

# HIV in Canada: Then and Now

	Then	Now
Number of reported HIV cases	1985-1994: 32,841	2009: 2,300 - 4,500 per year
Percentage of HIV cases reported among gay men and men who have sex with men	1985-2001: 64.2%	2009: 43.1%
Percentage of HIV cases reported among people who inject drugs	1985-2001: 19.0%	2009: 22.7%
Percentage of HIV cases reported among women	Prior to 1998: 11.9%	2007: 24.9%
Percentage of HIV cases attributed to heterosexual sex	1985-2001: 16.1%	2009: 35.3%
Proportion of HIV infections reported among Aboriginal persons	1985-1997: 15.0%	2007: 21.4%
Proportion of HIV infections reported among Black Canadians	1985-1997: 3.7%	2007: 10.3%
Number of reported AIDS cases	1993 peak: 1,827	2007: 238
Medication and Treatment	Late 1980s: First treatments introduced (AZT and DDI); early form was generally a cocktail of antiretroviral treatments (ART); side effects were often quite debilitating, with few alternative treatments; only six ARTs were available.	2008: Treatments have been simplified to as little as one pill a day; side effects are still prevalent, but not as severe in most cases; HIV still mutates rapidly and develops resistance to various drugs; currently four classes of HIV drugs are available, with approximately 24 medications approved in Canada; 80% of Canadians with advanced HIV are on ART.
Key Issues	Awareness and prevention efforts, mobilization, organization and capacity-building at the community level, awareness and prevention, work primarily conducted among the gay community, since it was the group with the highest HIV prevalence rate.	2009: Criminalization of HIV transmission; HIV and mature individuals; increases in HIV infections among the heterosexual population; ART as prevention, addressing social determinants of health; awareness and prevention are still critical; HIV is seen to affect many different groups, while general knowledge about HIV has improved in the general population, stigma and discrimination are still prevalent.
Vaccine Development	1985: HIV vaccine development begins 1987: first clinical trial of an HIV vaccine 1997: more than 95 HIV vaccine trials completed	2009: Approximately 30 AIDS vaccine candidates are currently undergoing human trials; approximately 150 trials completed, with 4 withdrawn, 3 suspended and 4 terminated.
Life Expectancy of a person living with HIV	1980s: 1 - 2 years after diagnosis with AIDS.	2009: When on ART, 13 years longer than in the 1980s.