

# HIV in Ireland

Dr Rhea O'Regan, Connolly Hospital Dublin, RCSI

### Epidemiology of HIV

- Estimated 7200 people living with HIV in Ireland
- 292 HIV notifications to July 2019
- 528 HIV notifications in 2018 rate of 11.1 per 100,000 population
- 8% increase in notifications in 2018 compared to 2017
- 79% of notifications in 2018 among males
- MSM the group most affected by HIV in Ireland
- Large proportion of MSM diagnosed with HIV in Ireland were previously diagnosed abroad (42% in 2017)
- Majority are transferring their care and are virally suppressed at time of diagnosis in Ireland
- 32% of people diagnosed with HIV in Ireland in 2018 had been previously diagnosed with HIV in another country

		Number	%
Sex	Males	417	79.0
	Females	110	20.8
	Unknown	1	0.2
Probable Route of Transmission	Men who have sex with men (MSM)	256	48.5
	Heterosexuals	126	23.9
	People who inject drugs (PWID)	10	1.9
	Mother to Child transmission (MTCT)	3	0.6
	Other	3	0.6
	Unknown	130	24.6
Region of birth	Ireland	89	16.9
	Outside Ireland	314	59.5
	Unknown	125	23.7
Previously diagnosed positive abroad	Yes	167	31.6

#### Access to Care

- HV care is currently provided in nine hospital settings in the ROI
- Adult care is provided in Cork (Cork University) Hospital), Dublin (Beaumont Hospital, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, St. James's Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital), Galway (Galway University Hospital) and Limerick (Limerick University Hospital).
- Paediatric HIV care is provided in Dublin at Temple St. University Hospital and Our Lady's Children's Hospital.
- All people living with HIV attending HIV services in Ireland are offered antiretroviral therapy.
- PrEP has been available in Ireland since 2016. While licensed, it is not reimbursed through the Primary Care Reimbursement Service. Therefore, currently individuals with a valid prescription for PrEP must pay out-of-pocket.

#### Care Continuum

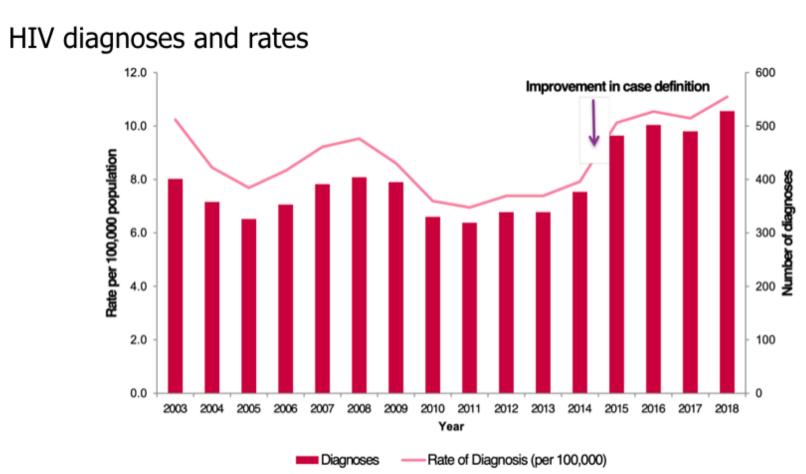
- In 2017, a national steering group was established to support the monitoring of the continuum of HIV care in Ireland with the UNAIDS Spectrum modelling software used to estimate stage 1 and 2
- The first nationally coordinated audit of those who attended HIV treatment services in 2017 was carried out in 2018. This measured the number attending HIV services in 2017, the number who were on ART and the number who were virally suppressed.
- Of the estimated 6276 people diagnosed with HIV, an estimated 84.7% are attending HIV services. 98.3% of those patients are on ART.

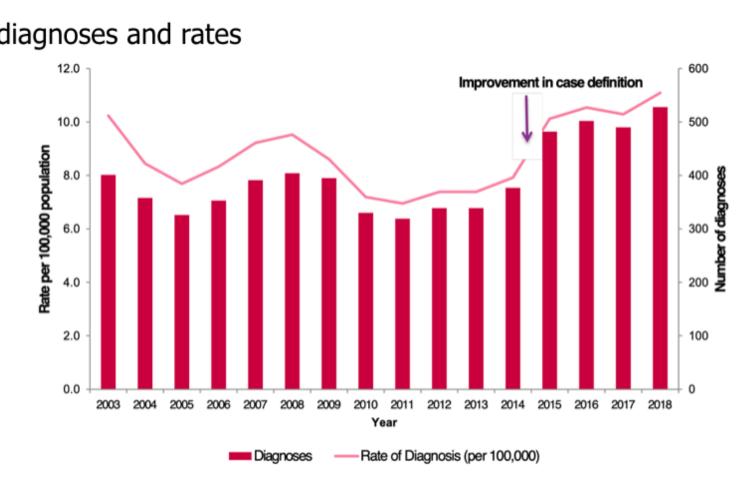




## Initiatives and Campaigns

- Community organisations: HIV Ireland and Gay Men's Health Project
- Websites: Man2Man.ie, Sexual wellbeing.ie
- Community outreach: KnowNow study: 'Pint and a prick' initiative

