

HIV Ireland Annual Report 2017



Introduction

HIV Ireland works to improve conditions for people living with HIV in Ireland. We were established in 1987 as Dublin AIDS Alliance. From the outset, we have been to the forefront of many innovative initiatives aimed at addressing community health and wellbeing needs relative to HIV and AIDS in Ireland. Much of our early work was dealing with the crisis of people dying, and the negative response to these individuals from within the wider community, specifically linked to HIV related stigma.

With the onset of improved treatment in the late 1990's there was much hope that HIV related stigma in Ireland would begin to dissipate. People using our services began negotiating the possibility of new relationships and careers, of further education and travel, and some began thinking of buying apartments and houses—incredibly reasonable objectives for a person to have. Unfortunately, this change presented far more complex issues. People began experiencing the negative consequences of disclosure of their HIV status, witnessing the chaos that disclosure could cause in their workplaces, colleges, social circles, and more worryingly in many health care settings.

Sadly, the support and advocacy work we do today is not so different from all those years ago. We still work to navigate people through their diagnosis, through disclosure and the repercussions of disclosure. We now have avenues to explore when someone living with HIV is treated differently than someone whose HIV status is negative or unknown. We actively support people who wish to pursue such avenues. Despite the advances in medication,

our work is far from over. All of us working within the area of HIV seek to challenge HIV related stigma. We aim to make HIV a health issue rather than a question of morality, culture, or lifestyle. There are many practical responses to challenging stigma, and we have encapsulated these within campaigns of providing solidarity and support for people living with HIV, increasing our own knowledge of HIV and the visibility of HIV within society, and challenging HIV related stigma and discrimination as and when we encounter it. We take a pragmatic approach to the need for health & wellbeing services that can reach people who are marginalised, and at high risk of HIV infection. We provide free targeted community HIV & STI testing amongst the migrant community, people who use drugs, people who are homeless, and sex workers. We are involved in HIV prevention work, outreach work that builds relationships, so we can link people into testing, counselling, support, free condoms provision, and the distribution of information on HIV and related issues.

In 2017, key areas of our work included developing an NGO based position paper on PrEP and its potential introduction into Ireland, the first National HIV Stigma Survey in Ireland since 2007, a National Conference on HIV, and the expansion of our community-based testing services, particularly for key populations struggling to access free testing. This included our involvement with the innovative KnowNow Rapid HIV Testing programme. Fundamental to our approach is a belief that society should respond to HIV by accepting people living with HIV as equal human beings who are not defined by their HIV status. The

people we work with have a right to education, a right to make informed decisions about their own lives, and a right to be respected and listened to. We have a responsibility to promote and encourage this response to HIV. It is this fundamental belief, supported by over 30 years of experience and expertise, that will continue to underpin everything we do.

Our Mission

Advocating for individuals living with HIV, preventing new HIV infections, and combating HIV – related stigma and discrimination.

Our Vision

To contribute towards a significant reduction in the incidence and prevalence of HIV in Ireland and towards the realisation of an AIDS free generation.

Chairperson's Foreword

On behalf of the Board of HIV Ireland I wish to introduce our 2017 Annual Report. This year marked the 30th Anniversary of our work in Ireland and rightly called on us to reflect on the past and focus on our continuing role in the future. Our National HIV, Social Inclusion & Stigma Conference gave us just that opportunity. It provided a forum for varied and useful discussion on many issues which we hope to now build upon. We were honoured to be celebrated by the President of Ireland at a reception in Áras an Uachtaráin which allowed so many connected with HIV Ireland and the wider HIV community of volunteers and partners to come together and share experiences and hopes. The President also kindly became our Patron for which we are proud and grateful.



Regrettably for yet another year we saw the number of new cases of HIV diagnosed in the State go beyond 500. This graphic reminder of the continuing potency of HIV in our society requires robust engagement by us to continue to provide services, support and advocacy at the levels and standards we have always achieved.

HIV Ireland does not work alone. Much of our work is undertaken in partnership with other organisations, agencies and individuals. This partnership approach has been keenly evidenced throughout the past year. Our collaboration with the Gay Health Network on PrEP has advanced the issue towards a more satisfactory conclusion but we are fully aware more needs to be done, and we commit ourselves to continue this struggle.

We were proud to have been invited by the HSE to become the national lead organisation in continuing the important work being undertaken by the KnowNow Rapid HIV Testing programme. This service is now back up and running in Dublin, and we thank our partners in Cork, Limerick and Galway, and all our volunteers and supporters across the country for their valued help.

We look forward to continuing this policy of cooperation with both statutory and non-statutory organisations that work directly with key risk populations – groups working with men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, migrants, and people experiencing homelessness amongst others.

In terms of our own organisation I want to wholeheartedly thank all those who support our work. In particular, I am indebted to the commitment of my fellow Board members who bring their

enthusiasm, talent, perspective and skill in voluntary furtherance of the organisation's goals. This commitment and skill is matched by the staff and volunteers of HIV Ireland, whose work, I firmly believe, ensures the lives of many people living with HIV in Ireland are changed for the better. I sincerely thank them for their hard work.

On behalf of the Board I wish to express our appreciation to all those who helped fund the organisation. It is essential that our work continue; their support is vital to that end.

A year has passed which marked a milestone in the story of HIV in Ireland. That in itself is of significance but more so is the determination we have shown, with others, and will continue to show to never forget the reasons why we are here: whilst memories may be dimming there is much work to be done. In the spirit of the reflection of the year gone-by, we commit ourselves anew to our goals.

Bernard Condon SC
Chairperson, HIV Ireland

Service Delivery 2017

HIV Ireland's service delivery for 2017 is set out below. HIV Ireland is contributing to the implementation of a number of national and international health strategies and relevant policies including *Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025*, the *National Sexual Health Strategy 2015-2020*, *Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery: A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025*, the *Dublin Declaration on Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia*, and *Ending AIDS: the 90-90-90 targets*.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

HIV Ireland's Community Support services include advocacy and mediation, support, counselling for people living with HIV (PLWHIV) or affected by HIV, the capacity building of people living with HIV to self-advocate, community HIV and STI testing, and a street outreach service which disseminates sexual health literature and promotes our testing service (see also section on Outreach and Free Condom Service). Staff also respond to public queries in relation to HIV, STIs, and hepatitis, and accommodate agency visits as well as researchers and students seeking information on issues for people living with HIV or AIDS. Staff also present on the work of HIV Ireland to various agencies and businesses and provide training on issues relating to Outreach, Direct Provision, and Counselling.

In 2017, HIV Ireland supported a total of 401 people living with HIV (295 Males and 106 Females) with a total of 2,470 interventions (an average of 6 interventions per person). The vast amount of interventions related to advocacy, health and welfare, counselling, and 1-to-1 support for PLWHIV.

Table 1: Summary of Interventions for PLWHIV 2017

Type of Support	Total Number of Interventions
Advocacy	789
1-to-1 support	467
Counselling	329
Health and Welfare Information	689
Legal Information and Support	189
Home and Hospital Visits	7
Total	2,470

Advocacy interventions in 2017 related mostly to discrimination, asylum seeking, and Social Protection issues. The majority of Health and Welfare interventions (53%, n=311) centred on providing information and orientation to those

seeking to move to, or return to, Ireland. Health and Welfare interventions also include queries surrounding disclosure in both personal and professional settings. Legal Information and Support pertained to outlining rights for PLWHIV. See Table 1.

Capacity Building of People Living with HIV

In 2017, HIV Ireland continued to work closely with, and support, Positive Now and the All-Ireland Network of People Living with HIV. During this time, Positive Now held monthly social groups for people living with HIV, participated in 5 media events, and assisted 14 researchers. Members of Positive Now supported 18 newly diagnosed individuals who had been referred by HIV clinics or HIV Ireland. In 2017, members of Positive Now also continued their committee work with the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, and the Gay Health Network.

In April, Positive Now visited Positive Life (Belfast) to hold a cross border focus group with people living with HIV to determine their opinions on PrEP. The information gleaned was then reflected in HIV Ireland's *Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis*



(PrEP) Scoping and Policy Review (2017).

During 2017, HIV Ireland also worked with Positive Now to form the African Women's Group, a support and social group comprising of African women living in Dublin and regional areas. In April, members participated in a focus group conducted by Shaun Dunne from Talking Shop Ensemble which explored instances of disclosure and the presence of stigma in the lives of men and women who are HIV positive in Ireland today. *Rapids*, the theatre piece which the group helped inform, premiered in Dublin's Project Arts Centre in October.

In 2017, Positive Now held volunteer training for people living with HIV who are interested in providing support to, and advocating for, those living with HIV. This training, facilitated by Ray O’Neill of Machna, was held over four sessions in the autumn with an attendance of 8 individuals.

In June, Positive Now, alongside many affiliates of the All-Ireland Network of People Living with HIV, participated in Dublin Pride Parade alongside HIV Ireland (See Events).

COMMUNITY HIV AND STI TESTING

HIV Ireland is committed to reducing barriers to HIV and STI testing by providing low-threshold access to community testing. In 2017 we continued our unique free Community HIV and STI testing services in Dublin and in Drogheda. In the autumn, HIV Ireland received a grant from GSK to replicate Dublin’s unique automation testing system in Drogheda.

In August, HIV Ireland took over the management and governance of the KnowNow Testing Service which provides Rapid HIV testing by gay men for their peers in gay social spaces – namely bars, a prominent gay sauna, and a LGBT community resource centre. The pilot scheme was paused in the capital for a number of months after the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) closed earlier in the year.

HIV Ireland engages in on-going action research with our service users, our staff, and volunteers in order to enhance direct practice.

Dublin HIV and STI Testing Service

Our Community HIV and STI Testing Service in Dublin operates in our building and is run in conjunction with the GUIDE Clinic in St. James’s Hospital. Our service in Dublin is underpinned by a street outreach programme which targets at-risk communities. HIV Ireland tests on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, allowing us to test up to 60 individuals monthly.

Due to lack of capacity, 178 males and 147 females (total 325 individuals) had to be turned away from the Dublin service in 2017.

Profile of Testing Participants (Dublin)

On arrival, participants register anonymously filling in an on-line profile survey on their smart phones or on tablets provided by HIV Ireland. Information given is also anonymous.

