

Prenatal HIV Testing in Canada

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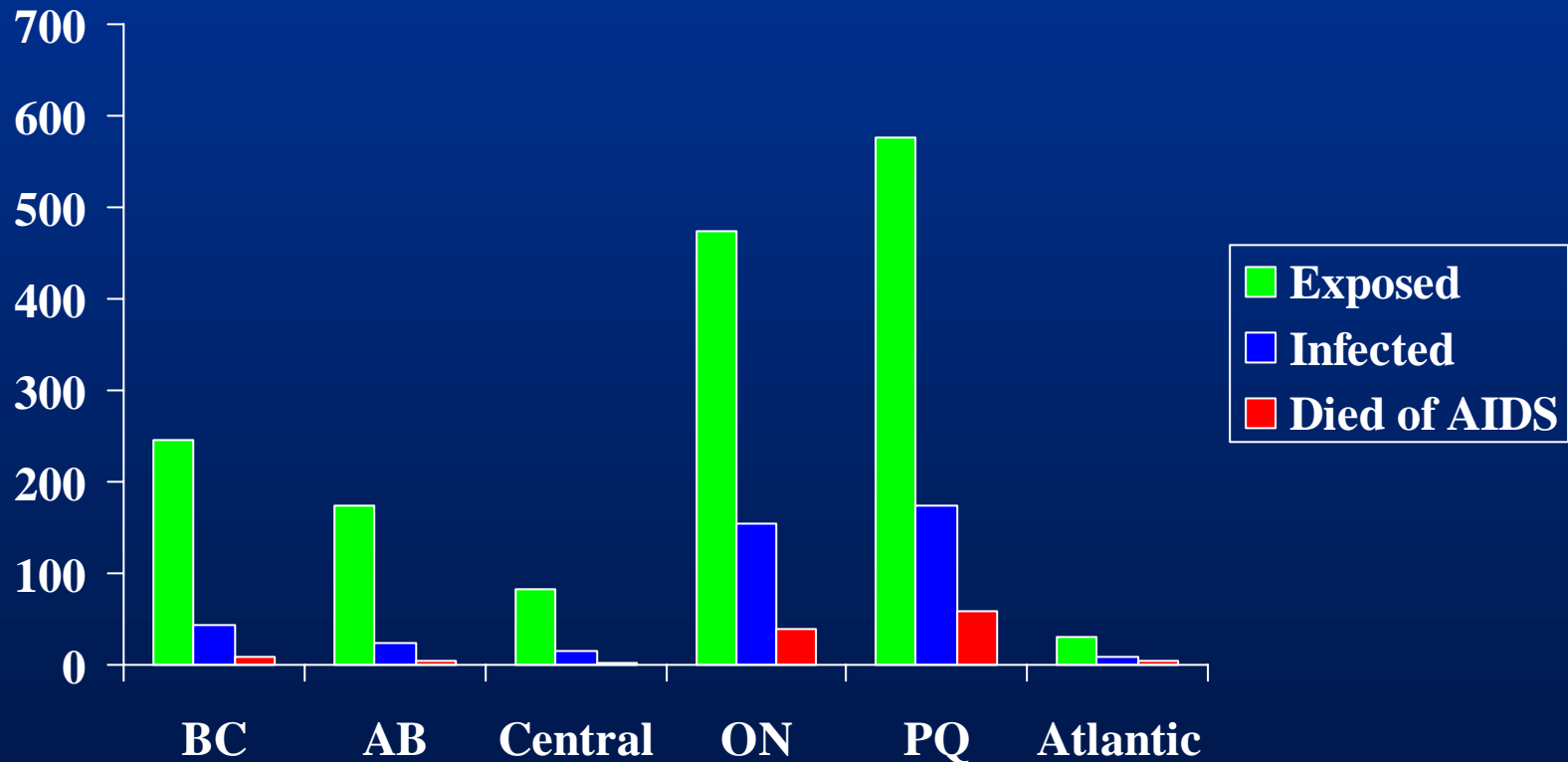
University of Toronto