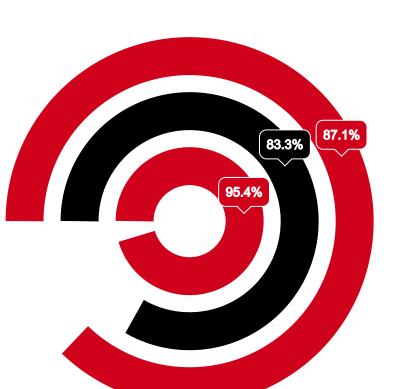


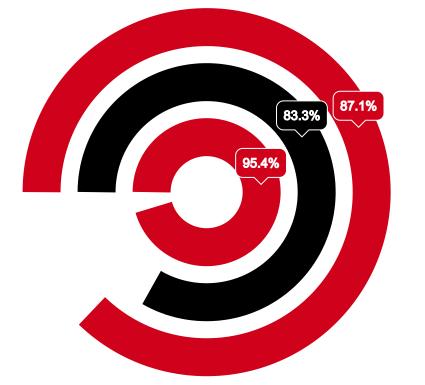


90-90-90 target



HIV diagnoses by history of previous diagnosis abroad\* 30% 20% 2013 2014 2016 2017





# Barriers to Accessing Care

Lack of funding

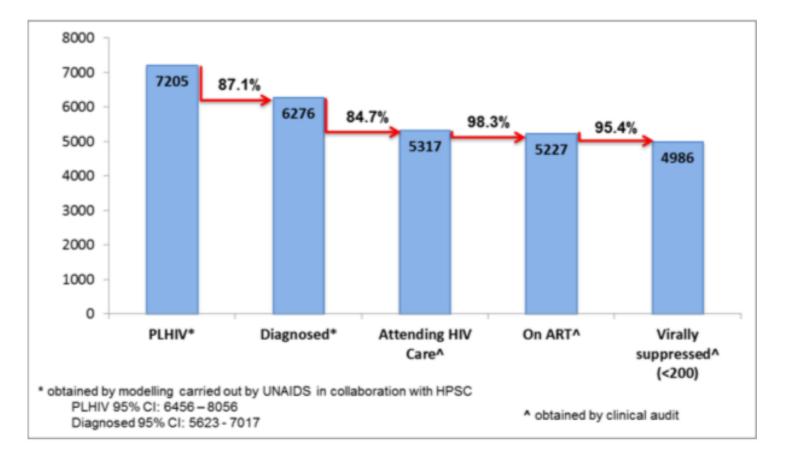
Rates of HIV diagnosis by sex\*

- Lack of services
- Stigma
- Lack of awareness regarding treatment and services
- Migrant population and access to services
- Access to PrEP

## Community-based testing

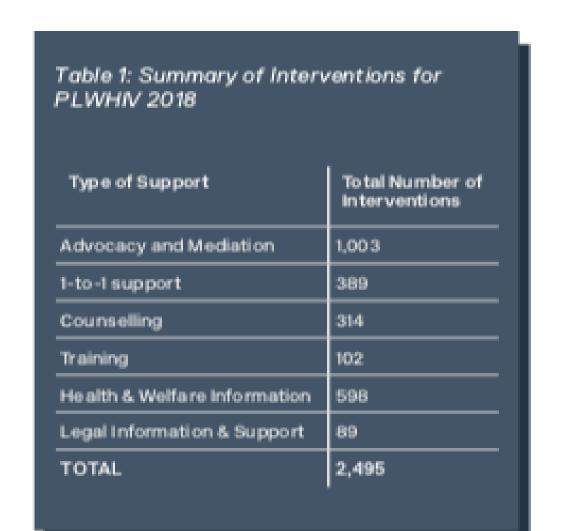
#### In 2018:

- 4,846 community-based HIV tests were carried out, using either rapid point-of-care testing (POCT) methods (54%), or laboratory-based testing methods (46%).
- 84 people had reactive/positive tests, corresponding to a 1.7% test reactivity rate. Excluding people who were previously diagnosed HIV positive, the rate was 1.5%.
- For rapid testing, the rate was 2.4% among migrants coming from countries of high HIV prevalence, and 1.1% among men who have sex with men (MSM)
- For laboratory-based testing, the rate was 5% among international protection applicants in asylum accommodation settings













- #1. Increase resources to expand community-based and healthcare-based HIV testing across Ireland.
- #2. Resource national promotion of the U=U message to combat HIV-related stigma and encourage more people to get tested.
- #3. Commit to the international Fast-Track Cities initiative to accelerate the response to HIV nationally.
- #5. Invest in HIV Prevention services and implement a national PrEP programme in Ireland.

#4. Increase resources for community-based supports for people living with HIV in Ireland.