of new HIV in Bristol in total in 2023 when those who were previously diagnosed abroad are included, which is a steep increase from previous years.
- In the 3 years from 2021 to 2023, 61% of people first diagnosed in the UK (27 people) were diagnosed late in Bristol – a small increase from the previous 3-year period, and higher than the England average of 43.5%

HIV diagnosed prevalence

There were 933 Bristol residents living with diagnosed HIV in 2023. Bristol's diagnosed prevalence rate is 2.37 per 1,000 population (aged 15-59), which is similar to the national rate (2.40 per 1,000) – see fig 1. National data shows that HIV diagnosed prevalence is higher among residents from more deprived areas¹.

The percentage of people in Bristol accessing HIV care in 2023 who were virally suppressed (had an undetectable viral load and therefore unable to pass on the virus) was 96.1%, similar to the England average of 97.7%².

¹ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2023), Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, 2024

² Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2023), Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, 2024

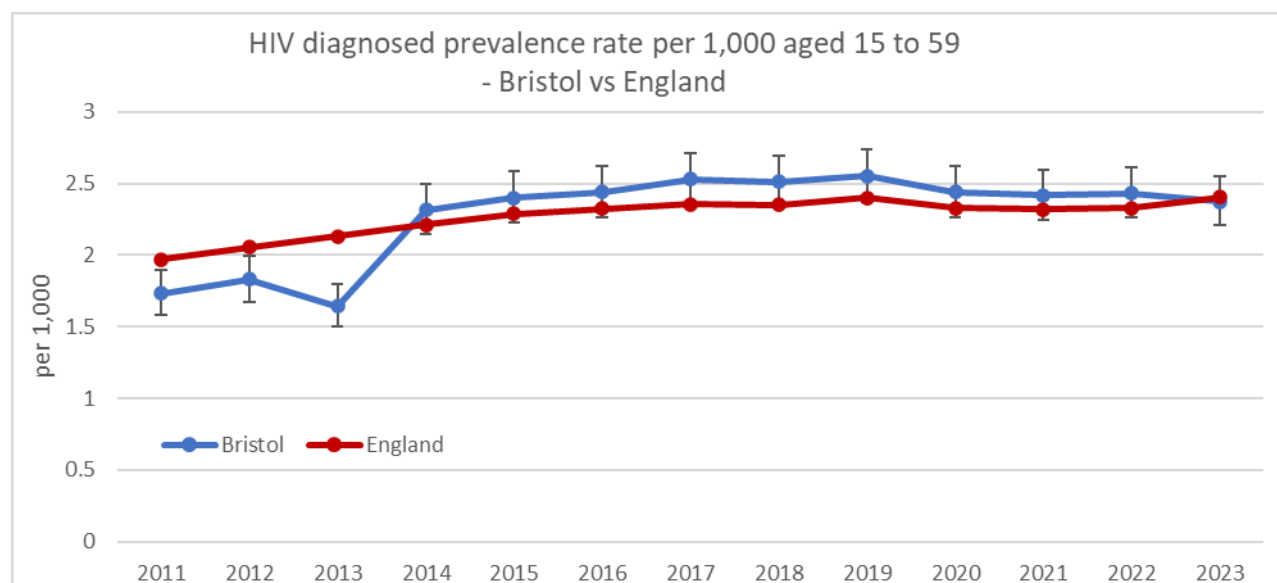


Fig 1: HIV diagnosed prevalence, rate per 1,000 people aged 15-59 from 2011 to 2023; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Bristol vs England, October 2024

New HIV diagnosis rate for those first diagnosed in the UK and abroad

In 2023 there were 20 people newly diagnosed in the UK with HIV in Bristol, a rate of 4.1 per 100,000 population, similar to the national average rate of 4.9 per 100,000. From 2015 there has been a downward trend in the rate of new UK diagnoses in Bristol, In 2022 the rate dropped to the lowest level in 11 years (fig 2) but increased in 2023. Bristol has the lowest rate of all English core cities.