Hospital for Sick Children

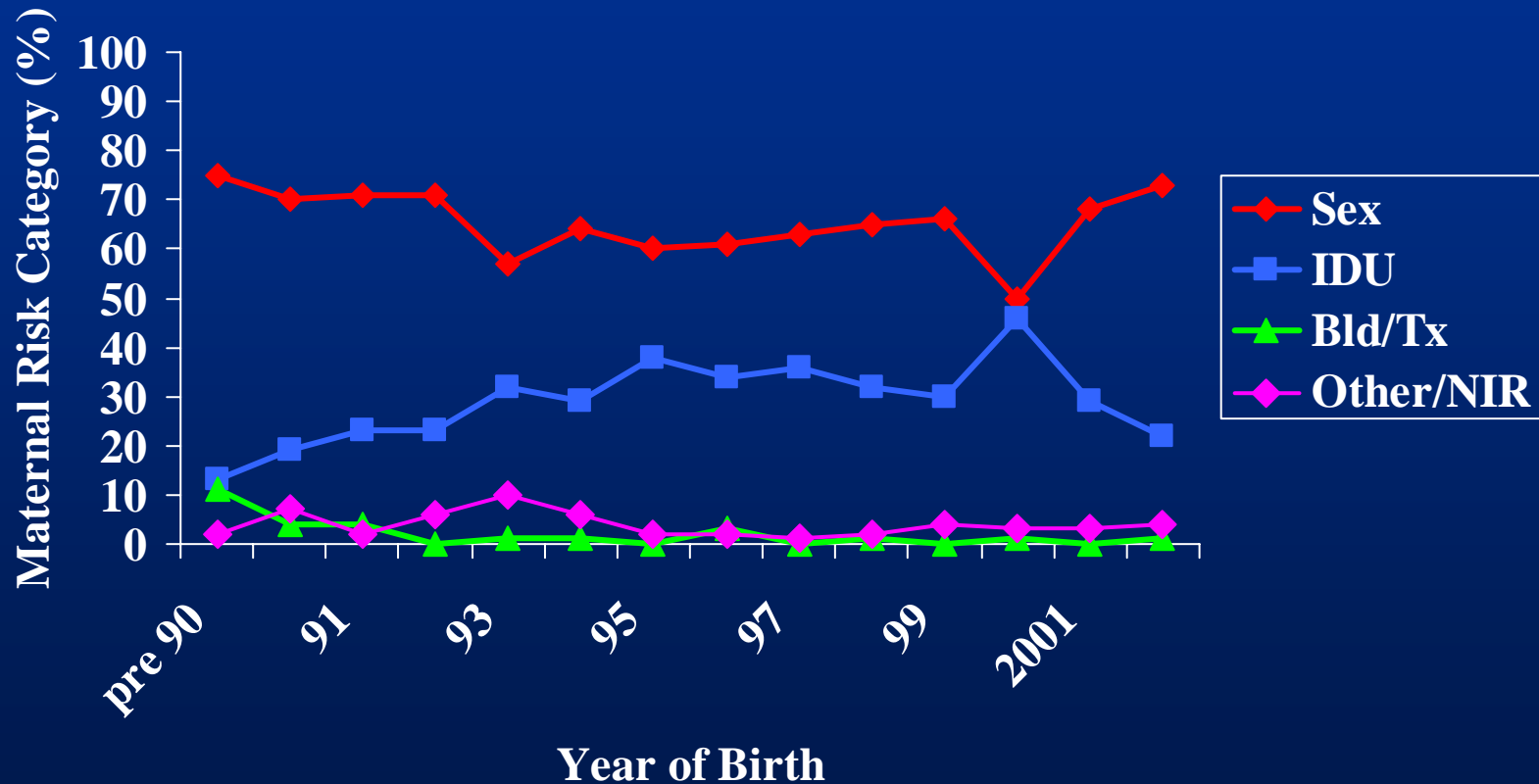
June 2003