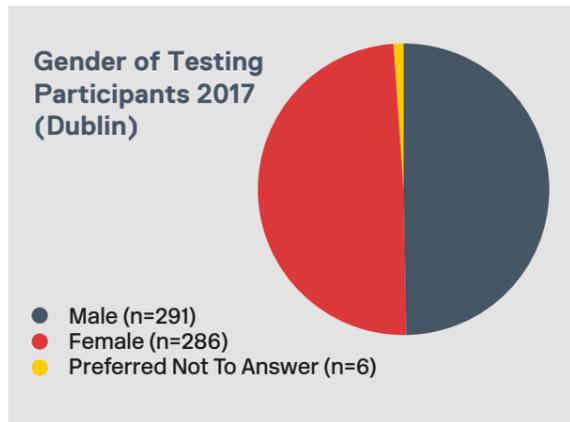


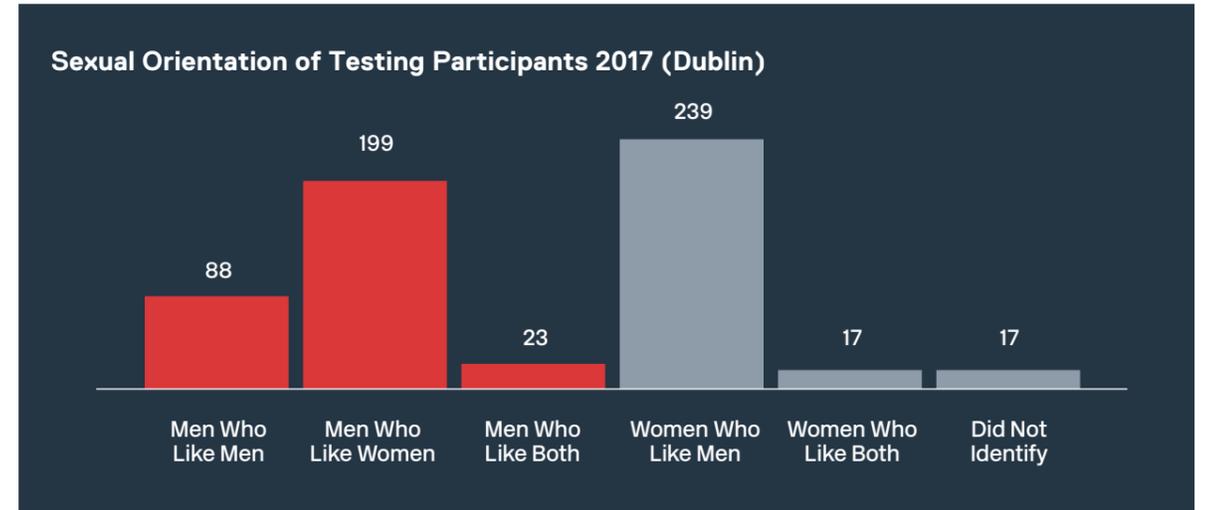
Table 2: Country/Area of Origin of Testing Participants 2017 (Dublin)

Country/Area of Origin	Frequency/Top 3 Percentages
Ireland	233 (40%)
Western Europe	64
Central or Eastern Europe	53* (9%)
Sub-Saharan Africa	6
Southern Africa/West Africa	36
North Africa	6^
South or South East Asia	23
North America	18
South America	99 (17%)
Other	40

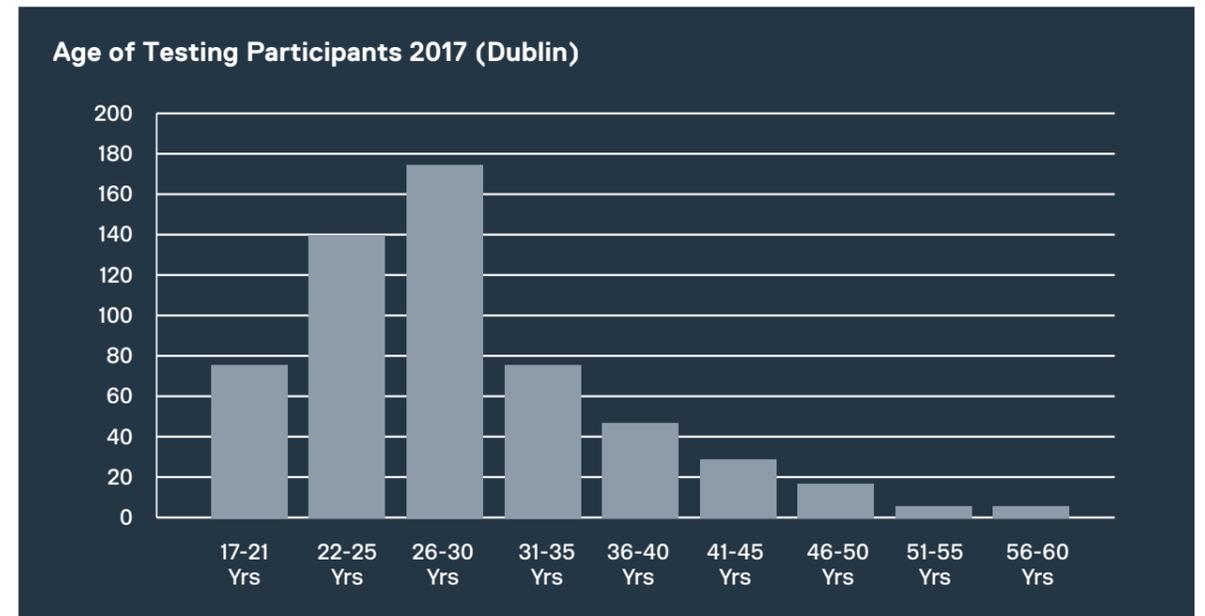
Missing cases=5
 * Combined with Western Europe, total percentage=20% (n=117)
 ^ Combined with other African regions, total percentage=8% (n=48)

During 2017, a total of 583 individuals (291 Males, 286 Females, and 6 who preferred not to identify their gender) presented for HIV and STI’s over 23 testing sessions. Of these individuals, 576 individuals actually tested (7 had to leave at some point after registration). 163 testing participants had tested at least once before in HIV Ireland. 32% (186) had never tested for HIV before.

Those born outside of Ireland represented 60% of those who presented for testing, with the highest number born in South America (n=99) followed by those who were born in Central or Eastern Europe (n=53). See Table 2 above.



The age bracket of 26 yrs – 30 yrs represented the highest number of participants (n=175) followed by the 22 yrs – 25 yrs age bracket (n=140). Together the age brackets represent just over half of all testing participants.



75% of those attending the service were heterosexual with heterosexual women attending the most frequently.

When asked about their Sexual Preference, the majority (41%, n=239) of participants were women who stated they liked men. 34% (n=199) of participants stated they were men who liked woman. 15% (n=88) stated they were men who liked men and 4% (n=23) identified themselves as men who liked both men and women. 3%

(n=17) were women who stated they liked both men and women. 17 (3%) of individuals did not identify with any of the above orientations.

When asked how they became aware of HIV Ireland’s testing service, 31% (n=181) of testing participants heard about the service through word-of-mouth, 28% (n=163) became aware through various HIV Ireland advertising modes, and 40% (n=232) saw relevant information on the internet (through Google Search and Facebook). See Table 3.

Table 3: How Testing Participants Heard of HIV Ireland’s HIV and STI Testing Service 2017 (Dublin)

Mode	Frequency#/ Top 3 Percentages
Word of Mouth	181 (31%)
HIVI Sexual Health Testing Service Booklet	17
HIVI Testing Leaflet	12
Poster in HIVI Front Window	29
Facebook	41*
HIVI Website	99 (17%)
Google Search	192 (33%)
HIVI Reception	6
Referral from Hospital	3
Referral from Another Agency	6
Other	9

*11 participants indicated more than 1 mode. Combined on-line mode totals=57% (n=332). Combined HIVI’s own advertising totals (excluding HIVI website)=42% (n=245).

The majority of testing participants 17% (n=99) resided in the Dublin 1 postal code area, followed by Dublin 7 (16%, n=93). 8% (n=46) of participants resided in non-postal code areas within Dublin County. Those residing in other counties in Ireland accounted for 9% of those who availed of our HIV and STI Testing Service, (n=54). See Table 4.

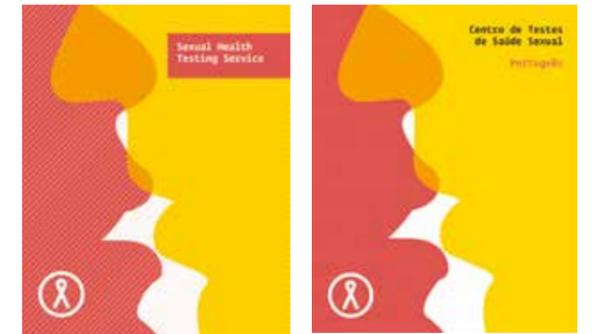
Table 4: Residence of Testing Participants 2017 (Dublin)

Dublin Postcode	Frequency / Top 3 Percentages
1	99 (17%)
2	2
3	29
4	17
5	6
6	17
6W	12
7	93 (16%)
8	41
9	46 (8%)
10	0
11	23
12	0
13	12
14	6
15	28
16	12
17	6
18	12
20	6
22	0
24	6

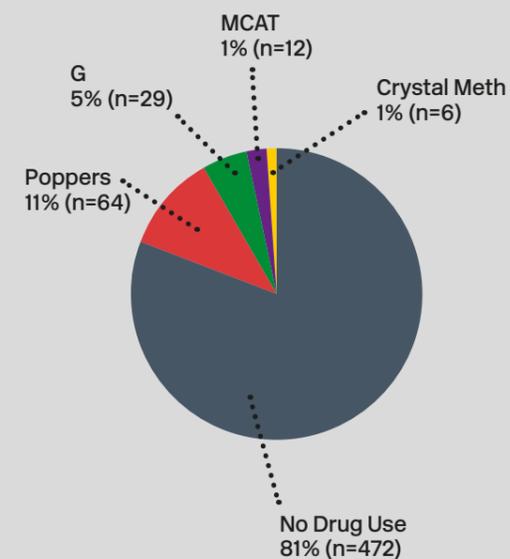
County	
Dublin	46
Kildare	7
Limerick	5
Laois	6
Louth	6
Meath	13
Offaly	6
Wicklow	11

Missing cases = 10

When asked whether they used drugs before or during sex, the vast majority of testing participants reported not using drugs (81%). Poppers was the most favoured drug with 11% of people using them, followed by G (5%) and MCAT and Crystal Meth at 1%. It is interesting to note that respondents who answered this question came from a variety of backgrounds and identified differing sexual preferences.



Drug Use Before Or During Sex 2017 (Dublin)



Additional Profiles of Dublin Testing Participants

1% (n=6) of Testing Participants declared themselves from the Travelling or Roma Community, 42% (n=245) declared themselves to be a citizen of another country, and 11% (n=64) hoped to become a citizen of Ireland. 10% (n=59) of participants had experienced homelessness and 4% (n=23) had a history of IV Drug Use. For 72% of service users, it was their first time testing with HIV Ireland.

Testing Queries

In 2017, there were 235 phone queries specifically related to HIV Ireland’s testing service. Phone calls from males numbered 144 and those from females numbered 91.