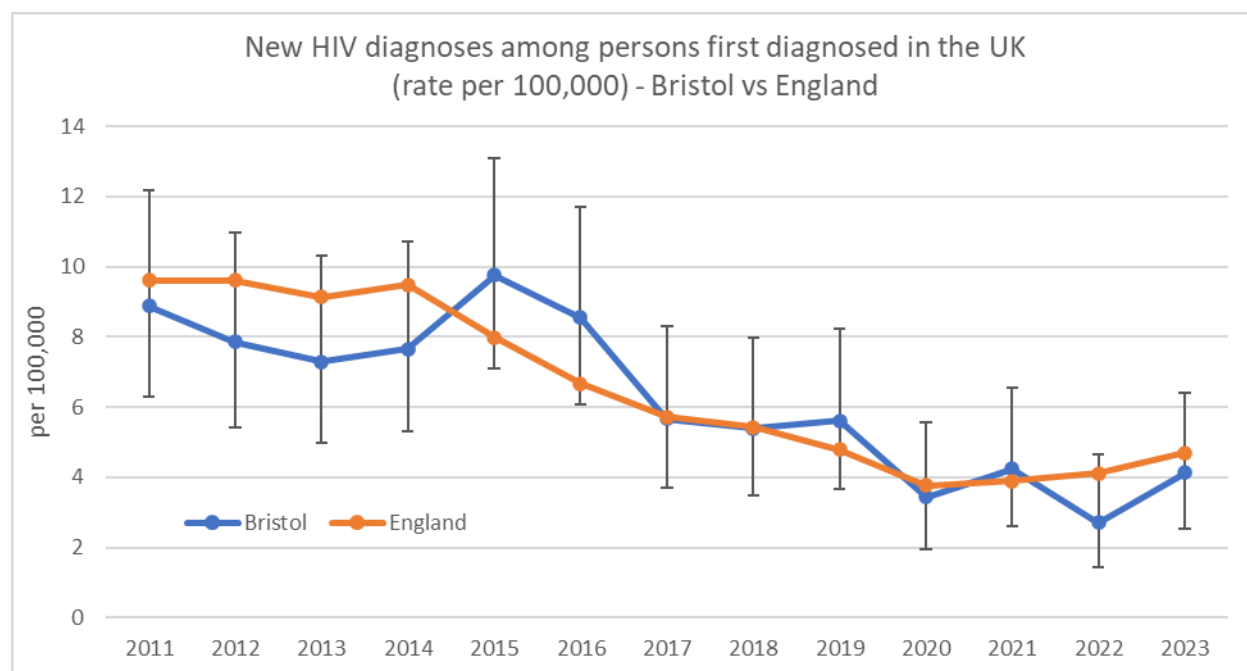


Fig 2: HIV new diagnosis rate among person first diagnosed in the UK per 100,000 population; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Bristol vs England, October 2024

The total number of new cases of HIV presenting to Bristol increased from 31 in 2022 to 64 in 2023 when those who may have been previously diagnosed abroad are taken into account.

This is a rate of 13.3 new diagnoses per 100,000 higher than the national average of 10.4 diagnoses per 100,000 (Figure 3).