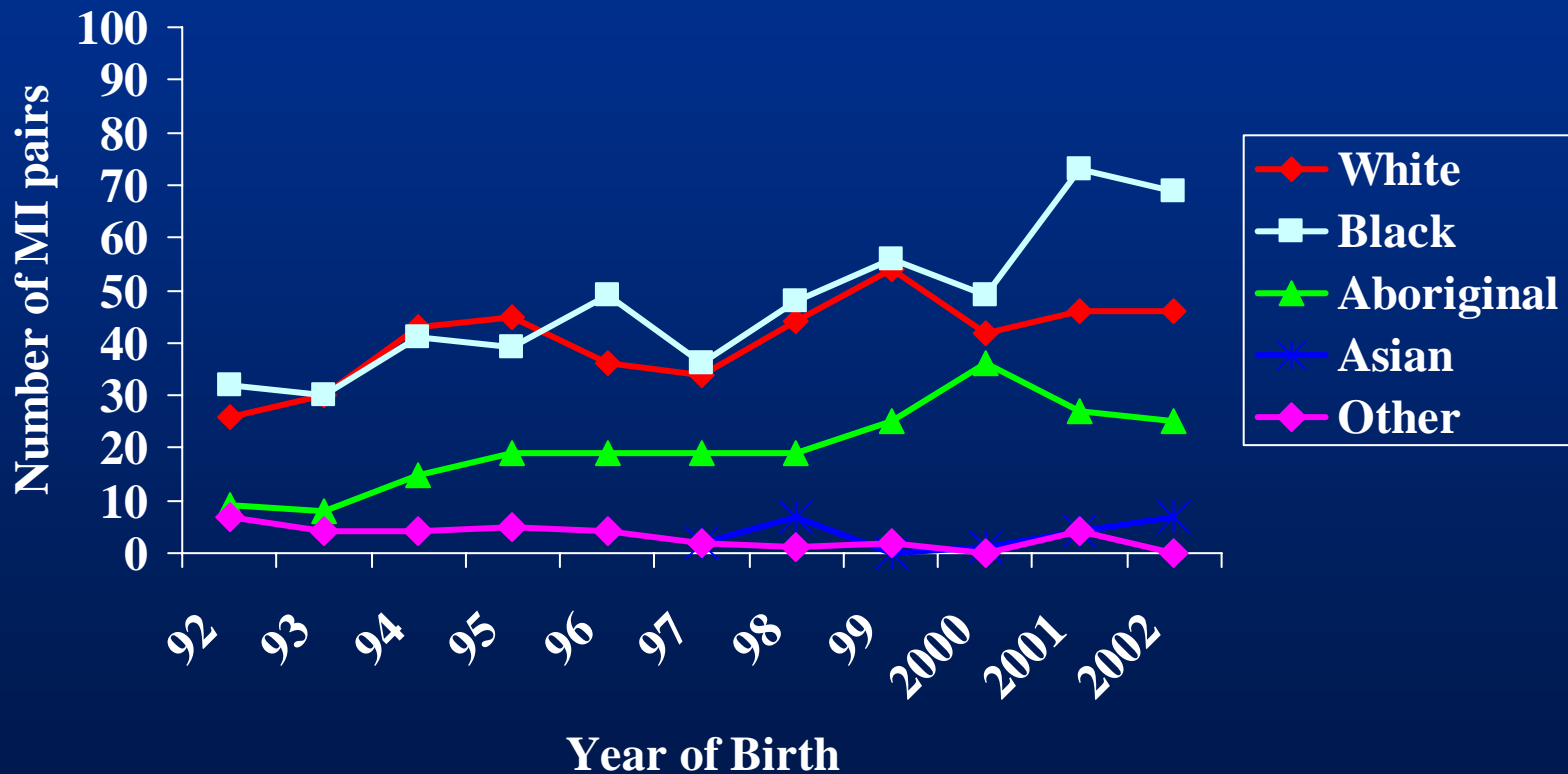
Cumulative cases of perinatal HIV infection in infants to Dec 2002