HIV and STI Detection Rates

In our Dublin testing service, there were a total of 74 HIV and STI detections, a rate of 13%. HIV detections (n=3) represents a positivity rate of 1 in 140 tests which far exceeds the cost effectiveness threshold set out by British HIV Association/British Association of Sexual Health and HIV Guidelines for HIV Testing (2008).

Table 5: Number of new HIV and STI Detections 2017 (Dublin)

	HIV	Chlamydia	Gonorrhoea	Syphilis	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
Male	3	18	7	10	3	2
Female	0	24	2	3	2	0
Total	3	42	9	13	5	2

Drogheda HIV and STI Testing Service

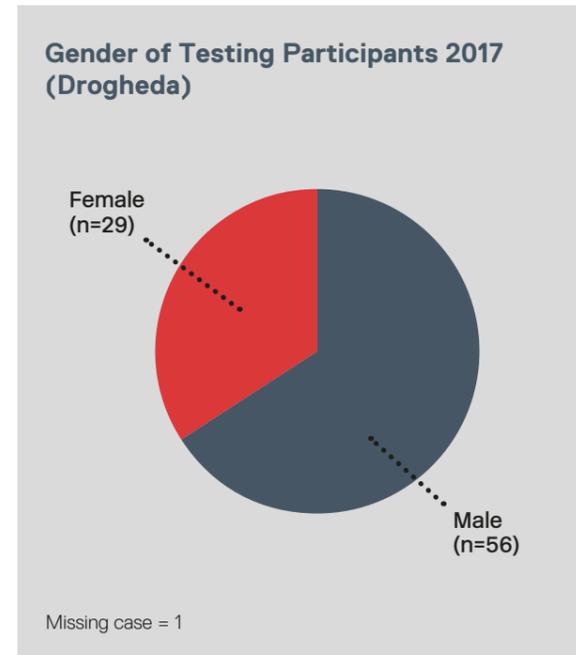
In February 2017, after a six month pilot and evaluation phase, HIV Ireland mainstreamed a free HIV and STI testing in Drogheda, partnering with both the Red Door Project and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. This once a month service targets intravenous drug users and/or the homeless as well as those coming from countries where HIV is endemic.

In the autumn of 2017, HIV Ireland received a grant from GSK to build an integrated automation system in Drogheda to align with the system used in Dublin. This system will replace the paper forms currently used to gather anonymous profile information from service users. It will also allow for:

- more profile questions.
- advanced queue management.
- testing participants to monitor queue live on their smart phones, enabling them to leave the building and return when their queue number is about to be called.
- automated SMS for negative tests results.
- call management system for positive results.
- live view of key metrics for management and stakeholders.

Profile of Testing Participants (Drogheda)

During 2017, a total of 86 individuals (56 Males, 29 Females, and 1 individual who did not identify gender) presented for testing at the Red Door Project for HIV and STI's over 11 testing sessions.



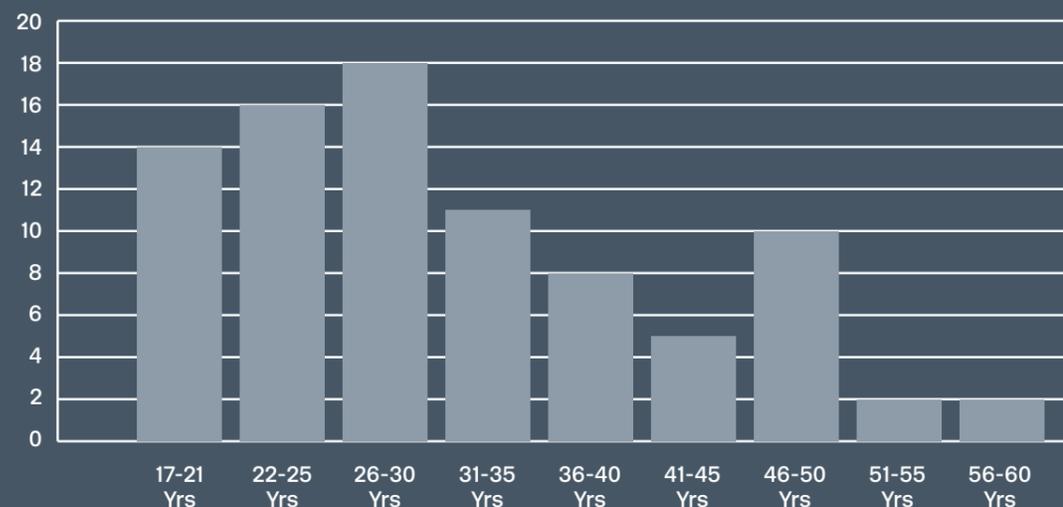
Those born in Ireland represented 76% (n=65) of those who presented for testing followed by an equal number from Central/Eastern Europe and West Africa (n=5). See Table 6.



Table 6: Country/Area of Origin of Testing Participants 2017 (Drogheda)

Country/Area of Origin	Frequency/ Top Percentages
Ireland	65 (76%)
Central or Eastern Europe	5 (8%)
West Africa	5 (8%)
UK	3
North America	2
South America	2
China	1
Middle East / North Africa	1
South Africa	1
Other	1

Age of Testing Participants 2017 (Drogheda)



As with its Dublin counterpart, those in the age bracket of 26 yrs – 30 yrs represented the highest number of participants testing in Drogheda (n=18), followed by the 22 yrs – 25 yrs age bracket (n=16). The third highest age bracket represented those aged 17 – 21yrs (n=14). Noting these three brackets, 55% of all testing participants were under 30.

When asked how they became aware of the testing service at the Red Door Project, 42% (n=36) of testing participants heard about the service through Red Door Project staff members or through outreach conducted by red Door Project/HIV Ireland staff. 24% (n=21) became aware through Facebook (including HIV Ireland and The Red Door Project pages). 20% (n=17) of participants heard about it through word of mouth, through a GP or hospital, or another agency. 8% (n=7) were signposted by Google. See Table 7.

Table 7: How Testing Participants Heard of HIV Ireland's HIV and STI Testing Service 2017 (Drogheda)

Mode	Frequency/ Top 2 Percentages
Red Door Project Staff/ Outreach	36 (41%)
Facebook	21 (24%)
Word of Mouth	7
Google	7
GP	3
Hospital	4
Other Agency	2
LGBT Group	1
Other	1

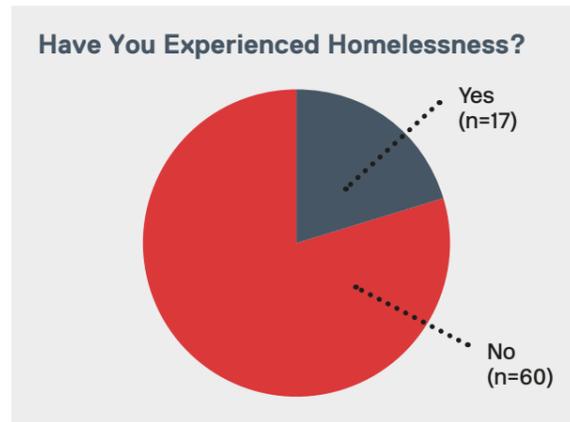
Missing Cases=4

The vast majority of testing participants (72%) resided in Louth at the time of testing. 21% resided in neighbouring County Meath. See Table 8 below.

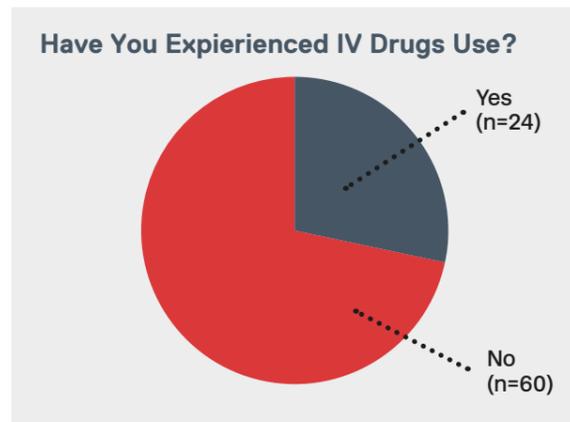
Table 8: Residence of Testing Participants 2017 (Drogheda)

County	Frequency/ Top 2 Percentages
Louth	62 (72%)
Meath	18 (21%)
Dublin	3
Cavan	2
N. Ireland	1

Core target groups of our testing service in Drogheda were those that had experienced IV drug use and/or homelessness. 20% indicated they had experienced homelessness and 28% stated they had experienced IV drug use.



Missing cases = 3



Missing cases = 2

HIV and STI Detection Rates (Drogheda)

In our Drogheda Testing service, there was a total 14 STI detections.

Table 9: Number of new HIV and STI Detections 2017 (Drogheda)

HIV	Chlamydia	Gonorrhoea	Syphilis	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
0	8	1	0	2	0	3



KnowNow

KnowNow is a free, peer-led, community based, rapid HIV testing service for men who have sex with men, operating in 2017 in Dublin, Cork, and Limerick. In September, HIV Ireland commenced, and continues to provide, management and governance of the service. KnowNow operates in four gay-identified community based venues in Dublin City Centre (Pantibar, Outhouse, The George, and The Boilerhouse). All venues have been engaged in the project since its inception and a solid and trustworthy relationship with venue managers has been built. KnowNow volunteers are gay and bisexual males based in Dublin who represent a diverse range of ages, ethnicities and serostatus'. 16 gay and bisexual men were recruited for KnowNow training sessions which took place in September. Following classroom training, volunteers began a period of shadowing; new

volunteers are connected with established volunteers during this period. The new volunteers observe an established volunteer complete at least 2 full testing sessions.

In the 14 weeks since the re-commencement of the KnowNow service in 2017, a total of 63 testing sessions were completed and 420 individuals tested. Within this period, 59 potential service users were turned away. Numbers of turn-away's were greatest during periods of high demand, namely European Testing Week and Christmas (24 in November, 20 in December).

There were a total of 4 HIV detections in the 420 tests which far exceeds the cost effectiveness threshold set out by British HIV Association/British Association of Sexual Health and HIV Guidelines for HIV Testing (2008).

KnowNow Testing 2017

	September	October	November	December	Total
Test Completed	47	134	155	84	420
Negative	46	133	155	82	416
Reactive	1	1	0	2	4
Void	0	0	0	0	0

Thanks to Adam Shanley, KnowNow Co-ordinator, for this report.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HIV Ireland has a longstanding and unique history of conducting community outreach with marginalized and at-risk groups. Led primarily by migrant volunteers, outreach takes place on the streets and in migrant businesses and social spaces in Dublin 1, 3, and 7 as well as at various social events including those hosted by Sport Against Racism Ireland (SARI), New Communities Partnership, and other migrant focused organisations. Information on sexual health and sexual health testing is disseminated and free condoms are offered to those who may not otherwise be able to access or afford them. One-to-one support is also given to those concerned about the consequences of testing positive for



HIV or another STI.

