

*"You don't need to go to Africa to do HIV humanitarian work. You can go to Saskatchewan."*

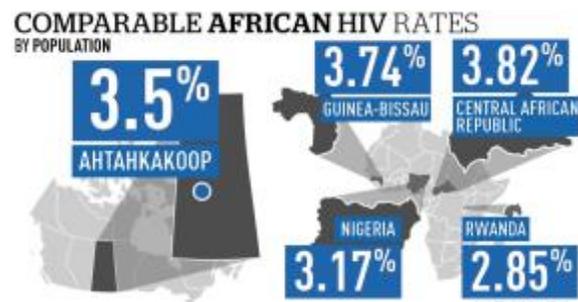
*Dr. Mona Loutfy, Infectious Disease Specialist, Women's College Hospital*

## Background

There is an HIV/AIDS epidemic happening in many of the First Nations communities in Saskatchewan. Communities like Big River and Ahtahkakoop are seeing rates of infection that are comparable to African countries.

In the province of Saskatchewan, the number of Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan living with HIV is around twice the national average and the highest in Canada.<sup>1</sup>

The cause of this epidemic is not a mystery—intravenous drug use in First Nations communities is high and users are sharing needles.



## Frontline Health Care is at a Disadvantage

The frontline health care for HIV patients is not provided by the local medical clinic, but by public health nurses who are facing a constantly expanding case load.



In addition to their growing workload, nurses in community are dealing with a highly transient population, and with patients who, due to the stigma that is often associated with HIV/AIDS infection, are unwilling to visit the nursing station.

To make matters worse, the record keeping system consists of paper forms that are held in three-ring binders.

Nurses are spending 50% of their time maintaining charts rather than providing crucial health care to their communities.

## How can we help?

The **Health First Mobile Nursing Solution** was designed from the ground-up to provide First Nations nurses with a record keeping system. The Health First App is easy to use, customizable, mobile, and secure. Additionally, nurses can use the nursing solution to share patient education, and as a support mechanism to notify personnel should they find themselves in a dangerous situation.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/hiv-aids-indigenous-globe-1.3680781>

## The Health First Commitment to First Nations

The **Health First App** will be provided to any First Nations community at no charge to assist with the care of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and Tuberculosis patients.

Going forward, we will be challenging our peers in the technology industry to help First Nations communities by expanding the capabilities of the Health First platform.

### Learn More

For more details about Health First App, please visit our website:

[www.healthfirstapp.ca](http://www.healthfirstapp.ca)

To learn more about our partners, please visit:

[www.cna-aiic.ca](http://www.cna-aiic.ca)

[www.hds.com](http://www.hds.com)

[www.carleton.ca/1125/](http://www.carleton.ca/1125/)

[www.thinkon.com](http://www.thinkon.com)

[www.indigenasolutions.com](http://www.indigenasolutions.com)

[www.mobileyes.ca](http://www.mobileyes.ca)

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