

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

HIV

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a chronic health condition that damages the cells in your immune system and weakens the body's ability to fight everyday infections and disease. The development of antiretroviral treatments over the past few decades has transformed HIV infection into a manageable chronic condition with the potential for normal life expectancy when diagnosed promptly. Importantly, people who maintain an undetectable viral load through effective treatment cannot pass the virus on to their sexual partners, this is known as Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U). 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 (a measure of existing cases of HIV in the population) of 2.36 per 1,000 (aged 15-59) was similar to England's rate of 2.4 per 1,000 in 2024. Bristol was ranked the 59th highest prevalence locality in England (out of 152 UTLAs/UAs).
- There were 24 people newly diagnosed with HIV in Bristol in 2024, giving an incidence rate (a measure of new cases of HIV in the population) of 4.9 per 100,000 that is similar to the England average of 4.7 per 100,000.
- With those previously diagnosed abroad included, there were 60 new cases of HIV in Bristol in 2024, similar to 2023 and maintaining the sharp on In the 3 years from 2022 to 2024, 55.1% of people first diagnosed in the UK (27 people) were diagnosed late in Bristol, higher than the England average of 43.3%
- There were 14,092 HIV tests carried out in 2024 in Bristol, a rate of 2,917.6 per 100,000, and higher than the national rate (2,842.7 per 100,000).

HIV diagnosed prevalence

There were 971 Bristol residents of any age living with diagnosed HIV in 2024. Bristol's diagnosed prevalence rate is 2.36 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 2024 who were virally suppressed (had an undetectable viral load and therefore unable to pass on the virus) was 96.7%, similar to the England average of 97.5%².

¹ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2024), Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, 2025

² Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2024), Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, 2025

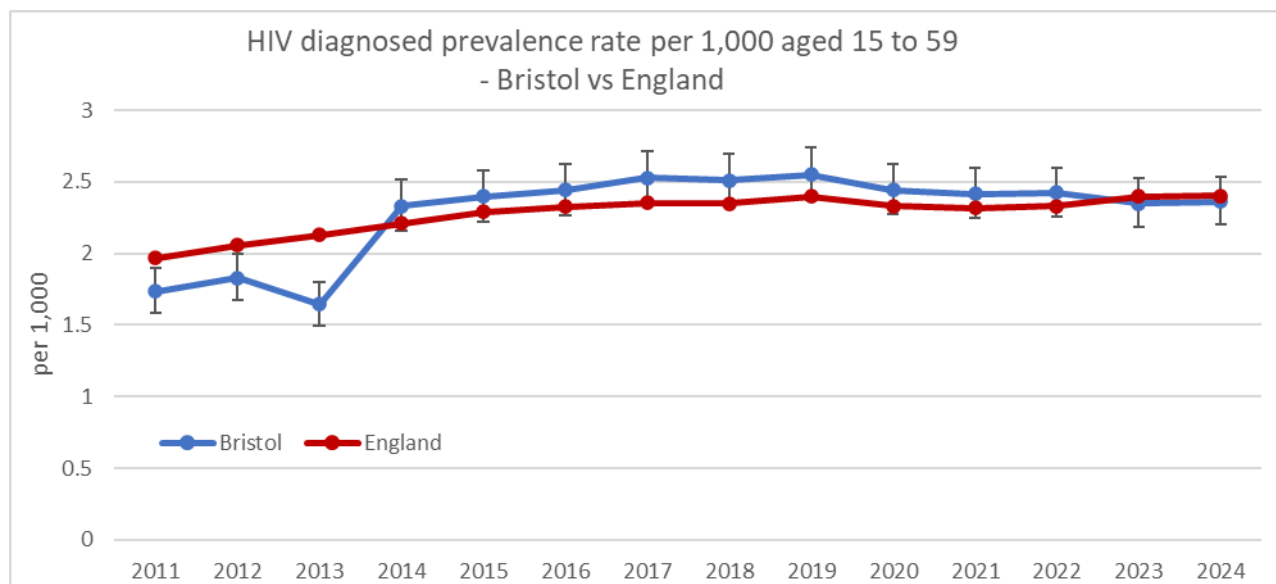


Fig 1: HIV diagnosed prevalence, rate per 1,000 people aged 15-59 from 2011 to 2024; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Bristol vs England, October 2025