In 2017, HIV Ireland continued its outreach service to Baleskin Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers (Dublin) and to Mosney Reception Centre (County Meath) in order to promote sexual health and sexual health testing for those newly arrived in the country. Outreach was also conducted on the streets of Drogheda, County Louth, where HIV Ireland outreach workers, along with outreach workers from the Red Door Project, jointly promoted our pilot free HIV and STI service targeting intravenous drug users, the homeless, and migrants (see above). In total, 56 community outreach sessions were conducted in 2017 reaching over 2,200 individuals from marginalized or at-risk groups. (See also *Free Condoms Service*).

General Public

In 2017, there were a total of 336 interventions with the general public relating to telephone, email, and walk-in queries on HIV, STIs, Hepatitis, and HIV Ireland services. This number includes information given to professionals (n=62), support interventions for family members (n=19) and the significant others of people living with HIV (n=16). The majority of public queries centred on HIV and STI testing, HIV and STI transmission, and how to support a newly diagnosed family member, significant other, or friend.

Agency Visits and Research

Each year, HIV Ireland is approached by agencies and researchers interested in finding out more about our organisation and hoping to gain insight into arising issues for PLWHIV. In many cases, individuals look to HIV Ireland to help them access individuals living with HIV to participate in their research. Where it is appropriate, we advertise the research request amongst our service users and Positive Now amongst their affiliates. In 2017, there was a total of 14 students (4 Secondary School; 1 B.Sc; 2 BA; 3 MA, 1 M.Ed., and 3 PhD students) who were supported by HIV Ireland. In addition, there were 11 agency visits from those working in the homeless, mental health, sexual health, and science sectors. A notable visit was from the ISA (International Studies Abroad) agency which, since 1987, provides college students in the United States and Canada with travel and educational opportunities. In August, 25 ISA students, many from a general health background, participated in a HIV Ireland workshop and discussion group focused on pertinent HIV issues.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

HIV Ireland's education and training services provide and deliver training on a broad range of topics including HIV, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sexual health, training for counsellors, psychotherapists and mental health professionals, a training for trainers programme (Let's Talk About... Safer Sex) for youth and community workers, and training on good practice in developing a sexual health policy.

Our primary focus for training delivery is the training of staff and professionals who may work with groups at risk of HIV and poorer sexual health outcomes. Training programmes can be accessed via an annual calendar of training or on request from organisations.

Groups and organisations accessing our training include statutory bodies, voluntary agencies, youth and community groups, private sector organisations, healthcare professionals and education centres.

HIV Ireland works in partnership with organisations to provide and facilitate the delivery of training. Partnerships in 2017 included the Irish Family Planning Association, the National Youth Council of Ireland, Foróige, the Ana Liffey Drug Project, and the Gay Men's Health Service, HSE.



Training Participants from Carlow Regional Youth Service who completed the Let's Talk About... Safer Sex training for trainers programme.

Training Delivery 2017

A total of 25 various education and training programmes were delivered in 2017 to a total of 356 participants. Table 15 provides a summary of education and training delivered in 2017.

Training for Trainers Programme: Let's Talk About... Safer Sex

Two training for trainers programmes were delivered in 2017 with a total of 25 participants. One programme was delivered in partnership with Carlow Regional Youth Services and one in partnership with the North Eastern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force. Delivery of both programmes in 2017 was funded by Positive Action Europe / Viiv Healthcare.

Good Practice: Developing a Sexual Health Policy

This training is delivered in partnership with the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI). Two programmes were delivered in 2017 with a total of 26 participants.

Understanding Chemsex

This new training was developed by the Gay Men's Health Service, HSE, to respond to the emerging trend of 'chemsex' in Ireland – the use of chemical substances during sex. Two training programmes were delivered in 2017 with a total of 32 participants, coordinated by HIV Ireland and facilitated by the Gay Men's Health Service.

Crack Cocaine Information Session

HIV Ireland facilitated the delivery of this new training, developed and delivered by the Ana Liffey Drug Project (ALDP) to respond to the increasing trend of crack cocaine use in Dublin. One programme was delivered in 2017 with a total of 25 participants.

Let's Talk About HIV... in Ireland

To coincide with Irish AIDS Day (15th June), HIV Ireland hosted a free HIV education event, aiming to increase knowledge and awareness of HIV and related issues in Ireland. A similar event was hosted to coincide with World AIDS Day (1st December).

Table 10: Education and Training Programmes delivered in 2017

Type of Training	No. Delivered	Total No. Of Participants
Let's Talk About... Safer Sex: 4-day Training for Trainers Programme	2	25
HIV	1	24
HIV and STIs	2	23
HIV and Hepatitis C	2	22
Let's Talk About HIV... (in Ireland)	6	83
Good Practice: Developing a Sexual Health Policy (in partnership with the NYCI)	2	26
Understanding Chemsex (facilitated by the Gay Men's Health Service, HSE)	2	32
Crack Cocaine Information Session (delivered by the Ana Liffey Drug Project)	1	25
REAL U Programme: STIs and Contraception (in partnership with Foróige)	6	91
Sexual Health Workshop (in partnership with the IFPA)	1	5
Totals	25	356

FREE CONDOMS SERVICE

HIV Ireland's free condoms services are focused mainly on key population groups at risk of HIV and STI infection. In addition to our outreach and walk-in services, condoms are also provided on request to a range of organisations who wish to provide this service to their service users. This service is primarily linked with our *Just Carry One* campaign.

In 2017, a total of just over 23,700 free condoms were distributed (an increase of 16% when compared with 2016).

- 38% were provided to organisations working with young people for distribution through their services or for specific youth-focused events.
- 35% were distributed as part of our street and volunteer outreach programmes which primarily targets migrant population groups.
- 12% were distributed to drug user population groups including through our partnership with the Ana Liffey Drug Project.
- 8% were provided as part of our walk-in service.
- The remaining 7% were provided to organisations who work with sex workers, men who have sex with men, and people living with HIV. (Note: free condoms for men who have sex with men are primarily provided through our partnership with the Gay Health Network via the joint HSE *Man2Man.ie* programme).

Free Condoms Service Highlights 2017

- 67 organisations/groups were supported in 2017 with the provision of free condoms for various events and services.
- 387 people accessed the free condoms walk-in service at HIV Ireland.
- 23 events were supported at third-level colleges including SHAG Week, Freshers Week, Health Promotion Days, Music Events and World AIDS Day initiatives.
- HIV Ireland works in partnership with the Ana Liffey Drug Project (ALDP) in the provision of free condoms for distribution through their services in Dublin, the Midlands Region (Longford, Laois, Offaly, Westmeath) and the Mid-West Region (Limerick, North Tipperary and Clare).



FREE RESOURCES SERVICE

HIV Ireland stocks a range of resources including information booklets, leaflets, DVDs and other materials on HIV, hepatitis and sexual health for general distribution. This service is accessed by a range of organisations including youth organisations, NGOs and community organisations, colleges, schools, statutory agencies and the general public. Information leaflets and booklets are also distributed at key events annually such as Irish AIDS Day and World AIDS Day activities, SHAG week in third-level colleges, community health initiatives and events, conferences, seminars, and through our training and support services.

In 2017, this continued to be a popular service with 30,734 information leaflets, booklets, posters, and red ribbons provided/distributed, an increase of 29% when compared with 2016.

Free Resources Service Highlights 2017

- 85 requests from organisations were supported for various services and events.
- Newly published and revised/updated resources added to the service in 2017 included:
 - Chlamydia information booklet.
 - Get Tested: a guide to free HIV, STI and hepatitis testing in Ireland.
 - Gettin' It On: a guide to using condoms (leaflet).
 - HIV: Know the Facts, Get Tested.
 - G booklet (GHB)
 - Free Condoms Service Promotion Posters.
 - A guide to using condoms (A3 posters).
- In partnership with the Citizens Information Board, our newly revised and updated 'Get Tested' booklet was provided through Citizens Information Centres nationally.
- In partnership with the HSE, HIV Ireland provided a range of resources to the *healthpromotion.ie* service including leaflets, booklets and posters about HIV and STIs, and testing services information.

NEWSDESK WEEKLY

The HIV Ireland *NewsDesk Weekly* includes news and updates on relevant national, European and international news and policy issues on HIV, hepatitis and sexual health-related issues.

This service is provided free by HIV Ireland to a range of organisations and individuals involved and interested in these areas, and offers a summary of relevant weekly news highlights from various sources including national and local print media, and related-websites.

37 editions of NewsDesk Weekly were published in 2017. Individuals and organisations can subscribe to the NewsDesk through the HIV Ireland website.



Campaigns & Events

JUST CARRY ONE

Just Carry One is a national social media campaign targeting young people, primarily those aged 17 to 25 years, and promotes condom use for STI prevention.

The aims of the project are:

- to promote (consistent) condom use amongst young people as the primary method of STI prevention.
- to address issues of stigma associated with condom use, and promote a positive attitude towards condom use as part of healthy sexual relationships.
- to raise young people's awareness of taking responsibility for, and taking care of, their sexual health.

Promotion of the campaign is carried out primarily through a dedicated Facebook page (www.facebook.com/justcarryone), promoting key messages about condom use, STI prevention, STI testing and where to access free condoms.

Campaign Highlights 2017

- 17,664 followers at the end of 2017 (a 2.3% increase on 2016).
 - 63% of followers are male and 37% female.
 - 76% of followers are aged 18 to 24 years – the primary target group – and 18% are aged 25 to 34 years.
 - Of the total followers where country location data is available, 16,438 (94%) are located in Ireland. County/City data is available for 14,118 followers. These followers are located across 25 counties of Ireland:
 - » 6,586 (47%) are located in Dublin.
 - » 2,976 (21%) are located across the rest of Leinster (all 11 counties).
 - » 3,159 (22%) are located across the six counties of Munster.
 - » 1,160 (8%) are located across four counties of Connaught (Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Roscommon).
 - » The remaining 2% (n=257) are located in Ulster in counties Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan.
 - An average of 3 campaign posts per week were published on Facebook, with a cumulative audience reach of 318,000 in 2017.

- 8 competitions were held on the campaign Facebook page to promote condom use at key dates in the calendar year: Valentine's Day; International Women's Day; Easter Festival; Summer Festivals x 2; Electric Picnic Music Festival; Hallowe'en; and Thanksgiving. The competitions yielded a cumulative audience reach of 222,000, with 10,496 engagements and competition entries.
- The Just Carry One campaign sponsored a range of events throughout the year with the provision of free condom packs including Global Goals Week in University College Dublin (UCD), Freshers Packs for UCD and Trinity College Dublin, outreach at the Electric Picnic Music Festival, the Scouting Ireland World Rover event, Studio Yum Yum at the Dublin Fringe Festival, and other health promotion events and World AIDS Day initiatives at 19 colleges across Ireland.
- Additional funding was received from the NICDATF at the end of 2016 towards promotion of the Just Carry One campaign and the free condoms service at HIV Ireland. This included the development of social media graphics and posters to promote the campaign and service. Both online and offline promotion was carried out between July and September 2017, generating a 2.6% increase in campaign followers on Facebook and a 3.6% increase in the number of people accessing the free condoms service during this time.



