



Spotlight on the STBBI Field Surveillance Program

An applied federal epidemiology program that builds partnerships to strengthen surveillance capacity for STBBIs



Public Health
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Canada 

**TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF CANADIANS
THROUGH LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, INNOVATION AND
ACTION IN PUBLIC HEALTH.**

—Public Health Agency of Canada

Également disponible en français sous le titre :
Pleins feux sur le Programme de surveillance des ITSS sur le terrain

To obtain additional information, please contact:

Public Health Agency of Canada
Address Locator 0900C2
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9
Tel.: 613-957-2991
Toll free: 1-866-225-0709
Fax: 613-941-5366
TTY: 1-800-465-7735
E-mail: publications-publications@hc-sc.gc.ca

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Estimates and Field Surveillance Section

STBBI Surveillance Division, Centre for Communicable Diseases and
Infection Control, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

stbbi.estimated.field.surv-itss.estimations.surv.terrain@phac-aspc.gc.ca

STBBI Field Surveillance Program

Mission

The Field Surveillance Officers (FSO) from the STBBI Field Surveillance Program (FSO Program) provide daily, on-site, epidemiological support to provinces on joint federal and provincial (FP) sexually transmitted and blood-borne infection (STBBI) surveillance and epidemiology initiatives.

A unique field service program with six permanent federal employees placed in provincial public health authorities including laboratories



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Logically located in the STBBI Surveillance Division, Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection Control (CCDIC)

Synergistically aligned with Agency STBBI subject matter experts



TRUST

Built trusting relationships that strengthen FP relations through a stable staff and program placement within the Agency



SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE

Specialized team with a deep expertise in STBBIs and the ability to work across disciplines, sectors and communities

Demonstrated excellence in the public health workforce¹



TRAIL BLAZER

Was the first Agency field surveillance program to permanently place federal staff in provincial public health authorities



RECIPROCITY

Long-standing mutually beneficial arrangement between the Agency (epidemiological expertise) and the province (STBBI data sharing), improving our ability to meet Agency priorities such as progress towards global elimination targets and national surveillance



LINKAGE

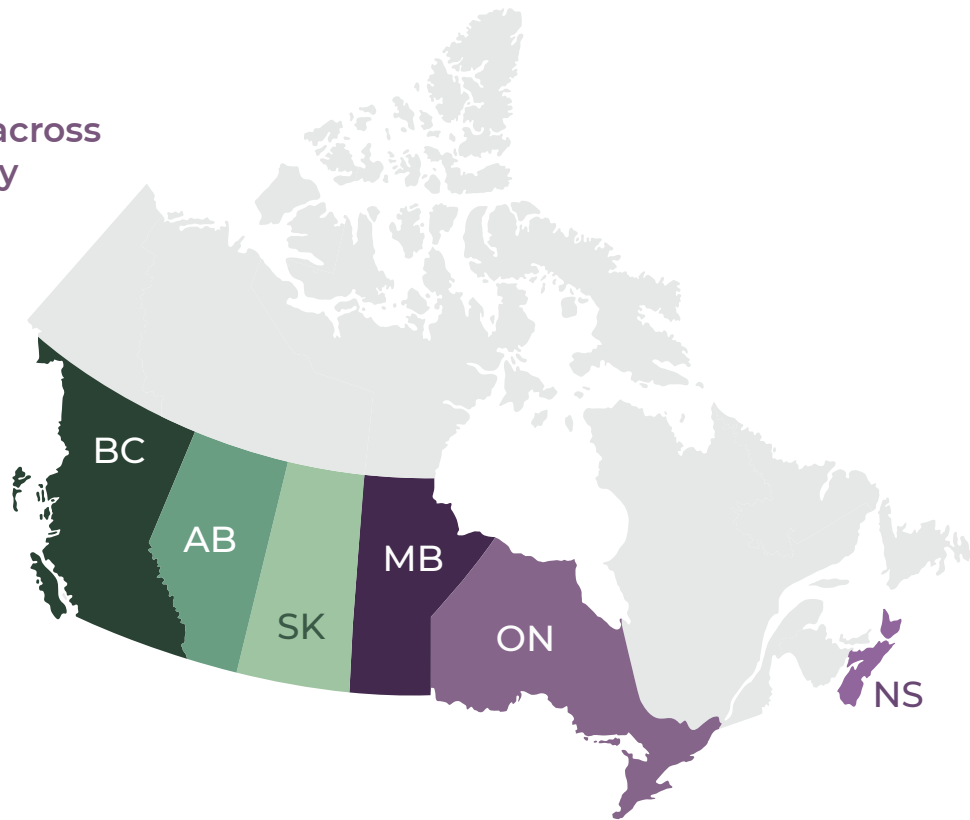
Established liaison role between the Agency and provincial public health authorities