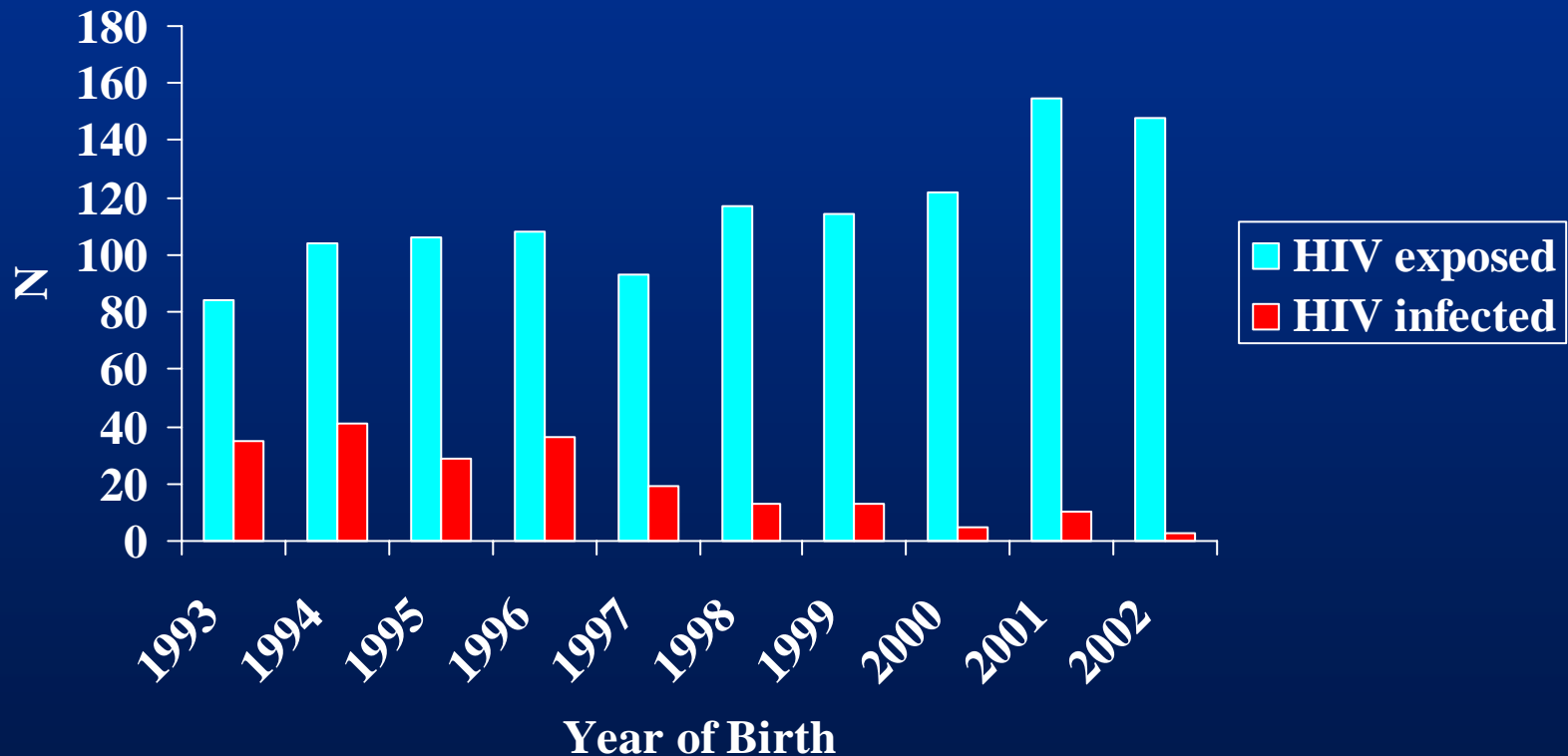
Perinatal HIV-exposed infants by maternal risk category