MAN2MAN.IE

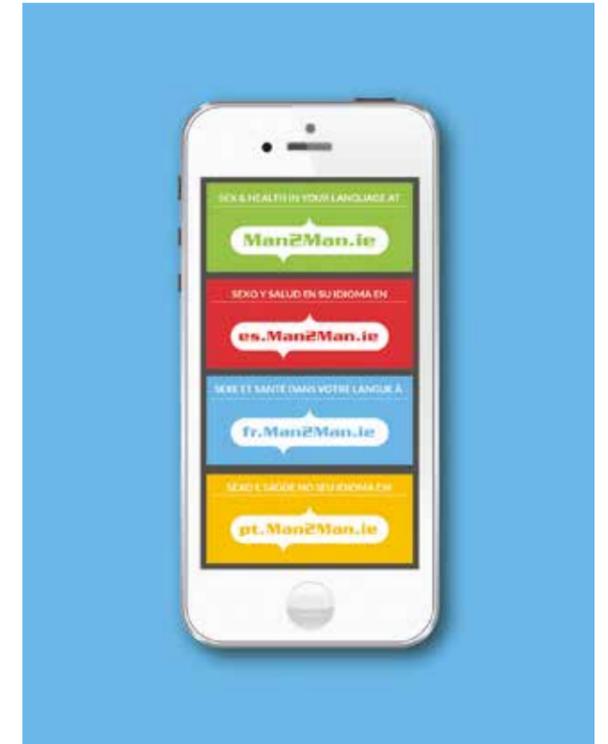
This joint Gay Health Network (GHN) and HSE initiative is a national HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Awareness programme targeting men who have sex with men (MSM) in Ireland.

The *Man2Man.ie* programme was sustained throughout 2017 with support funding from the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme and the MAC AIDS Fund. The programme primarily consists of:

- A dedicated website (www.man2man.ie) providing information for MSM on HIV, STIs, free testing information and where to access free condoms.
- A social media campaign promoting key messages about HIV and STI prevention, testing and condom use.
- Delivery of Personal Development Courses for MSM.
- HIV and STI Prevention Projects and Campaigns.
- Providing access to free condoms and lube in social venues and through outreach services.

Campaign Highlights 2017

- The *man2man.ie* website was re-developed in 2017 and translated into three other languages – Spanish, French, and Portuguese.
- HIV+ Sex, the sex-positive information booklet for HIV positive and HIV negative men, was translated into three languages – Spanish, French, and Portuguese – and can be viewed and downloaded at www.man2man.ie. Hard-copies are also available through the HIV Ireland Free Resources Service.
- Campaigns were developed and promoted over the Summer Holiday and Pride Festival seasons, promoting testing and safer sex.
- The Personal Development Courses were revised and refreshed.



G INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

To help address increasing use of the drug GHB/GBL in Ireland, the Chemsex Working Group continued its work to produce information and harm reduction resources. Partner organisations are the Ana Liffey Drug Project, *Drugs.ie*, Gay Switchboard Ireland, HIV Ireland, the Gay Men’s Health Service, HSE National Social Inclusion Office, HSE Public Health, and the Rialto Community Drug Team.

A new information booklet was published adding to the other resources available (posters and G-card) and a video was created and promoted via social media channels. Current resources can be viewed and downloaded at www.drugs.ie/ghb. Members of the working group presented on the campaign at the 10th International Conference on Nightlife, Substance Use and Related Health Issues which took place in Dublin from 24th to 26th May 2017.



EUROPEAN CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION WEEK

HIV Ireland supported the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) and *CervicalCheck.ie* with the promotion of the Pearl of Wisdom Campaign from 22nd to 29th January 2017, distributing campaign information packs through our services and promoting messages via social media channels.



ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY

Make Some Noise for Zero Discrimination

Zero Discrimination Day is a global event which takes place on 1st March annually. Led by UNAIDS, the event is a call to people everywhere to promote and celebrate diversity and reject discrimination. HIV Ireland supported the UNAIDS campaign through social media promotion focusing on zero discrimination for people living with HIV.



National HIV Stigma Survey

A National Survey on Stigma and HIV was launched by HIV Ireland on Zero Discrimination Day 2017, in partnership with the Mater Hospital/UCD. The survey aimed to explore how living with HIV impacts on people’s day to day lives, especially within the context of stigma and discrimination.



USI SHAG WEEK 2017

As part of our partnership work with the HSE and the National Sexual Health Communications Working Group, we teamed up with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), *SpunOut.ie* and the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme to publish a new information booklet about Chlamydia. The booklet was launched during Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance (SHAG) Week 2017 which took place from 13th to 16th February.



IRISH AIDS DAY AND MEN'S HEALTH WEEK 2017

To mark Irish AIDS Day (15th June) and Men’s Health Week 2017 (12th to 16th June), HIV Ireland hosted this free HIV education event aiming to increase knowledge and awareness about HIV in Ireland and related issues.



WORLD AIDS DAY 2017

Right to Health Campaign

HIV Ireland supported and promoted the UNAIDS ‘*Right to Health*’ global campaign for World AIDS Day 2017. The right to health is the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as enshrined in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The #myrighttohealth campaign promotes the right of everyone, including people living with and affected by HIV, to the prevention and treatment of ill health, to make decisions about one’s own health and to be treated with respect and dignity and without discrimination.



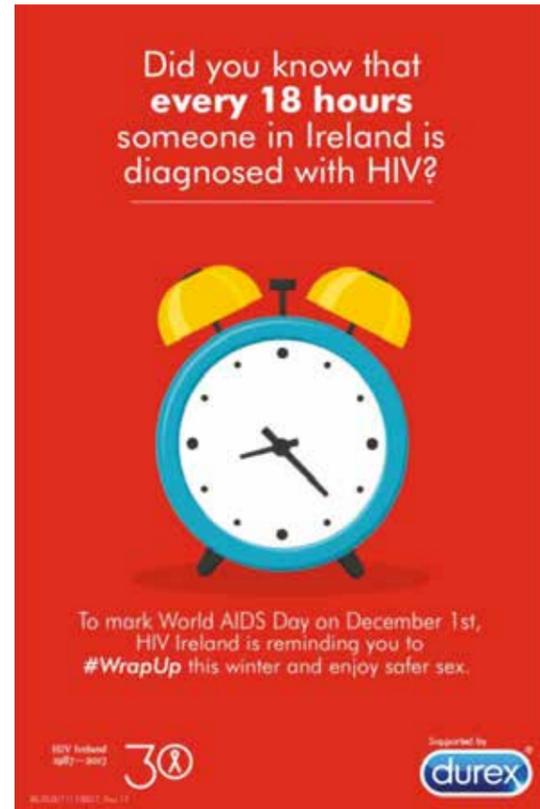
Let's Talk About... HIV

To coincide with World AIDS Day, HIV Ireland hosted a free HIV education event aiming to increase knowledge and awareness about HIV and related issues. Guest speaker Breda Gahan from Concern Worldwide provided the HIV global context at the event.



Durex #WrapUp Campaign

HIV Ireland teamed up with Durex for World AIDS Day to promote condom use and safer sex. The #WrapUp with Durex campaign was promoted from 1st to 8th December 2017 on social media platforms and social contact websites.



IRISH STREET MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM 2017

Hosted in September by Safetynet Primary Care and UCD School of Medicine with support from HSE Social Inclusion, this symposium brought together those working to improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable in our society, including the homeless, drug users, prisoners, and vulnerable migrants. HIV Ireland presented on our outreach and testing services in a presentation entitled *Street Outreach: The Evolution of a Community HIV and STI Testing Service*.



PRIDE 2017

HIV Ireland participated with Positive Now in Pride 2017 and was supported by Patrick Murphy of Red Lights Ireland, Alan Early (Managing Director) and Brian White (Instructor) of the Airport Driving School, Jamie Kelly and the JK Dance Academy, DJ Alex McQuade as well as the team from the Gay Men's Health Service. Our theme, *We Are All in the One Boat*, was chosen to highlight our solidarity with people living with HIV.



UCD STUDENTS (ANNUAL LECTURE – PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL PRACTICE)

This lecture, now in its 10th year, is provided by our longstanding senior counsellor and has become an integral part of the "Professional Clinical Practice" series and *Person Centred Care* module offered to both junior and senior medical students of University College Dublin. Held in February, and attended by over 100 students, the 2017 lecture outlined HIV Ireland's significant role in the trajectory of HIV counselling in Ireland and emphasized our focus on providing a solution-oriented framework in a supportive, safe, and non-judgmental environment. It also highlighted the role that doctors can play in ensuring optimum physical and mental health outcomes for their patients.

DUBLIN FRONTRUNNERS PRIDE 5K RUN

HIV Ireland was delighted to be chosen as one of three charities to be supported by Dublin Frontrunners in their annual PRIDE 5K Run in the Phoenix Park on Friday 16th June. In what proved to be one of the highlights of the year, staff, volunteers, board members, and friends of HIV Ireland joined in with approximately 200+ runners to complete the 5K run on a beautiful, sunny June evening. With €4000 being raised for HIV Ireland, we put the money to good use by funding our National HIV Stigma Survey, and our Position Paper on PrEP (in conjunction with the Gay Health Network). Thank you to all members of Frontrunners for a memorable experience.



Committee Representation & Policy Work

NORTH INNER CITY DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TASK FORCE (NICDATF)

HIV Ireland participates on the Prevention and Education sub-committee of the NICDATF, chaired by Maureen O'Sullivan, T.D. The committee organised a seminar on 'Substance Use Prevention and Education' which took place on 14th November 2017 in the Office of the Ombudsman for Children. The aim of the event was to discuss and start a conversation about current substance use education and prevention in schools and youth and community groups. Catherine Byrne, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy, opened the discussion on the day and a report on the findings and recommendations will be issued in 2018.

GAY HEALTH NETWORK (GHN)

HIV Ireland continues to participate and work closely with GHN to support and promote sexual health initiatives within the gay community, and in particular the joint HSE Man2Man.ie programme.

European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS) 2017

GHN continues to be actively involved in publishing new research and in 2017, in partnership with the HSE, launched EMIS 2017 in Ireland. The survey aims to gather information and data on the sexual health and sex lives of men who have sex with men (MSM) in Europe and was made available across 50 countries in 33 languages. Initial findings from EMIS 2017 will be published in 2018.



