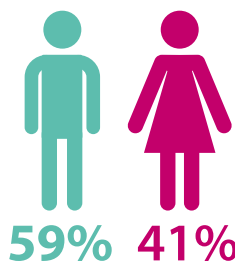


Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infections (iGAS) in Durham Region 2020-2024

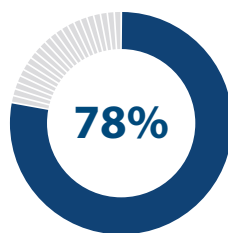
Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infections (iGAS) occur when bacteria invade parts of the body where bacteria are not usually found

On average, **53** cases of iGAS were reported in Durham Region each year between 2020 and 2024

Quick Facts



There were slightly more male cases than female cases



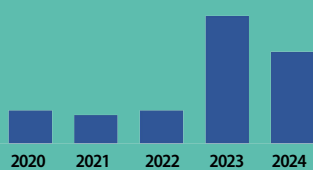
of cases were age 35 or older



The average age at time of illness was 51 years



11% of cases were fatal



The number of cases reported in 2023 (107) was the highest number ever reported in a single year. Interpret 2020 and 2021 data with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Symptoms

69% of cases reported



fever

38% of cases reported



rash, skin redness and/or cellulitis

21% of cases reported



vomiting

19% of cases had



low blood pressure

18% of cases reported



confusion

Risk Factors

80% of cases reported



chronic illness or underlying medical condition

18% of cases reported



existing skin condition, wound or break in skin

16% of cases reported



being homeless / underhoused

13% of cases reported



compromised or weakened immune system

11% of cases reported



alcohol misuse

Prevention

The risk of iGAS can be reduced through proper hand hygiene and wound care, particularly in individuals with non-invasive infections.



Prompt administration of appropriate antibiotics is essential for preventing and treating iGAS infections.



Case and contact management plays a critical role in controlling the spread of iGAS.



For detailed guidelines on iGAS treatment and prevention see: **Group A Streptococcal diseases: For health professionals, Public Health Agency of Canada**

• Data Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, 2020-2024
 • To see Durham compared to Ontario and other public health units go to [Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario](#)