



**HIV Ireland**  
Annual Report  
2018

# 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.

Despite many 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 continue to take a pragmatic approach to the need for health and wellbeing services that can reach people who are marginalised, and at high risk of HIV infection. We provide free targeted community HIV and STI testing amongst the migrant community, people who use drugs, people who are homeless, and sex workers. We are also involved in HIV prevention work, and outreach work that builds relationships so we can link people into testing, counselling, support, free condoms provision and information.

In 2019, we will be concentrating on developing a new 5-year strategy for HIV Ireland. It is crucial we ensure the experiences of people living with HIV in Ireland are central within this process. Their voices, supported by almost 30 years of HIV Ireland's experience and expertise, will ensure we continue to respond effectively to the many challenges that HIV presents us with in Ireland.

## **Our Mission**

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

## **Our Vision**

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

## Chairperson's Foreword

**On behalf of the Board of HIV Ireland I am pleased to introduce our 2018 Annual Report. Another year of challenging but impactful work has been completed by HIV Ireland.**

The importance of these efforts, and those of our many partners, cannot be underestimated. Once again in the pages of another Annual Report I note that new HIV diagnoses in Ireland continued to increase - in 2018 to their highest level on record. Ireland has now experienced a 35% increase in new diagnoses since 2011. Whilst there are many reasons behind the growth in these figures, they are a stark reminder of the challenge that HIV continues to pose in our society and the necessity of this organisation to continue to engage, contribute and serve. HIV Ireland does not operate alone and much of our work is undertaken in partnership with other organisations, agencies and individuals. This partnership approach is at the heart of our organisation, and has been keenly evidenced throughout the past year. We have continued to work closely with our sexual health colleagues across the country on further developing Rapid HIV Testing, while reaching out to new colleagues in our efforts to expand our work within key populations affected by HIV. 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.

2018 was a notable year for our renewed efforts to expand our

message and strive to further our ambition in providing expertise and experience in education, community activity, testing, advocacy and support. On Irish AIDS Day we launched the inaugural Red Ball, and we were grateful for the attendance of our guest of honour, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. The Red Ball was an opportunity to reach out and engage with our partners, sponsors, and supporters, and I thank them all for their great generosity which helps to advance our goals. I most particularly wish to mark the incredible efforts of my fellow Board member Jeanne McDonagh in organising and choreographing the event so successfully. I also thank her team of volunteers who gave so kindly of their time.

This brings me to thank the entire Board - HIV Ireland is lucky to have such expertise in so many areas available to it, and I thank each of my fellow Board members for their service and their invaluable contributions.

Also, as part of our renewed commitment to reaching out publicly I recall the incredibly effective event we organised at Leinster House marking World AIDS Day where six national party leaders volunteered to publicly undergo a Rapid HIV Test to help promote the importance of getting tested. By doing so they also took a major step forward in reducing HIV related stigma in Ireland. Such political leadership is crucial in responding to the challenges that HIV presents in Ireland today. These events help to tackle stigma and drive a message of inclusion, tolerance and understanding. We have developed a strategy to continue this approach, and so in this regard we launched the #5Asks campaign in 2018. That campaign continues our commitment to the U=U message and the campaign for properly available PrEP in Ireland. We were among the first to advance the issue of the Fast Track Cities initiative being adopted

in Ireland. Progress is already being made on these issues but that will only encourage us to push further on behalf of those affected by HIV.

For HIV Ireland to effectively respond to the increase in new HIV diagnoses, we recognise the importance of bringing all our experience and knowledge to bear within the political and public policy arena. In 2018, we worked closely with the main political parties to highlight the issue of HIV in Ireland, and how best it should be responded to. We will continue to speak up for those living with HIV and those at risk or affected by the illness.

In terms of our own organisation I want to wholeheartedly thank all those who support our work and particularly mark the contribution of our dedicated and experienced staff. Their commitment and skill is augmented by the contribution of the volunteers of HIV Ireland. That work together undoubtedly enhances the lives of many people living with HIV in Ireland. I sincerely thank them all for their hard work.