15TH ANNUAL GAY HEALTH FORUM (GHF15)

HIV Ireland was represented on the organising committee for this annual forum hosted by the Gay Men's Health Service, HSE and the Gay Health Network. The forum took place on 30th June at the Conference Centre in Dublin Castle and was launched by Catherine Byrne, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy. The initial findings of the National HIV Stigma Survey were presented by the Mater/UCD on behalf of HIV Ireland, and a presentation on the Pilot Community-based HIV and STI testing project in Drogheda was also part of the day's programme.



BASHH/SSSTDI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

The British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Ireland (SSSTDI) held their annual conference in Belfast from 18th to 20th June 2017. A poster presentation of the joint HIV Ireland and Gay Health Network 'PrEP Scoping and Policy Options Review' was exhibited at the conference.

NATIONAL SEXUAL HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

HIV Ireland participates on this Working Group, the establishment of which is one of the priority actions within the National Sexual Health Strategy Action Plan. Chaired by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, the group was established to coordinate sexual health communications activities between HSE and non-statutory organisations to ensure joint resources are used in the most effective manner.

NATIONAL DRUGS STRATEGY: REDUCING HARM, SUPPORTING RECOVERY

HIV Ireland's work is strongly linked with the National Drugs Strategy, with support from the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force. Following a call for submissions towards development of a new strategy in 2016, *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery*, was launched by An Taoiseach Mr. Leo Varadkar TD in July 2017. The vision of the new strategy is for a healthier and safer Ireland aiming to reduce the harm caused by substance use, and ensure that everyone is empowered to improve their health and wellbeing and quality of life.

NATIONAL STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

HIV Ireland continued its participation on a NSAI working committee which contributed recommendations for inclusion in Ireland's overall recommendations to CEN (The European Standardization Body for the development of standards) on standardizing Tattooing and Body Modification practices in the EU.

HEALTH PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE CENTRE (RECENT HIV INFECTION COMMITTEE)

In 2017, HIV Ireland continued its participation on the HPSC's Recent HIV Infection Committee which is working to integrate recent infection testing into national HIV new diagnoses surveillance.

FRIENDS OF BALSESKIN

HIV Ireland currently conducts outreach amongst residents in Baleskin Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers. In the autumn of 2017, HIV Ireland joined the newly formed Friends of Baleskin group which was established to strengthen links which already exist between the Centre, NGO's, Community Groups, and Residents and to form new links with agencies interested in supporting asylum seekers in Ireland.

EU CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON HIV, HEPATITIS AND TUBERCULOSIS

In 2017, HIV Ireland was successful in our application to join this important EU forum. With over 40 representatives from countries across Europe, this provides us with an opportunity to raise issues pertinent to our work in Ireland, and support our European colleagues in their work and challenges. The forum meets in Luxembourg twice a year with various ongoing work in between meetings. In 2017 it was of particular support for HIV Ireland in our work on PrEP.

SEX WORKERS ALLIANCE OF IRELAND (SWAI)

HIV Ireland has been a longstanding supporter of the work of SWAI, particularly in advocating for the health and human rights of sex workers. In 2017, we joined the Board of SWAI and actively work alongside SWAI staff and supporters in highlighting key issues that impact on the lives of sex workers in Ireland.

NATIONAL PEP/PRP CONFERENCE

In April 2017, HIV Ireland, Act Up Dublin, and the Gay Health Network collaborated on three presentations for the annual PEP/PrEP Conference organised by Dr. Jack Lambert and his colleagues. The presentations focussed on a community perspective on PEP and PrEP, positives associated with both, current gaps and challenges.

PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS SCOPING AND POLICY OPTIONS PAPER

In 2017, HIV Ireland, and the Gay Health Network commissioned a paper titled 'Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Scoping and Policy Options Review'. The primary aim of this paper was to provide evidence-based guidance on PrEP efficacy, while establishing the views of key populations affected by HIV, and stakeholders

directly and indirectly involved in the provision of HIV services throughout Ireland. This work was conducted by Dr. Ann Nolan (International Development Specialist), and can be accessed on our website at: <http://www.hivireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/PrEP-Scoping-and-Policy-Options-Review.pdf>. This paper was launched on Irish AIDS Day 2017.

HIV IRELAND NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017

To mark HIV Ireland's 30th Anniversary (1987–2017), we hosted a National Conference titled 'HIV, Social Inclusion, Stigma & Social Policy – 1987 to 2017' on Thursday 28th September in the Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin. It concentrated on Irish policy responses to date, gaps and barriers that exist today in responding to rising HIV figures in Ireland, and proposed solutions. A full video of the day with all presentations can be accessed on our website at: <http://www.hivireland.ie/policy-news-and-media/national-conference-on-hiv-and-stigma-28th-september-2017/>

The conference was opened by Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy, Catherine Byrne TD. In her opening address she commended the work that HIV Ireland has undertaken over the past 30 years, and paid tribute to all the staff and volunteers at the heart of the organisation. The one-day conference explored the history of HIV, stigma and social inclusion in addiction, homelessness, sex work, the LGBT community, the migrant community, and people living with HIV in Ireland since 1987.

WORLD AIDS DAY VISIT TO ARAS AN UACHTARÁIN

On Friday, December 1st, President Michael D. Higgins hosted a reception at Aras an Uachtaráin to mark World AIDS Day, to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of HIV Ireland, and to pay tribute to all people and organisations working to prevent the spread of HIV, both home and abroad. The event was a wonderful occasion marking a real coming together of People Living with HIV, HIV activists, HIV consultants, politicians, NGO's, friends and colleagues. Camille O'Sullivan (accompanied by Feargal Murray on piano) sang beautifully at what was a memorable occasion to mark 30 years of responding to HIV in Ireland.

NATIONAL HIV STIGMA SURVEY

A National Survey on Stigma and HIV was launched by HIV Ireland on Zero Discrimination Day 2017, in partnership with the Mater Hospital/UCD. The survey aimed to explore how living with HIV impacts on people's day to day lives, especially within the context of stigma and discrimination. Some 1,013 people responded to the general survey; 168 people responded to the survey specifically for people living with HIV.

Among the general population, the research found varying degrees of knowledge about HIV, ranging from excellent to worrying. Younger people were found to have less correct knowledge than older people, though they were also more likely to be welcoming of someone living with HIV than some of their older counterparts. Key findings in the survey include:

- 98 per cent of respondents correctly thought that HIV can be transmitted by sharing needles or syringes, and a similar percentage were aware it can be passed on through sex without a condom.
- 20 per cent of 18–24-year olds incorrectly thought HIV can be passed from person to person through the sharing of a public toilet seat (compared to 10% of those over 24).
- 24 per cent of people incorrectly believe that HIV can be transmitted by kissing, while 11 per cent incorrectly thought it could be transmitted through coughing or sneezing.
- 10 per cent of people stated that they wouldn't feel comfortable working with a colleague who was HIV positive.
- 54 per cent of people living with HIV are single.
- 17 per cent of respondents living with HIV reported having felt suicidal in the previous year (compared to less than four per cent of the general population).
- 98 per cent of respondents agreed that 'young people should be taught about HIV transmission during secondary school'.

Digital & Social Media

HIV Ireland utilises social media channels to promote available services, to publish and promote harm reduction information about HIV, STIs, hepatitis, and sexual health, to promote specific campaigns and to highlight our policy and research work. Our main platforms are our website, Facebook and Twitter.

FACEBOOK (@HIVIRELAND.IE)

- 7,725 likes/followers at the end of 2017 (a 2.9% increase on 2016).
- 6,716 followers (89%) are located in Ireland across 24 counties.
- 58% of fans are female and 42% are male.
- 15% of fans are aged 18 to 24; 28% are aged 25 to 34; 27% are aged 35 to 44; 18% are aged 45 to 54; and 11% are aged 55 and over.
- An average of 7 posts per week were published with a cumulative audience reach of 191,000 in 2017.

TWITTER (@HIV_IRELAND)

- 2,506 Twitter followers at the end of 2017 (a 19.5% increase on 2016).
- In 2017 an average of 153 tweets were published per month with an average of 92,000 tweet impressions per month.
- Campaign hashtags included #NationalHIVArchive, #ZeroDiscriminationDay; #OMGsti, #GetTested, #IrishAIDSDay, #PrEPforIreland, #HIV2017, #FluVaccine #YourBestShot, #EMIS2017, #MyLegacyWeek, #WorldAIDSDay, #MyRighttoHealth, #WrapUp with #Durex.

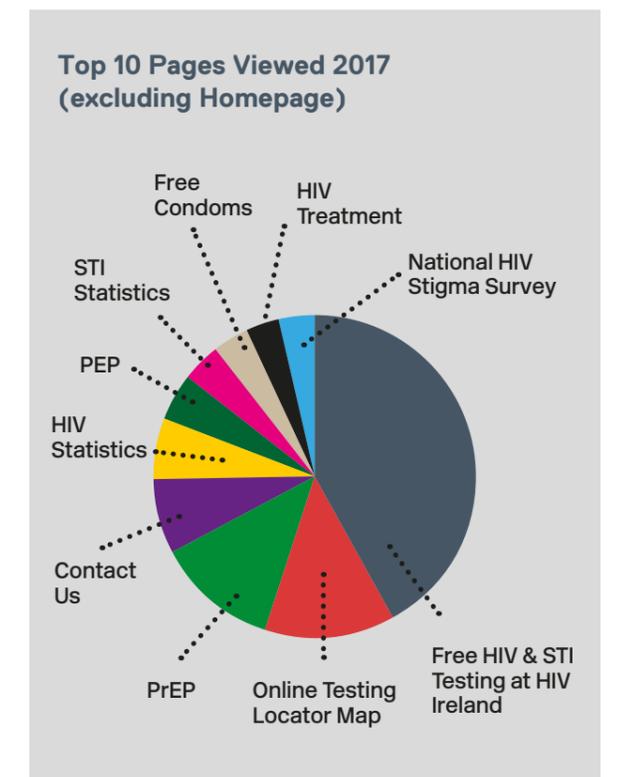
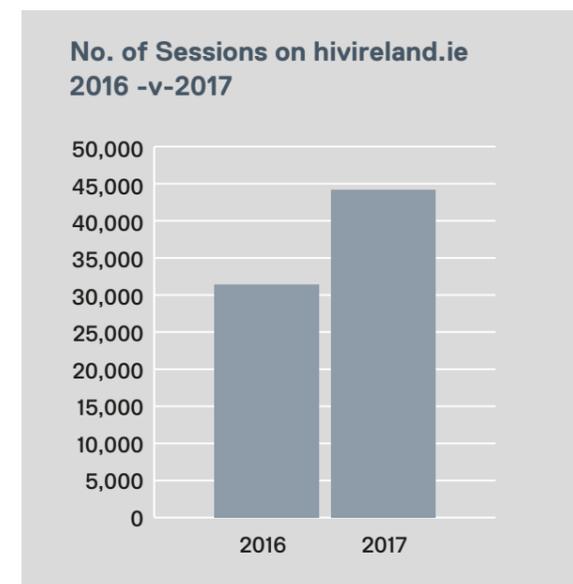
WEBSITE (WWW.HIVIRELAND.IE)

In 2017 there were a total of 44,175 sessions on the HIV Ireland website and 34,007 users (an increase of 41% over 2016). 81.6% (n=27,888) of sessions were located in Ireland. 76.3% of users were new visitors with 23.7% returning visitors.