New HIV diagnosis rate for those first diagnosed in the UK

Like England, the rate of new HIV diagnoses had been declining in Bristol over the last decade with a slight increase in the last 2 years. 24 people were newly diagnosed in 2024, equating to a rate of 4.9 per 100,000 population, which is similar to the national average rate of 4.7 per 100,000. Bristol has the second lowest rate of all English core cities.

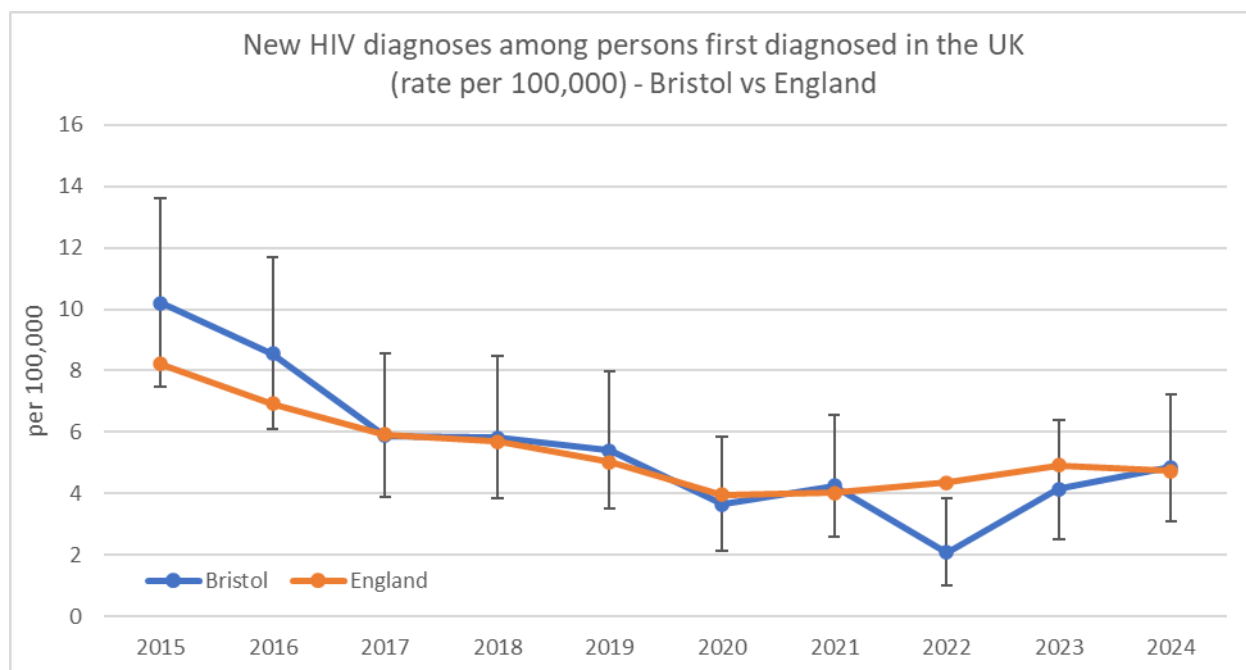


Fig 2: HIV new diagnosis rate among person first diagnosed in the UK per 100,000 population; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Bristol vs England, October 2025

All new HIV diagnosis rate (both first diagnosed abroad and in the UK)

When including individuals who were previously diagnosed with HIV abroad and are now continuing their care in the UK, the total number of new cases of HIV presenting to Bristol increased from 25 in 2022 to 64 in 2023 and 60 in 2024. This is a rate of 12.1 new diagnoses per 100,000 significantly higher than the national average of 9.0 diagnoses per 100,000.