On behalf of the Board I wish to express our appreciation to all those who helped fund the organisation. I cannot but emphasise the importance of this support in allowing us to continue to provide services, and survive as a potent force engaged with the issues that HIV presents, and will continue to present into the future. New challenges lie ahead - the introduction of PrEP, the advances in testing technology, stigma and the challenges for those growing older. We must remain ready to engage, ready to evolve and ready to speak up as we always have. Thank you to all who assisted in last year's great efforts.



**Bernard Condon SC**  
Chairperson, HIV Ireland

## Service Delivery 2018

**HIV Ireland's service delivery for 2018 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, support, and 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 community street outreach service in which free condoms, sexual health literature, and information on our HIV and STI testing service is disseminated to at-risk groups. Community Support staff provide training on HIV related issues and respond to public queries in relation to HIV and STIs. Staff accommodate agency visits and researchers seeking information on the services of HIV Ireland as well as on past and present issues for PLWHIV. Community Support 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.

**PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV**

In 2018, HIV Ireland supported a total of 458 people living with HIV (307 Males and 151 Females) with a total of 2,495 interventions (an average of 5.4 interventions per person). Interventions related to advocacy and mediation, counselling, 1-to-1 support for PLWHIV, and information queries. See Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Summary of Interventions for PLWHIV 2018*

Type of Support	Total Number of Interventions
Advocacy and Mediation	1,003
1-to-1 support	389
Counselling	314
Training	102
Health & Welfare Information	598
Legal Information & Support	89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,495</b>

Advocacy and Mediation interventions in 2018 related to HIV stigma and discrimination cases and complaints, housing and homelessness, Direct Provision Centres for Asylum Seekers, and Social Protection. Support interventions centred on disclosure in both personal and formal settings, and on accessing peer support. Information interventions related mostly to health/life insurance, disclosure to potential employees, social welfare queries, and on providing information and orientation to those seeking to move to, or return to, Ireland. Where possible, staff seek to ascertain every clients’ current health status in the event that further HIV or other medical interventions may be required. This is particularly so with vulnerable groups such as the homeless, drug users, and migrants navigating the Irish health system.

**CAPACITY BUILDING OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV**

In 2018, HIV Ireland continued to work closely with, and support, Positive Now and the All-Ireland Network of People Living with HIV. During 2018, the numbers of affiliates within the network increased to over 300 individuals. HIV Ireland supported Positive Now (all volunteers) in holding monthly support/social groups for their peers living with HIV and in providing peer support for the newly diagnosed. Positive Now also engaged with a wide variety of agencies, businesses, media outlets, and researchers looking for PLWHIV representation and/or to conduct specific pieces of work.

Positive Now held the 2nd Conference for People Living with HIV in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Held on January 20th at the Academy Hotel in Dublin, the conference attracted 87 PLWHIV from around the country. A pre-conference social event the prior evening was attended by 74 PLWHIV. Conference topics, chosen during a planning forum with affiliates of the network, included: HIV and Aging (Dr Paddy Mallon, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Mater Hospital); Making Rights Real for People Living with HIV (Niall Crowley, Independent Equality and Human Rights Expert); Bye Bye Stigma; Hello Gorgeous! (Leo Schenk, Editor of Hello Gorgeous, Netherlands) Exploration of the Experiences of Gay Men Living with HIV in Ireland (John McDermott, Social Worker, Beaumont Hospital). An afternoon workshop on engaging in



peer support was also held. Preliminary work on devising a booklet for the newly diagnosed was also begun during this time.

In March, HIV Ireland and Positive Now were visited by the two Swedish groups Posithiva Gruppen and Kvinnocirkeln Sverige (KCS), the Swedish Women’s Circle. In a day-long event, the four organisations presented on our respective work, discussed current trends in the HIV field, and shared ideas for future work together. The day ended with a make-up tutorial for both men and women, provided by MAC volunteers from both Arnotts and Brown Thomas department stores.

**The Women’s Group**

In July, HIV Ireland and Positive Now invited women living with HIV from the four provinces, to attend a day long workshop on Self-Care; this was facilitated by Oragh Hester and followed by an evening social event. As a result of this day, the attendees formed ‘The Women’s Group’ on WhatsApp. They arranged a second day for women in September in which the women attending had professional photographs taken by one of the group members.