Gender is known for 51% of users of which 45.7% were male and 54.3% female. Age range is known for 51% of users of which 21.5% were aged 18 to 24, 41.5% were aged 25 to 34, 20% were aged 35 to 44, 10% were aged 45 to 54, and 7% were aged 55 and over.

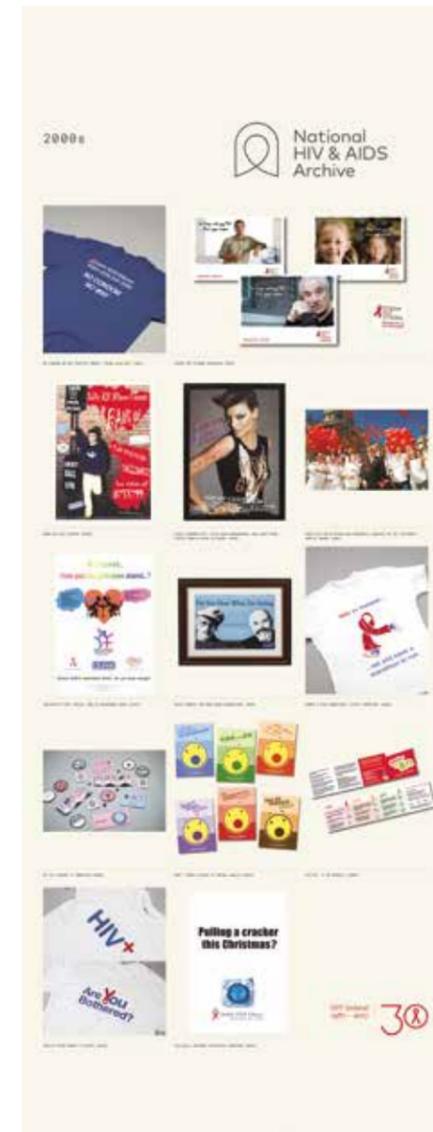
There were a total of 87,524 page views (an increase of 31.5% over 2016) with an average of 2 pages viewed per session.

Of the top 10 pages viewed (excluding the homepage), over half (55.1%) related to free HIV and STI testing information (42% on free testing at HIV Ireland, and 13.1% on the testing locator map). 12.3% of page views related to information about PrEP. Other top 10 pages viewed included Contact Us (7.5%), HIV statistics (6%), PEP (4.8%), STI statistics (3.8%), Free Condoms (3.6%), HIV treatment (3.5%), and the National HIV Stigma Survey (3.4%).



NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS ARCHIVE

To mark our 30th anniversary in 2017, we launched the National HIV and AIDS Archive. Throughout 2017 we digitised our 1987 print newspaper archive and made it available to the public on our website. Extracts from the 1987 Archive were also posted on social media platforms, and an exhibition of the Archive was displayed at the National HIV Conference 2017.



President's Speech to Mark the 30th Anniversary of HIV Ireland

Dear friends,

It is a great pleasure for Sabina and I to welcome you all here today to Áras an Uachtaráin on World AIDS Day, and to have the opportunity to mark the 30th anniversary of HIV Ireland. It also is a great honour for us to be here with you, and to have the opportunity to recall all those years of dedication, perseverance and hard work – sometimes undertaken in very difficult, and indeed hostile, circumstances – which began over thirty years ago. It was indeed in difficult circumstances the work of campaigners involved in what was known as the Dublin Aids Alliance began.

May I take this opportunity to recognise the work, not only of HIV Ireland, but also of AIDS West in Galway City, ActUp Dublin, ACET Ireland, the All-Ireland Network of People Living with HIV, Positive Ireland, GOSHH in Limerick City, and the Sexual Health Centre in Cork City.

May I also welcome the announcement that Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis will be available in this country from Monday the 4th of December. The addition of another measure to prevent HIV is an important step forward.

Anniversaries are occasions not only to look forward, but to look back, and this occasion today is an opportunity to reflect: to reflect on loss – the loss of friends, of family members, of loved ones, of companions – that so many have endured; and to reflect too on the struggles in which so many have participated, the struggle for the recognition of rights long denied – the right to equality and the right to services – and the struggle against discrimination and stigma.

It is troubling now to recall the moral and ethical atmosphere of Irish society in 1982, when the first two cases of AIDS were diagnosed. Those who suffered the most in the 1980s were those exposed not only to a prejudice born of misunderstanding of HIV and AIDS, but also to other forms of social oppression which were, and are, too often manifested in our society.

At that time, contraceptives were only available through a medical prescription – as was said at the time, this was ‘an Irish solution to an Irish problem’. Our laws prohibited same-sex sexual relationships. My two predecessors in this Office, Mary McAleese and Mary Robinson, both played a significant role in the campaign – led with bravery by Senator David Norris – to overturn this discriminatory legislation.

It is perhaps indicative of those years – years in which Irish society yielded only most slowly and painfully to change – that the offending Act was amended all of five years after the European Court of Human Rights had found that the legislation was in contravention of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Our social policies were insufficient to a moment of crisis in Irish society, and the citizens of our cities and towns – particularly parts of Dublin City – paid a terrible price in the 1980s.

In those years, in terms of living up to its duties to its citizens, our society and State was anything but adequate or indeed republican in the best sense of that term.

I know that this time – a time before the development of anti-retroviral treatment – was a fearful time, a time when so many loved ones were lost so suddenly, a time so often remembered with grief, hurt and anger. It is deeply affecting to read the words of Tonie Walsh, who has spoken of the ‘hidden histories of how we lived, how we died, how some survived, yearn to be heard’.

Some of the most moving testaments of friendship that I have read are from this period and were written on both sides of the Atlantic. We, as citizens of Ireland, do owe a duty to all those who lost their lives, a duty to remember and in that remembering, a duty to build a better future.

Some during that time did act, and today is an occasion to recognise the courage, energy and activism of those campaigners, activism often conducted in the face of ignorance and sometimes hostility.

It is also an occasion to acknowledge the great strides that have been made thanks to the efforts of those campaigners and of campaigning organisations like HIV Ireland and the work of health and social care professionals and volunteers. It is also, a time to look forward to all that which must still be achieved in our own society – and in countries around the world to realise the possibility of an AIDS-free generation and to ensure that those living with HIV may be able to live their lives without stigma, fear or discrimination.

It is truly sobering to recall that over 35 million people have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the beginning of the epidemic, and that over a million people died of such illnesses in 2016.

At global level there is much which needs to be done, and approached with urgency.

For example, in the plan of action that 193 countries have committed for the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals, agreed in New York in September of 2015, there is a commitment to end the AIDS epidemic by the year 2030.

These Goals are ambitious, but they are realistic in their recognition of the scale of the response required to achieve them. Over 36.7 million people are living with HIV, and of these only 53% have access

to treatment. The Goals recognise that nothing less than universal health coverage and access to quality health care, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, are necessary if there is to be a possibility of meeting them.

But if we are to achieve these Goals, both at home and abroad, it is not enough merely to make additional resources available, though this is a necessary condition. We are also required to create the consciousness for a more inclusive and more just societies.

Globally, new HIV infections have fallen – by 45% between 2000 and 2015 – but as we are all too well aware it has continued to increase amongst some of the most vulnerable groups in our societies. Only a response which eliminates inequalities based on gender, sexuality and race, raises the dignity of all people, and meets the demands of social justice, will be truly capable of eliminating HIV/AIDS and ensuring that those who live with HIV can live lives free of stigma, prejudice and discrimination.

It is remarkable that the effectiveness of treatment has improved to such an extent that HIV may be suppressed such that it is undetectable in a person's body, which means that the virus cannot be transmitted. This illustrates the continuing importance of HIV testing, as those who do not know their HIV status cannot access treatment and have the greatest risk of transmitting HIV. The provision of community testing by organisations such as HIV Ireland and the Health Service Executive is to be truly commended and must be supported.

There were 508 new HIV diagnoses notified and recorded by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre of the Health Service Executive in 2016, an increase of 35% on 2011 figures.

This is concerning, and we must continue to implement, support and promote, as a society, comprehensive prevention measures, including the kind of sexual health education and training which HIV Ireland have pioneered and continue to provide.

The findings of the National HIV Attitudes and Knowledge Survey and People Living with HIV Stigma Survey, carried out by HIV Ireland in 2017, reveal that there is some work to be done to improve knowledge about the transmission of HIV, particularly amongst younger people.

The surveys also revealed that for the 4,000 people estimated to be living knowingly with HIV in our country today there is still a degree of stigma – stigma arising from lack of knowledge, and sometimes, we must recognise, from pre-existing forms of prejudice based on a person's sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, class or whether they are a drug user.

This stigma takes a deep toll, whether experienced at the hands of friends, family, employers or strangers, takes a deep psychological toll on lives of people living with HIV.

So, as we meet here in Áras an Uachtaráin on World Aids Day may I then commend the work of all those organisations here today for raising awareness of HIV amongst the public, and of offering support and advocacy to those living with HIV. May I thank too all our health and social care professionals working in the Health Service Executive, in our hospitals and in other bodies for your dedication and your hard work.

May I also take this opportunity to salute the bravery of all those individuals who have taken a stand against discrimination.

As a people, we are more aware than ever, in this decade of centenaries, of the urgency to build, by our thoughts and deeds, a republic of equal citizens. This demands of all us a spirit of inclusion and a duty of kindness, of compassion, and above all, of solidarity and respect towards others, whether at home or abroad.

Through your work, your advocacy, your support services, and your campaigning you are making this republic of equals a reality. I would like to conclude by thanking you and re-iterating once again what an honour it is for us that you all could join us today.

May I thank Camille O'Sullivan, and Feargal Murray on piano, for providing our entertainment tonight – what a wonderful pleasure it is to hear and see one of our country's greatest performing artists.

May I also thank our first aiders John Gold and Josephine McGlinchey from the Civil Defence, and all the staff here at Áras an Uachtaráin who have worked so hard to make this night a success.