In 2024, there were 36 people who had been diagnosed abroad before continuing care in Bristol, providing insight into the total number of people newly accessing care in Bristol. This is a rate of 7.3 per 100,000, significantly higher than the England rate of 4.3 per 100,000 (Figure 3).

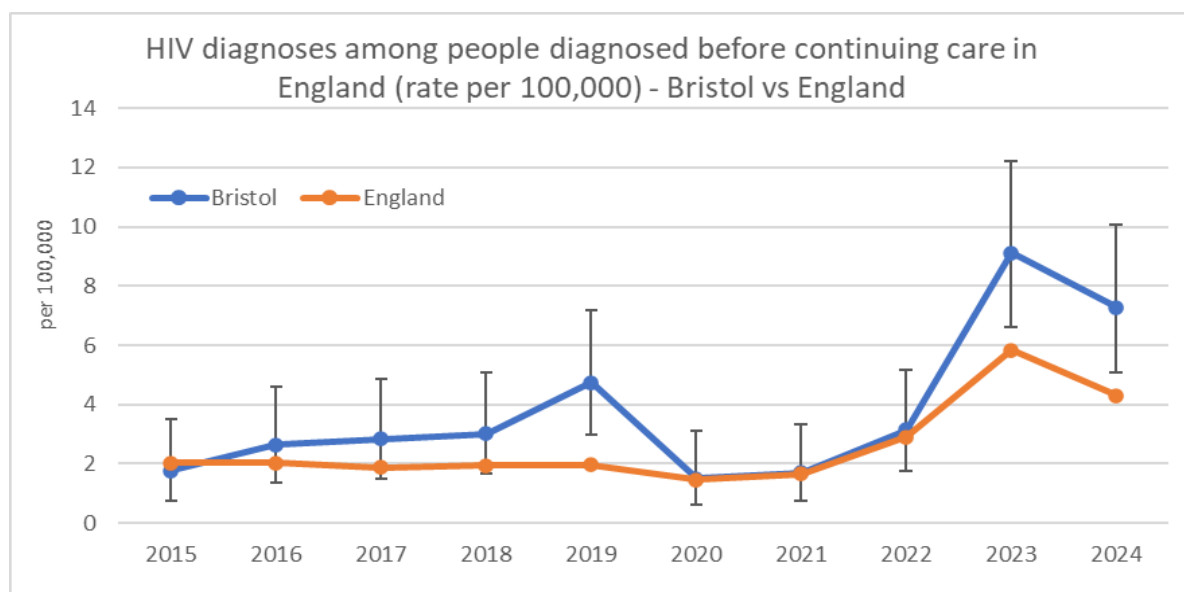


Fig 3: HIV diagnosis among people diagnosed before continuing care in England per 100,000 population; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Bristol vs England, October 2025

In Bristol in 2024, 40% of new HIV diagnoses were first diagnosed in UK and 60 % previously diagnosed abroad . Nationally, 52% of new HIV diagnoses in England were first diagnosed in the UK and 48% were previously diagnosed abroad in 2024. Men accounted for 65% of those first diagnosed in the UK whilst 35% were accounted for by women and conversely 49% of those previously diagnosed abroad were men and 51% were women. Nearly 49% of all new diagnoses are in people of Black African ethnicity³.

The percentage of people in Bristol newly diagnosed with HIV from 2022-24 who started antiretroviral therapy (ART) promptly (within 91 days of their diagnosis) was 82.9%, which is similar to the national percentage (81.24%)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

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 (2024), Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, 2025

the UK aged 15 and above between 2022 and 2024, 27 (55.1%) are considered to have had a “late diagnosis”⁵. Whilst there has been a small decrease in the proportion of people diagnosed late 2024, the proportion (55.1%) is still higher than the national average of 43.3% (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

Bristol has the 28th highest proportion of HIV late diagnosis of all English local authorities and the highest of all English core cities and the second highest of its 15 nearest statistical neighbours.