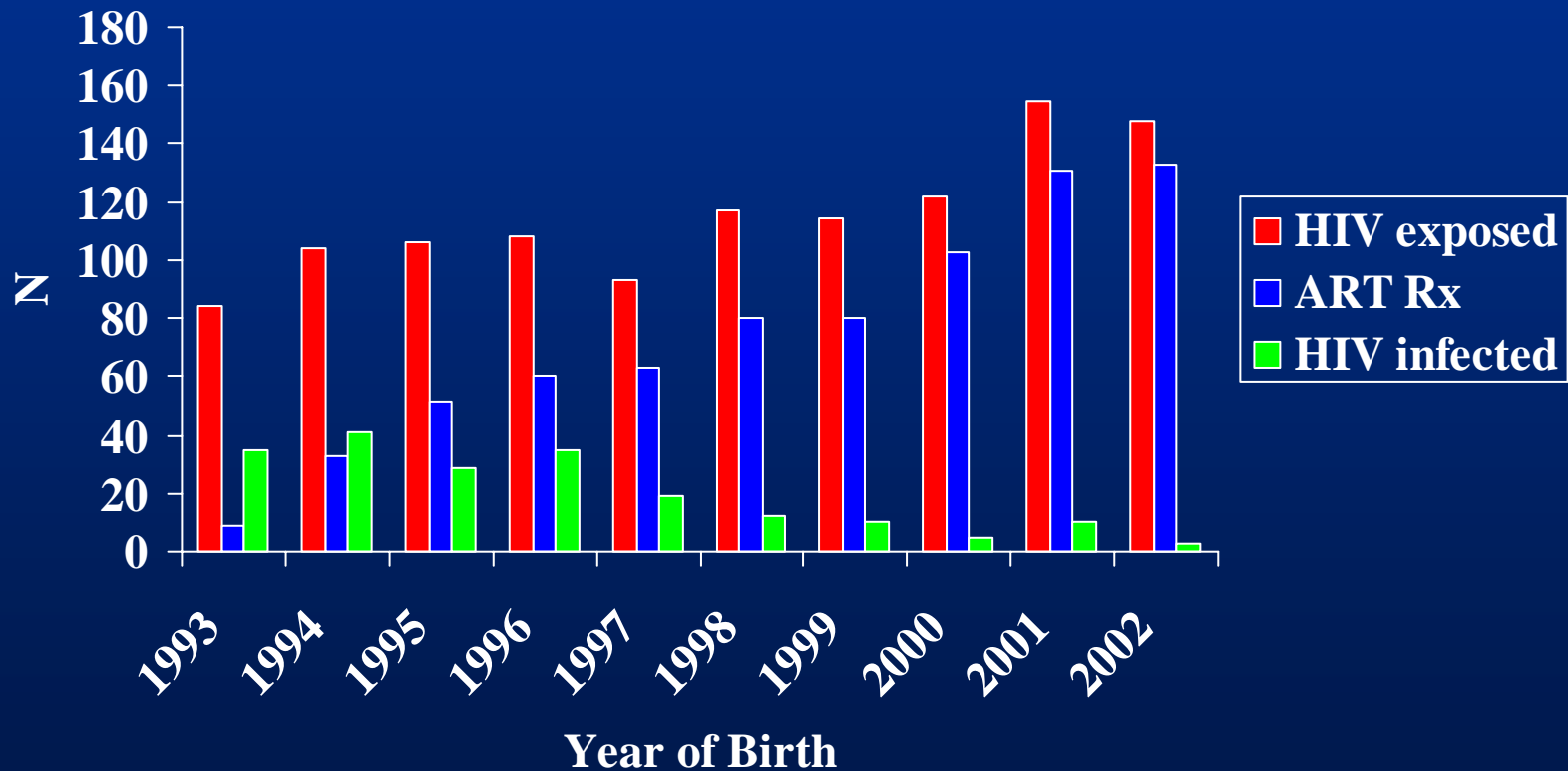
Perinatal HIV-exposed infants by maternal race