HIV in Ireland 2017 Findings from the:

- National HIV Knowledge and Attitudes Survey 2017
- People Living with HIV Stigma Survey 2017

Full Report

HIV Ireland



HIV Ireland's Work in Numbers 2017

17,664

PEOPLE FOLLOW
JUST CARRY ONE

2,470

INTERVENTIONS
FOR PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV

23,708

FREE CONDOMS
DISTRIBUTED

56

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SESSIONS CONDUCTED ON
THE STREETS, AT SPORTS
EVENTS, AND IN MIGRANT
BUSINESSES IN DUBLIN
AND DROGHEDA

47

VOLUNTEERS WHO
SUPPORTED OUR
WORK IN MANY
DIFFERENT
CAPACITIES

37

EDITIONS OF
NEWSDESK WEEKLY

30,734

INFORMATION LEAFLETS
AND BOOKLETS DISTRIBUTED

401

PEOPLE LIVING
WITH HIV WHO
RECEIVED SUPPORT
AND ADVOCACY
SERVICES

356

TRAINING
PARTICIPANTS

669

INDIVIDUALS WHO TESTED
IN HIV IRELAND'S FREE
HIV AND STI TESTING
SERVICE IN DUBLIN AND
DROGHEDA AND KNEW THEIR
HIV AND STI STATUS
IN 2017

2,506

FOLLOWERS ON
TWITTER

44,175

SESSIONS ON
HIVIRELAND.IE

7,725

PEOPLE LIKE US
ON FACEBOOK

336

MEMBERS OF THE
GENERAL PUBLIC
AVAILING OF
SUPPORT AND
INFORMATION
SERVICES

2,200+

PEOPLE MET DURING
COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO
AT-RISK GROUPS WHO
RECEIVED FREE CONDOMS
AND SEXUAL HEALTH AND
TESTING INFORMATION

420

INDIVIDUALS WHO TESTED
THROUGH OUR KNOW NOW
RAPID HIV TESTING SERVICE
AND WHO KNEW THEIR HIV
STATUS IN 2017

25

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
PROGRAMMES DELIVERED.

Community Employment Scheme

Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection Community Employment Scheme (January to December 2017)

The Community Employment (CE) Scheme is a government-sponsored intervention that provides practical work experience for the long term unemployed. It also provides them with access to relevant certified training, to prepare them for the mainstream labour market, or full-time education. This annual report covers the period from 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, while the actual CE project year started on Monday, 20 February 2017.

The year started with fourteen CE participants and we had a turnover of twenty-one during this period. Our participants originate from various countries, including China, Russia, Poland, DR Congo, Zambia, Nigeria, Italy, Estonia and of course Ireland. More than half of them are engaged in various positions with sub-sponsor organisations such as Cairde, Outhouse and New Communities Partnership (NCP) and positions covered included Receptionists, Administrative Assistants, Coffee Shop Assistants, and Cleaning Operatives.

In general, there was a reduction in the amount of external training for participants. This was partly because most CE staff were already in their second and third year on the scheme and had already gained QQI Level 5 and industry-recognised qualifications, and partly because others already had Third Level qualifications before joining the programme and were basically just looking for practical work experience. Nevertheless, one participant is currently engaged in a full time QQI Level 6 Course in Social Studies; another is with the Dublin Business School studying towards a QQI Level 8 Fund Accounting degree and another is preparing for his ACCA exams and has been shortlisted for the Civil Service. One CE staff also gained Qualified Barista status.

During 2017, vacancies became increasingly difficult to populate due to the intervention of Jobpath and Seetec in the job skills landscape. Despite this, we were able to replace four of the seven staff that completed their contracts and of these, over 70% went into employment. 2017 ended with 14 active participants and three vacancies.

Other

A significant innovation during the year was the introduction of the new DEASP BOMi Welfare Partners System. As a result, all Grant claims for Wages, Materials and Training are now submitted exclusively online. Overall, staff progression and personal development (internal and external) was 100%.

Financial Report

Dublin AIDS Alliance Limited Trading AS HIV Ireland

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)
Summarised Financial Statement extracted from the Director's report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2017

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	2017 €	€	2016 €	€
Income				
Donations & Fundraising	11,050		3,619	
HSE Dublin North City Social Inclusion	280,000		279,996	
HSE National Social Inclusion	65,000		74,996	
D.S.P.	231,495		245,791	
HSE (NICDAFT)	68,400		68,400	
HSE Health & Well Being	75,089		-	
Other Grants	125,595		137,510	
Other Income	31,573		25,107	
		888,202		835,419
Expenditure				
Salaries incl. Employer's PRSI	618,033		634,613	
Training & Consultancy	4,271		6,622	
Rent payable	36,166		36,500	
Building Reinstatement Provision	1,211		(5,318)	
Project Costs	217,468		98,827	
Combined Overheads	47,166		45,773	
		924,315		817,017
		(36,113)		18,402

Acknowledgements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	2017	€	2016	€
	€	€	€	€
Current assets				
Debtors	14,107		32,276	
Cash at bank and in hand	174,572		295,634	
	<u>188,679</u>		<u>327,910</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(118,027)</u>		<u>(221,144)</u>	
Net current assets	70,652		106,765	
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>70,652</u>		<u>106,765</u>	
Net Assets	70,652		106,765	
The funds of the charity				
Unrestricted funds	70,652		106,765	
Total Charity funds	<u>70,652</u>		<u>106,765</u>	

HIV Ireland would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to all who worked with and supported our organisation throughout 2017.

The Directors holding office during the year comprised....

Executive Director: Niall Mulligan
Administration: Marie Hamilton (Office Manager), Brona Cousins (Until February) Patricia Dillon-Killeen, Olusola Martin Ade-Onojobi, (CE Supervisor), Barbara King (until May) Patrick Donlon (until November), Anthony Newsome, Charity Makala, Boguslaw Okroj.

Community Support staff team 2017: Dr Erin Nugent (Manager), Rebecca Seery, Lily Hyland, Richard Boyle.

KnowNow Dublin Rapid HIV Testing Service: Adam Shanley (Co-ordinator)

Volunteers 2017: Joel Biongo, Gerald Browne, Patrick Murphy, Martha Mutanda, Brightness Onyema, Evonne Mushonga, Guylaine Ndonga Mbaki, Nonty Danzana, Barbara Lunga, Margareth Nkomo, Priscilla Ogbonna, Paula O'Neill, Mauricio Leite, Ruben Guedes, Filipe Mahalhaes, Aleke Magalhaes, Andréia Scaramussa, and all our KnowNow volunteers.

Volunteer Counsellors: Arnaud Bongrand, David Field, and Orlagh Hester

Prevention Education & Training Programme staff team: Susan Donlon, Sue Carter, Niamh Fingleton (until March 2017), Silvana Avigliano.

Our Express thanks to our principle funders...

Health Service Executive Northern Area; Health Service Executive Office for Social Inclusion. Department of Employment and Social Protection, Parnell St; North Inner-City Drug and Alcohol Task Force; MAC AIDS Fund; Open Society Foundation.

.... and additional organisations and individuals for their support in 2017 including

ViiV Healthcare and Positive Action Europe; Department of Health National Lottery Fund; Andy Osborn and Nicki Killeen, Ana Liffey Drug Project and Drugs.ie; Minister of State for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy, Catherine Byrne TD; the team at the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme; Breda Gahan, Concern Worldwide and the Dóchas Group; Irish Family Planning Association; Foróige; Louise Monaghan and Ailish Ryan, National Youth Council of Ireland; Tonie Walsh, Irish Queer Archives; Maureen O'Sullivan, T.D.; Siobhán O'Dea and Adam Shanley, Gay Men's Health Service; Union of Students in Ireland; SpunOut.ie; Carlow Regional Youth Services; Andy Ogle, North Eastern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force; Louise O' Mahony, The Red Door Project; the Board and members of the Gay Health Network; Dr. Derval Igoe, Kate O'Donnell and the team at the Health Protection Surveillance Centre; Mark Shiels and the team at Form Design; Tricia Frame, Pasante Healthcare; Martha Whyte and the team at Outhouse LGBT Community Centre; Citizens Information Board; Dr. Ann Nolan; Durex; Joey Teehan, Subliminal Design; Positive Now; Grainne Kelly, Laura Quinn, Sinead Murphy, and Clara O'Neill at the GUIDE clinic, St. James's Hospital; Sandra Delamere (formerly of the GUIDE clinic); Dr Justin Low and Clío Milner, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda; Tony Duffin and all the staff at the Ana Liffey Drug Project; Kate McGrew and Dearbhla Ryan from SWAI; Dr. Fiona Lyons; Dr. Jack Lambert; the Medical Social Workers of Beaumont Hospital, Mater Hospital, and St. James's Hospital; Dr PJ Boyle and the medical and social work teams of Baleskin Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers; Áine Lambe, Intercultural Project Worker Baleskin; Linda Donoghue, Baleskin Centre Manager; Andrew Leavitt, Act Up Dublin; Dr Ray O'Neill, Machna; Arthur Murray, Tusla; Adam Stubbs, Ronan Lynskey, and the team at GSK; Richard Carson and the team at ACET; Joe Mc Donagh and the team at AIDS West; Ann Mason and the team

at GOSHH; Martin Davoren and the team at the Sexual Health Centre; Aileen Dooley; Declan Hayden and Hugh Fahy, Dublin City Council; Linda Hendy and the staff of the National Standards Authority of Ireland; Dolores Murray, Association of Body Modification Artists Ireland (ABMAI); Jacquie Richardson and the team at Positive Life, Northern Ireland; Ken McCue and Perry Ogden, Sports Against Racism Ireland; Paul Neale, John Hughes, and the staff of Capital Financial Planning; the team at Free Legal Aid Centre (FLAC); Karen Sutton and the Griffith College Law Department; Lysander Preston, Irish Institute of Legal Executives; Margaret Horan and Co. Solicitors; O'Connor Bergin Solicitors, Eddie Matthews, BL; John Watters, Solicitor; Sebastian Kohn, OSF; Michael Krone and all his colleagues at AIDS Action Europe; Dr Aislinn O'Donnell, Maynooth University; Eoin MacReamoinn, Oxford University; Dr Nigel Richardson, Trinity College Biomedical Sciences Institute; Jonathan McCrea, Whipsmart Media/*Future Proof*, Newstalk 106 - 108FM; Mary and David Shannon, Irish Names Quilt; Dr. Maeve Foreman; Dr. Patrick Murphy; Dr. Austin O' Carroll; Ferenc Bagyinzsky; Alastair Hudson; Richard Carson; Joan Byrne; Quality Matters; Graham Ryall and the Rialto Community Drug Team; Billie, GOSHH; Shaun Dunne, Talking Shop Ensemble; Hannah McHugh, Billy Weedon, Maria Otero, John Devoy of UISCE; Aidan Murphy, Diceman Visuals; Abdul Zeroug; Adel Abdulrahman; Dublin MAC Cosmetic staff who supported fundraising events. Special thanks to all the shops and businesses on Frederick Street, Henry Street, Moore Street, Parnell Street, and in Drogheda town who support our street outreach and testing services and also to the staff of The George, Pantibar, Outhouse, and the Boilerhouse for hosting our KnowNow Rapid HIV Testing service.





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