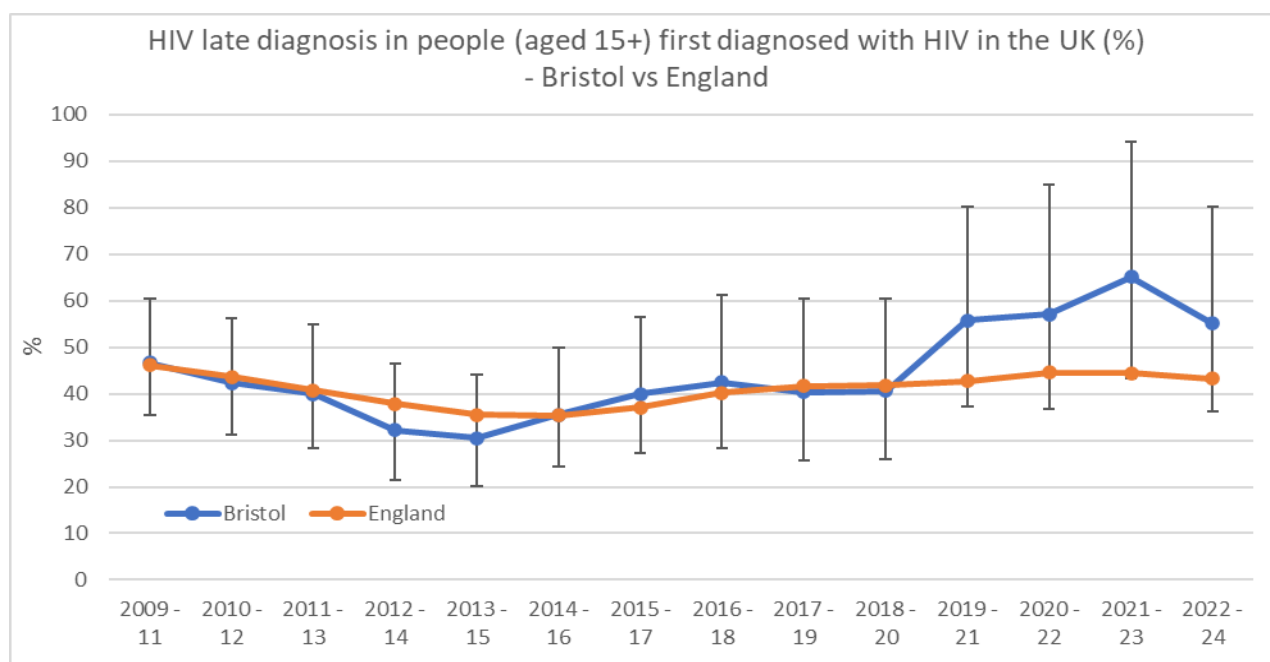


Fig 4: HIV late diagnosis percentage; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Bristol vs England, October 2025

In Bristol, the proportion of late diagnoses between 2022 and 2024 was highest in heterosexual men (67%) followed by men who have sex with men (36%) and heterosexual and bisexual women (33%) however numbers are small. – see table 1,

Exposure group	Bristol % (95%CI)	England % (95%CI)
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	36 (10 - 93)	33 (30 - 35)
Heterosexual men	67 (36 - 100)	54 (50 - 58)
Heterosexual and bisexual women	33 (7 - 97)	47 (44 - 51)

Table 1: HIV late diagnosis percentage; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, October 2025

HIV late diagnosis by ethnicity is only published at a national level. Data for 2022-24 show that people of Black African ethnicity are at a higher risk of late diagnosis in England (Table 2).

⁵ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2024), Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, 2025

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

Ethnicity	Percentage %	Lower CI 95% limit	Upper CI 95% limit
White	39.6	37.1	42.2
Black-African	48.8	45.6	52.1
Black-Caribbean	39.4	30.1	50.6
Black other	44.5	35.5	55.0
Asian	45.3	40.1	51.1
Other/mixed	42.2	37.4	47.5
Not reported	41.3	36.2	46.8

Table 2: HIV late diagnosis percentage in England; Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, October 2025

HIV testing

In 2024, 14,092 HIV tests were taken in Bristol, a testing rate of 2,917.6 per 100,000, similar to the national rate of 2,842.7 per 100,000 (Figure 5). Bristol’s testing rate has been higher than the national rate since 2016 although the gap has now closed. Compared to its nearest statistical neighbours Bristol has the fourth lowest testing rate, and the third lowest rate when compared to the English core cities.