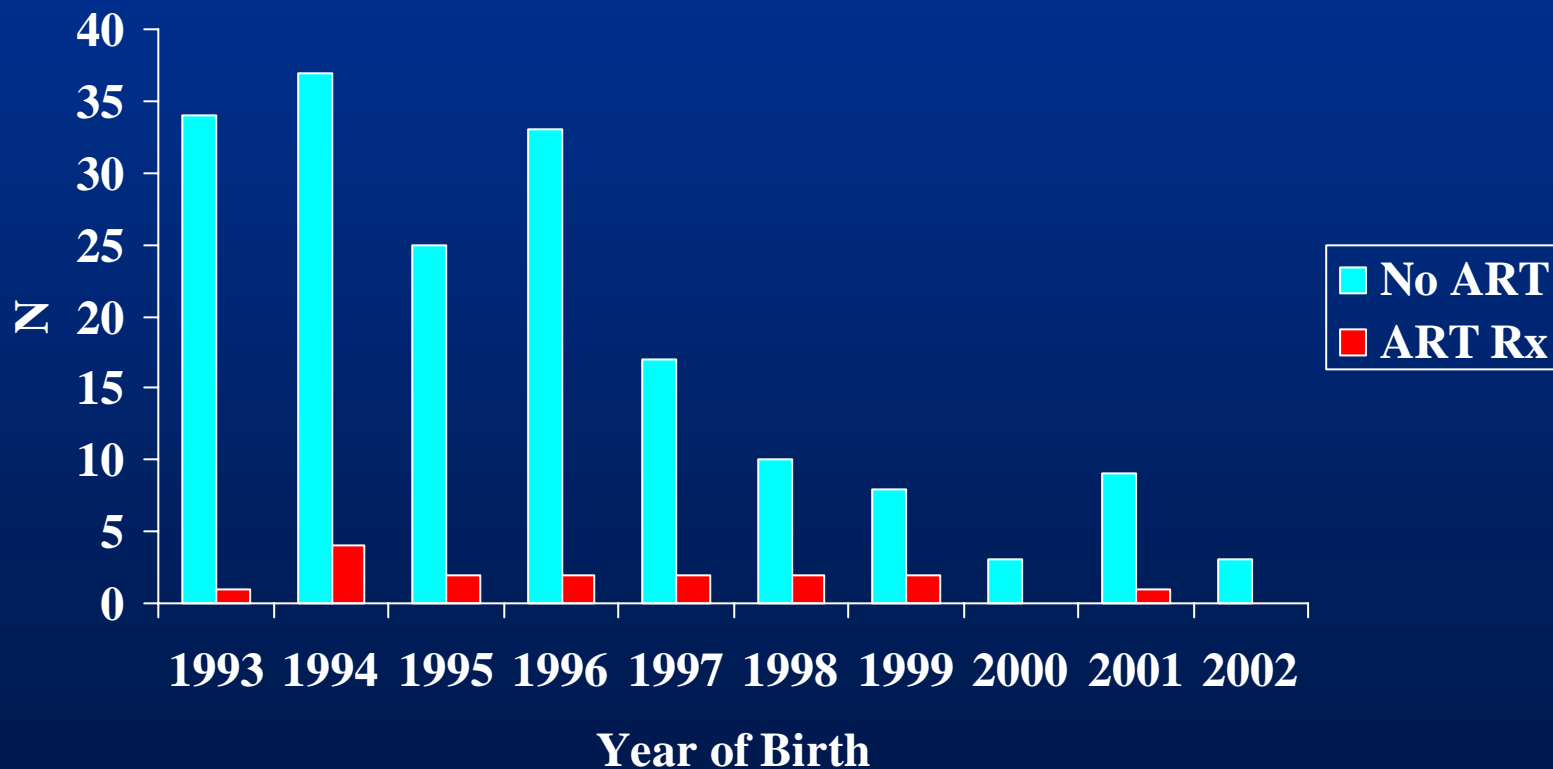
Perinatal HIV transmission in Canada, 1993-2002



Perinatal HIV transmission in Canada, 1993-2002



Perinatal HIV infection and ART, 1993-2002



Opt-in vs Opt-out Approaches

- opt-in approach
 - provide pre-test counseling
 - obtain consent specifically for an HIV test
 - consent usually verbal
- opt-out approach
 - notify that an HIV test will be included in the routine prenatal tests
 - notify that they may refuse testing

Provinces with “opt in” vs “opt out” prenatal HIV testing policies

opt-in

British Columbia

New Brunswick

Ontario

Quebec

Prince Edward Island

Saskatchewan

Yukon Territory

opt-out

Alberta

Manitoba

**Newfoundland and
Labrador**

Northwest Territories

Nova Scotia

Nunavut

Surveys of Practices of Prenatal Care Providers in “opt-out” vs “opt-in” Provinces

Practice	Opt out	Opt in
Offer HIV test to all	100 %	85 %
Explain that the HIV test is part of routine care	83%	65%
Explain that the HIV test is optional	65 %	91 %

Uptake of prenatal HIV testing

Province	Policy	Year	Testing Rate (%)
AB	Opt out	1999	96.7
		2000	98.3
NFLD	Opt out	1999	94
ONT	Opt in	1999	47.2
		2000	53.8
PQ	Opt in	1999	57
		2000	60

Failures of perinatal HIV prevention

Province	# Births per year	Year of birth	# HIV infected infants
AB	37,000	1999	1
		2000	1
NFLD	5,000	1999	0
ONT	130,000	1999	7
		2000	2
PQ	72,000	1999	4
		2000	2

Does opt-out vs opt-in testing reduce barriers to prenatal HIV testing?

BARRIER

No prenatal care

Prenatal care but test not offered

Test offered but refused

Test accepted but specimen not
processed

REDUCTION

- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes

Conclusion

- Canadian provinces using an opt-out approach to prenatal HIV testing have achieved higher testing rates than those provinces with opt-in approaches.
- In Canada, testing rates of over 95% were achieved with voluntary testing using an opt-out approach.