Described by partners as the glue that links different levels of the public health system together²

¹ The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2021. *Section 3 - The Way Forward*, pg. 81

² Internal Report. An analysis of Agency Operational Field Services

Coverage across the country



Collaboration between provincial and federal teams

- ◆ At the operational level, each FSO works directly with provincial teams.
- ◆ Each year, the FSO and their provincial and federal supervisors work together to develop a work plan.
- ◆ Every five years, the Memorandum of Agreement between the Agency and each province is renewed.

The Program supports the Agency and CCDIC mandates through

- ◆ Providing annual provincial STBBI surveillance data
 - ◆ Supplying provincial estimates for assessing Canada's progress towards STBBI elimination targets
 - ◆ Providing a liaison function for the Agency through established long-standing relationships with provincial counterparts
 - ◆ Leading or taking part in provincial STBBI surveillance activities that monitor at-risk and key populations and barriers to service access
-

Many successes and contributions in the past 22 years



Supporting work to establish HIV elimination targets



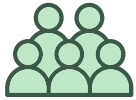
Conducting applied research and knowledge translation



Improving timely access to quality data



Responding to syphilis outbreaks



Contributing to providing data for action on key populations for STBBI prevention and control



Contributing to the development of STBBI case definitions

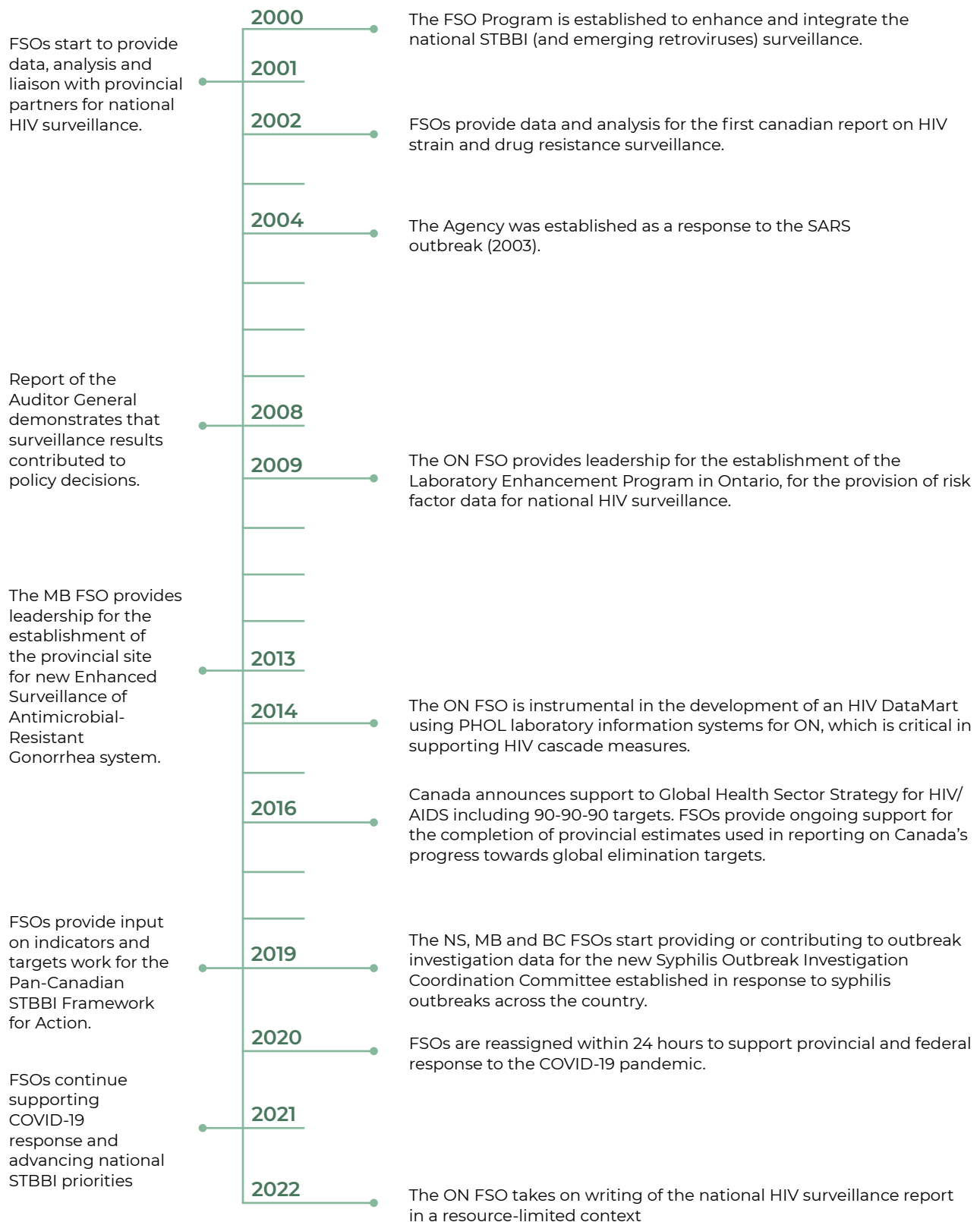


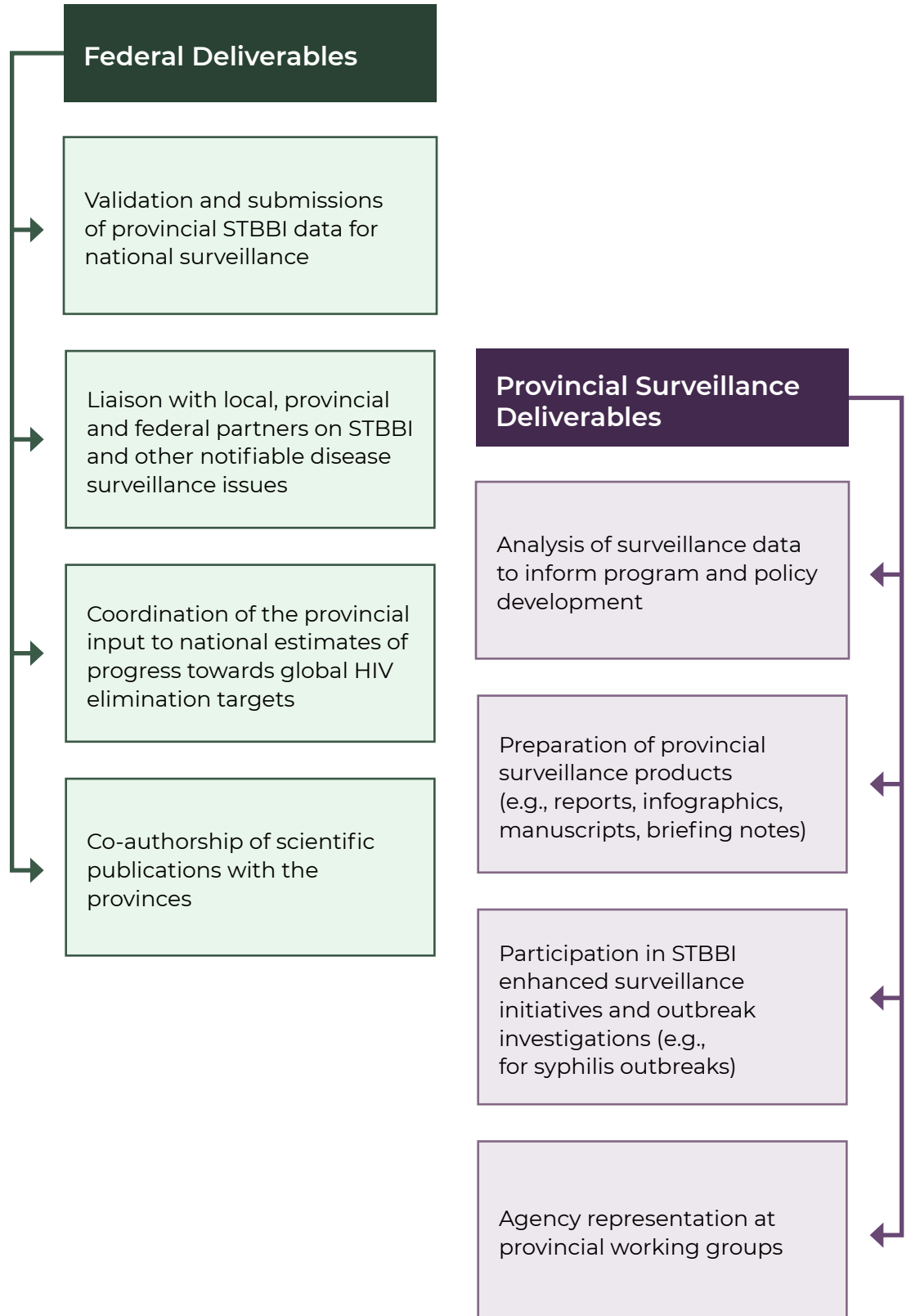
Representing the Agency at various national and international tables