**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 2018, HIV Ireland conducted free HIV and STI testing in Dublin and partnered with both the Red Door Project and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in providing this service in Drogheda.

**DUBLIN TESTING SERVICE**

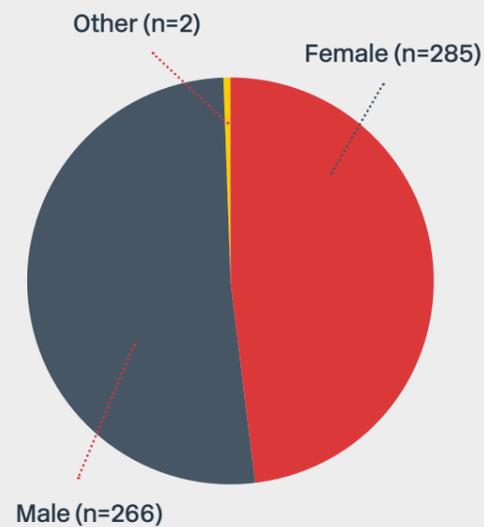
Our Community HIV and STI Testing Service in Dublin operates in our building and is run in conjunction with the GUIDE Clinic (St. James’s Hospital). It is a low-threshold service, underpinned by a street outreach service which targets at-risk communities. During the registration process, participants are given an anonymous profile form to complete on their personal smart phones or on tablets provided by HIV Ireland; this allows us to ascertain unique information on those coming in for testing, giving us an overall picture, and profile, of our testing participants.

**Profile of Testing Participants**

A total of 553 individuals (266 males, 285 females, and 2 individuals identifying with the given category of ‘other’) presented for testing at HIV Ireland and knew their HIV and STI status in 2018. Of these individuals, 54% had tested at least once before with us.

Those born outside of Ireland represented 63% of those who presented for testing. See Table 2 below.

**Gender of Testing Participants**



In relation to Sexual Preference, 43% (n=238) of participants were women who liked having sex with men, 34% (n=188) were men who liked having sex with women, and 14% (n=77) were men who liked having sex with men. 3% (n=17) of participants were men who stated they liked sex with both men and women and 5% (n=28) were women who liked sex with both men and women. A further 1% of participants (n=5) did not identify with any of the given sexual preferences.

Of the 553 people who identified how they became aware of our testing service, 40% (n=221) heard about the service through Google, 33% (n=189) became aware through various HIV Ireland advertising modes and 26% (n=143) through word of mouth. See Table 3 below.

**Table 2: Country/Area of Origin of Testing Participants 2018**

Country/Area of Origin	Frequency/ Top 3 Percentages
Ireland	205 (37%)
South America	95 (17%)
Western Europe	73*(13%)
Central or Eastern Europe	61
Sub-Saharan Africa	5~
Southern Africa/West Africa	30
North Africa/Middle East	18
South or South East Asia	17
North America	16
Other	33

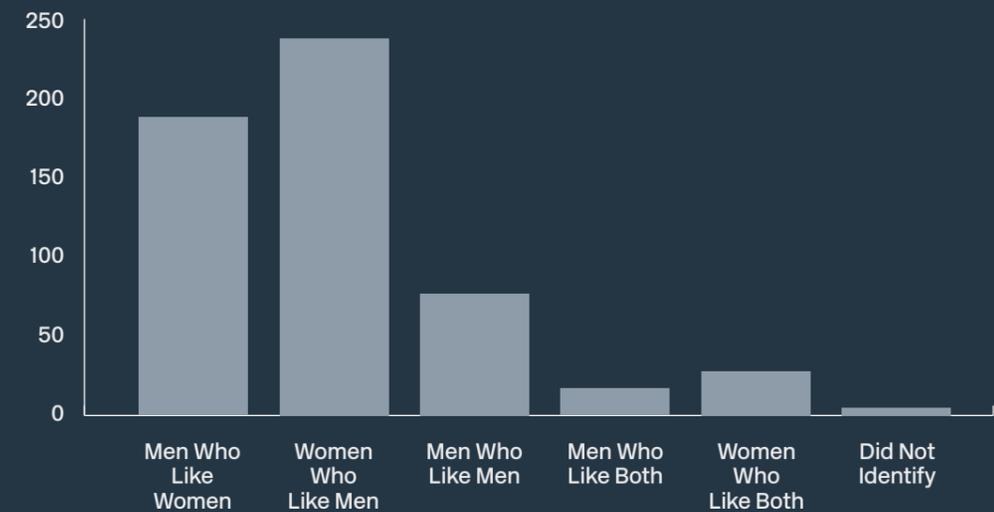
\* Combined with Eastern Europe, total European percentage = 24% (n=134)  
 ~ Combined with other African/Middle Eastern Regions, total percentage = 10% (n=53)