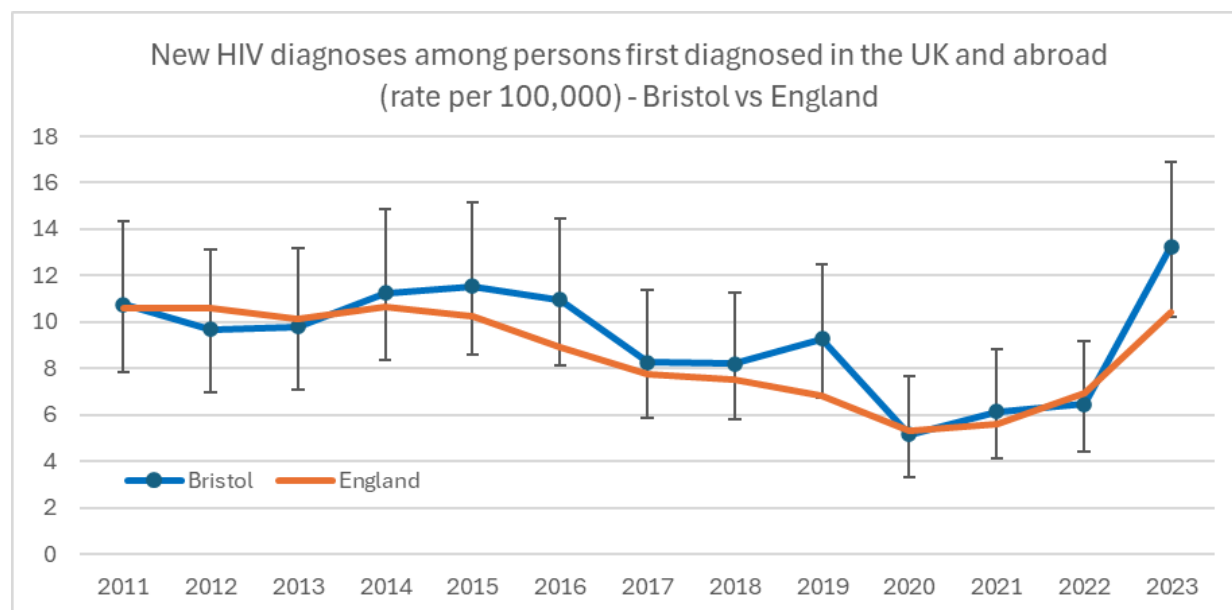


Fig 3: HIV new diagnosis rate among person first diagnosed in the UK and abroad per 100,000 population; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Bristol vs England, March 2025

Nationally, 47% of new HIV diagnoses in England were first diagnosed in the UK and 53% were previously diagnosed abroad. Men accounted for 64% of those first diagnosed in the UK whilst 36% were accounted for by women and conversely 45% of those previously diagnosed abroad were men and 55% were women. Nearly 48% of all new diagnoses are in people of Black African ethnicity³.

The percentage of people in Bristol newly diagnosed with HIV from 2021-23 who started antiretroviral therapy (ART) promptly (within 91 days of their diagnosis) was 83.9%, which is similar to the national percentage (84.4%)⁴.

HIV late diagnosis

HIV surveillance data shows that, as the number of new HIV diagnoses has declined, the proportion of those newly diagnosed late has increased in Bristol. Of those first diagnosed in the UK aged 15 and above between 2021 and 2023, 27 (61.4%) are considered to have had a "late diagnosis".⁵ This is an increase from 58.5% in 2020-2022. the national average of 43.5% (fig 4). Among those diagnosed in England, those diagnosed late in 2019 had more than a 7-fold increased risk of death within a year of diagnosis compared to those diagnosed promptly.⁶

³ UK Health Security Agency (2024), HIV: annual data tables 2024, [HIV: annual data tables - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hiv-annual-data-tables-2024)

⁴ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2023), Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, 2024

⁵ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2023), Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, 2023

⁶ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2022), Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, 2022

Bristol has the 13th highest proportion of HIV late diagnosis of all English local authorities and is the highest when compared to all English core cities and the 15 most similar local authorities.