Providing long-term epidemiological support to provincial COVID-19 response

A history of service and STBBI expertise





Appendix

Some of our publications

Charlton, C. L., Nguyen, L. T., Bailey, A., Fenton, J., Plitt, S. S., Marohn, C., Lau, C., Hinshaw, D., Lutsiak, C., Simmonds, K., Kanji, J. N., Zelyas, N., Lee, N., Mengel, M., & Tipples, G. (2021). Pre-Vaccine Positivity of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in Alberta, Canada during the First Two Waves of the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Microbiology spectrum*, 9(1), e0029121. <https://doi.org/10.1128/Spectrum.00291-21>

PHAC (2020). Estimates of HIV incidence, prevalence and Canada's progress on meeting the 90-90-90 HIV targets. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/summary-estimates-hiv-incidence-prevalence-canadas-progress-90-90-90.html>

Round, J. M., Savaryn, B., Plitt, S. S., Shafran, S. D., & Charlton, C. L. (2021). Identifying gaps in the treatment of hepatitis C in patients co-infected with HIV in Edmonton, Alberta. *Annals of hepatology*, 23, 100283. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aohep.2020.10.011>

Popovic, N., Yang, Q., Haddad, N., Weeks, A., & Archibald, C. (2019). Improving national surveillance of new HIV diagnoses. *Canada communicable disease report = Releve des maladies transmissibles au Canada*, 45(12), 313–316. <https://doi.org/10.14745/ccdr.v45i12a02>

Liu, J., Wilton, J., Sullivan, A., Marchand-Austin, A., Rachlis, B., Giles, M., Light, L., Sider, D., Kroch, A. E., Gilbert, M., & Ontario HIV Epidemiology and Surveillance Initiative (2019). Cohort profile: Development and profile of a population-based, retrospective cohort of diagnosed people living with HIV in Ontario, Canada (Ontario HIV Laboratory Cohort). *BMJ open*, 9(5), e027325. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-027325>

Wilton, J., Liu, J., Sullivan, A., Rachlis, B., Marchand-Austin, A., Giles, M., Light, L., Rank, C., Burchell, A. N., Gardner, S., Sider, D., Gilbert, M., Kroch, A. E., & Ontario HIV Epidemiology and Surveillance Initiative (2019). Trends in HIV care cascade engagement among diagnosed people living with HIV in Ontario, Canada: A retrospective, population-based cohort study. *PloS one*, 14(1), e0210096. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0210096>

Haddad, N., Robert, A., Weeks, A., Popovic, N., Siu, W., & Archibald, C. (2019). HIV in Canada-Surveillance Report, 2018. *Canada communicable disease report = Releve des maladies transmissibles au Canada*, 45(12), 304–312. <https://doi.org/10.14745/ccdr.v45i12a01>

Plitt, S. S., Osman, M., Sahni, V., Lee, B. E., Charlton, C., & Simmonds, K. (2016). Examination of a prenatal syphilis screening program, Alberta, Canada: 2010-2011. *Canadian journal of public health = Revue canadienne de sante publique*, 107(3), e285–e290. <https://doi.org/10.17269/cjph.107.5320>

Steinberg, M., Cook, D. A., Gilbert, M., Krajden, M., Haag, D., Tsang, P., Wong, E., Brooks, J. I., Merks, H., & Rekart, M. L. (2011). Towards targeted screening for acute HIV infections in British Columbia. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 14, 39. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1758-2652-14-39>