

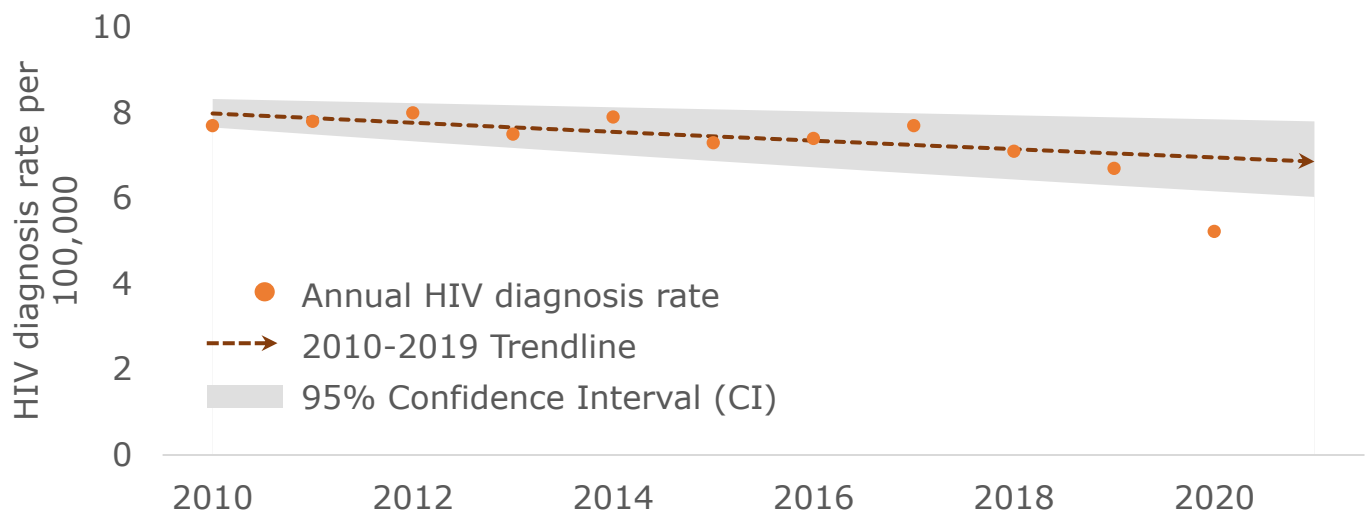
HIV Diagnosis Trends

2020 special report

This special report briefly explains why the sharp decline in new HIV diagnoses during 2020 was likely due to a lack of testing rather than a decrease in HIV transmission.

The Annual HIV Trends Report will not be released this year as declines in testing during 2020 may be inadvertently interpreted as a decrease in transmissions. Please refer to the [2010-2019 Trends Report](#) for a general understanding of HIV trends in Michigan. Reported new diagnoses during 2020 stratified by populations are in the [HIV Prevalence Report](#).

HIV new diagnosis rates were 25% lower than expected during 2020



Generally, the new diagnoses rate is a relatively accurate estimate of the new infection rate. Between 2010 and 2019, new HIV diagnoses significantly decreased by 1.4% per year on average. Following this trend, a new diagnosis rate of 7.0 per 100,000 (95% CI: 6.0-7.8) was expected during 2020 (around 695 diagnoses). However, only 522 new diagnoses were reported (5.2 per 100,000). Because COVID-19 did not interrupt the reporting process, two factors may explain this dip:

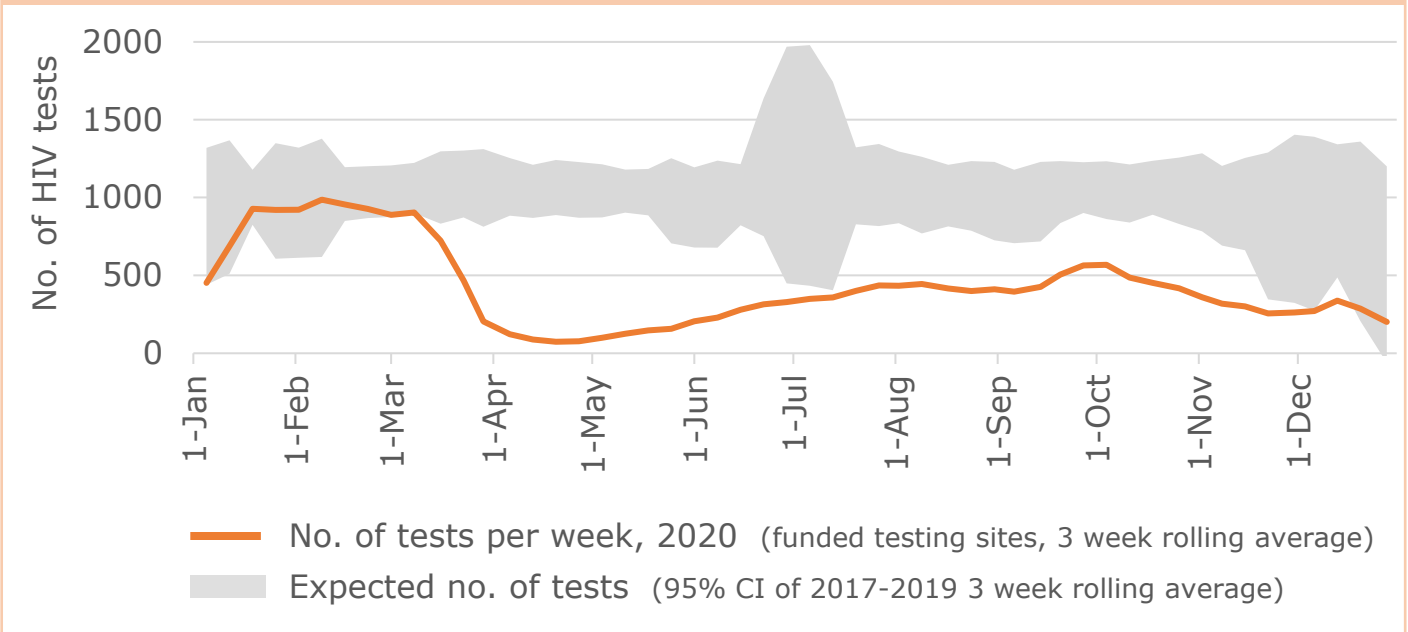
- 1) HIV testing rates declined meaning diagnoses do not accurately reflect new infections and more persons living with HIV are unaware of their status.
- 2) Transmissions declined and diagnoses still accurately reflect new infections.

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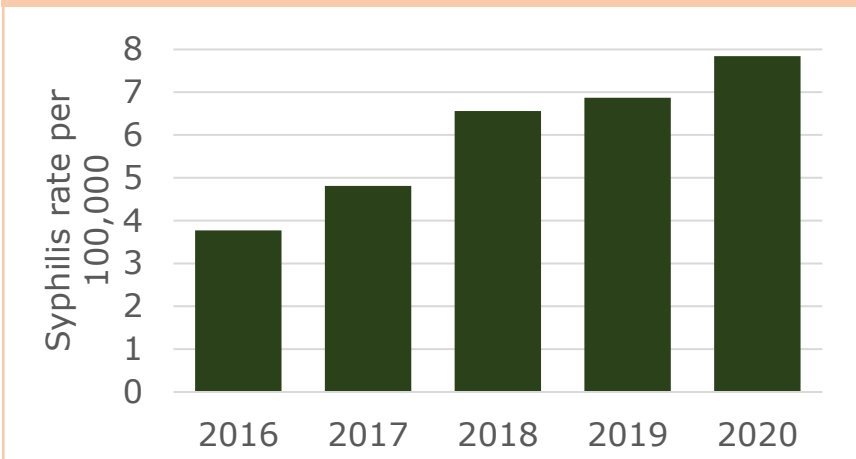
Due to COVID-19, many walk-in testing options were replaced with scheduled appointments resulting in dramatic declines in testing*.

HIV testing rates dropped early March 2020



STI diagnoses continued to increase significantly during 2020; it's unlikely HIV transmissions declined.

Syphilis (P&S) case reports increased 14% in 2020 compared to 2019



Getting an HIV test is the first step toward achieving viral suppression – improving health outcomes of the individual and reducing transmission risk. Due to low testing rates during 2020, there are likely significantly higher numbers of recently infected persons living with HIV unaware of their status compared to recent years.

*Preliminary assessment of new diagnoses during 2021 appear to be normal, suggesting testing may be back on track.