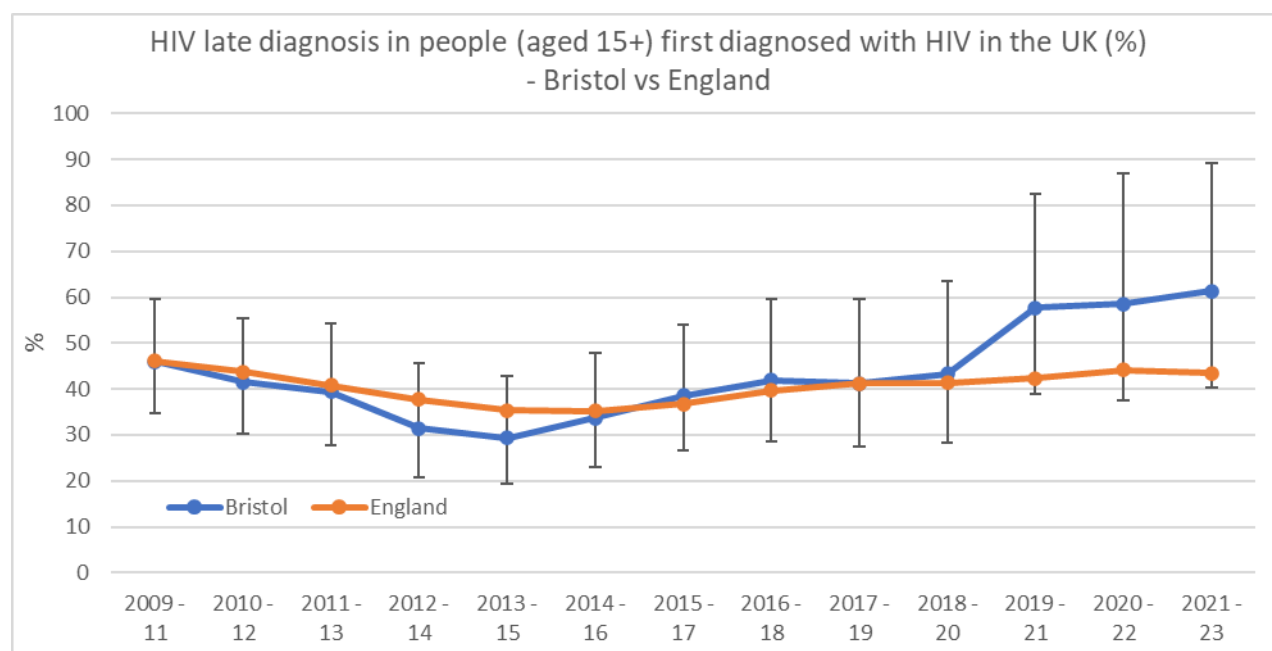


Fig 4: HIV late diagnosis percentage; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Bristol vs England, October 2024

In Bristol, rates of late diagnoses between 2021 and 2023 were highest in heterosexual men (77%) followed by heterosexual and bisexual women (50%) and men who have sex with men (50%) however numbers are small. – see table 1,

Exposure group	Bristol % (95%CI)	England % (95%CI)
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	50 (22 - 99)	34 (32 - 37)
Heterosexual men	77 (37 - 141)	57 (52 - 61)
Heterosexual and bisexual women	50 (12 - 88)	46 (44 - 49)

Table 1: HIV late diagnosis percentage; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, October 2024

HIV late diagnosis by ethnicity is only published at a national level. Data for 2021-23 show that people of Black African ethnicity are at a higher risk of late diagnosis in England (Table 2).

Ethnicity	Percentage %	Lower CI 95% limit	Upper CI 95% limit
White	40.9	38.4	43.6
Black-African	49.5	45.9	53.3
Black-Caribbean	39.5	29.4	52.0
Black other	44.1	34.8	55.0
Asian	46.2	40.6	52.3
Other/mixed	43.8	39.0	49.1
Not reported	36.4	31.6	41.8

Table 2: HIV late diagnosis percentage in England; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, October 2024

HIV testing

HIV testing data for Bristol from 2021 to 2023 has not been published due to a data completeness issue around postal test kit data. The data has been provided to UKHSA and will be published in the next data release following validation.

Nationally, the testing rate is currently at its highest rate in eleven years, at 2,771 per 100,000 population (2023), a 28% increase on 2013 when rates were 2,161 per 100,000.

HIV Fast Track Cities

Bristol signed up to the Fast Track Cities initiative in 2019. [Fast Track Cities Bristol](#) aims to bring city partners and the public together to accelerate our work towards ending HIV. By signing the Fast Track Cities declaration, Bristol's mayor, citizens and partners committed to ending HIV by 2030 through reaching the following targets:

Fast Track Cities Targets	Bristol's Current Performance
95% of people living with HIV knowing their status	95%
95% of people with diagnosed HIV on treatment	100%
95% of people on treatment with suppressed viral loads	97%

Table 3: Bristol Fast Track Cities Targets. Source: <https://www.bristolonecity.com/fast-track-cities>

Applying Bristol's Fast Track Cities performance to the cohort of people who were living with diagnosed HIV in Bristol in 2023 illustrates how we are performing against these targets (Table 3).

Further data / links:

- Bristol HIV Needs Assessment 2020: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/1734-hiv-health-needs-assessment-2020v1/file>
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles: [Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)
- HIV: annual data tables: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hiv-annual-data-tables>
- Bristol HIV Fast Track Cities: [Fast Track Cities Bristol: Ending HIV Infections & Stigma](#)

Date updated: March 2025

Date of next update: October 2025