**Table 3: How Testing Participants Heard of HIV Ireland's HIV and STI Testing Service 2018**

Mode	Frequency/Top 3 Percentages
Google Search	221 (40%)
Word of Mouth	143 (26%)
HIV Ireland Website	101 (18%)
HIV Ireland Facebook Page	39
HIV Ireland Sexual Health Testing Service Booklet and Leaflet (Outreach)	28
Poster in HIVI Front Window	11
Referral from a Hospital	5
Referral from Another Agency	5

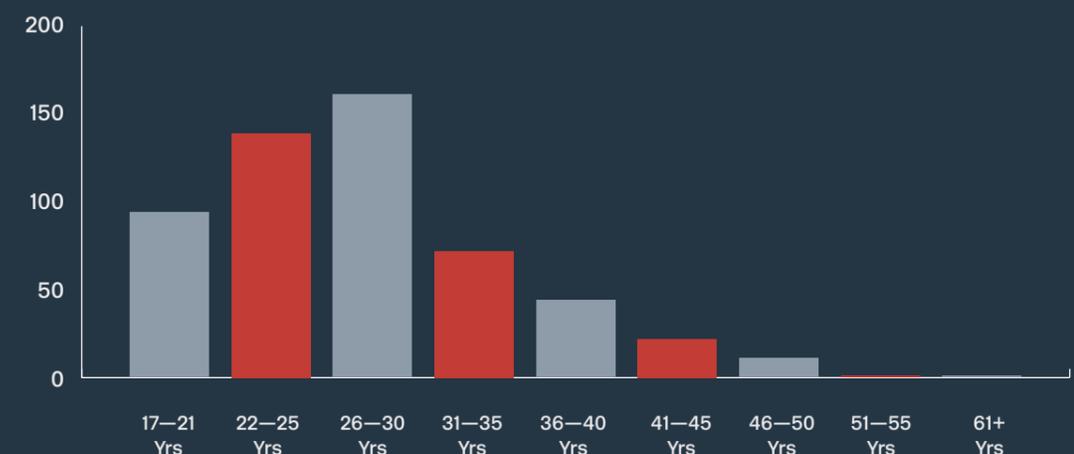
Combined on-line total = 65% (n=361)