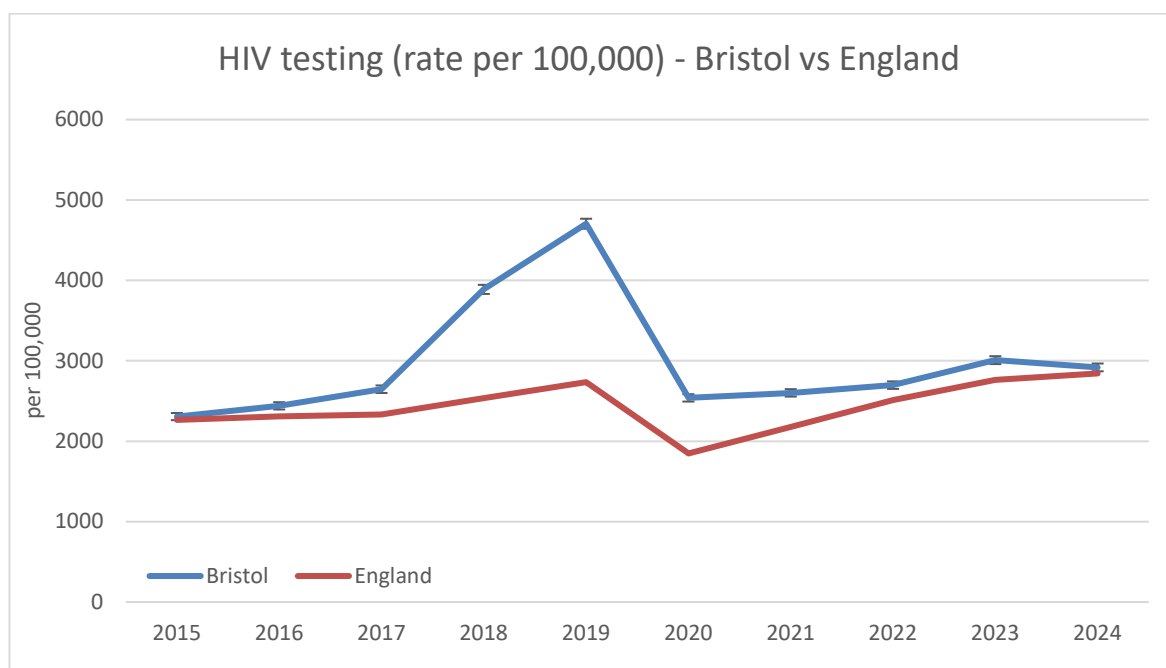


Fig 5: HIV testing rate per 100,000. Source: via OHID Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Bristol vs England, October 2025

HIV prevention

PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is a medication taken before sex to reduce the risk of getting HIV. It works by preventing the virus from entering the body and replicating. When used correctly and consistently, PrEP is highly effective at preventing HIV transmission. PrEP is recommended for individuals, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation, who would benefit from a reduction in HIV risk.

In Bristol, it is estimated that 1,733 people accessing sexual health services could benefit from taking PrEP. In 2024, 1,166 individuals accessed PrEP locally. Accompanying local data on PrEP service user characteristics indicate that the majority of PrEP users are gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), predominantly aged 25–34 and of White British ethnicity. In contrast, uptake among global majority communities and heterosexual individuals remains comparatively low, highlighting an ongoing need to increase awareness.

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.bristolonacity.com/Fast Track Cities Targets>

Applying Bristol’s Fast Track Cities performance to the cohort of people who were living with diagnosed HIV in Bristol in 2024 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: October 2025

Date of next update: October 2026