**Sexual Preference of Testing Participants**

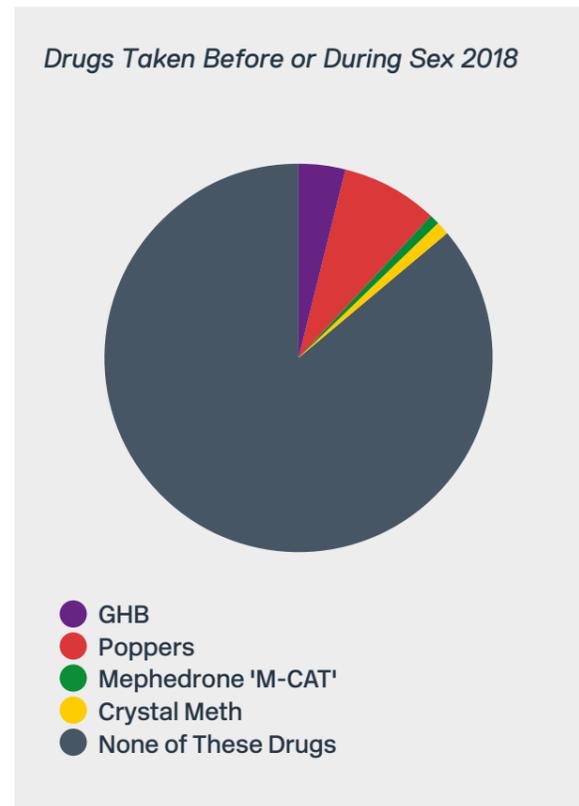


The vast majority of those who tested were in the age group 22 yrs – 30 yrs (54%, n=300). The younger cohort of those aged 17 yrs – 21 yrs (n=94) made up 17% all those who tested and the older cohort of those aged 51 yrs or over represented just over 1% of those who tested.

**Table 4 Age Range of Testing Participants 2018**



When asked about drugs taken before or during sex, 8% (n=40) had taken Poppers, 4% (n=22) of participants had taken GHB (known also as 'G'), 1% (n=5) had taken Crystal Meth and a further 1% (n=5) had taken Mephedrone (also known as 'M-CAT').



**Additional Profile Information**

Participants who tested resided mainly in Dublin north inner-city areas adjacent to HIV Ireland's location (Dublin 1, 3, 7, and 9; n=238 (43%). A total of 17 other Dublin postal code districts were represented by participants, with 5% (n=27) coming from Dublin 11 and 15 respectively. 8% (n=44) of those who tested reside in County Dublin. 4 additional counties of residence were noted, representing those living in Leinster (n=30).

2% (n=11) of testing participants declared themselves from the Travelling or Roma Community, 47% (n=260) declared themselves to be a citizen of another country, and 10% (n=55) of individuals hoped to become a citizen of Ireland. 2% (n=11) identified as having experienced IV drug use and a further 12% (n=66) of participants had experienced homelessness.

**Testing Queries**

In 2018, there were 557 phone queries specifically related to HIV Ireland's testing service. Phone calls from males numbered 333 and those from females numbered 224.

**'Turn-Aways'**

During 2018, a total of 334 people (192 males and 142 females) were unable to access our HIV and STI testing service due to the full capacity of each testing session.



**HIV and STI Detection Rates**

In our Dublin testing service, there were a total of 5 HIV detections and 76 STI detections. However, all HIV detections were in clients later discovered to be already on HIV treatment. Two people tested positive for Hepatitis B, both were on treatment for this. See Table 5.

**Table 5: Number of new HIV and STI Detections 2018 (Dublin)**

	HIV	Chlamydia	Gonorrhoea	Syphilis	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
Male	6	24	1	16	1	1
Female	1	28	6	0	1	0
Total	7	52	7	16	2	1

**DROGHEDA TESTING SERVICE**

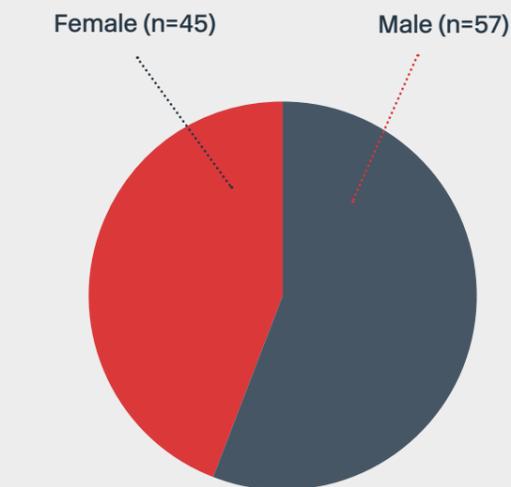
In 2018, HIV Ireland continued to partner with the Red Door Project and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda in providing a once a month free HIV and STI Testing service targeting intravenous drug users and/or the homeless as well as migrants, particularly those coming from countries where HIV is endemic.

**Profile of Testing Participants (Drogheda)**

During 2018, a total of 102 individuals (57 Males, 45 Females) presented for testing at the Red Door Project for HIV and STIs over 11 testing sessions.

Those born in Ireland represented 76% (n=78) of those who presented for testing, followed by those born in North Africa/Middle East (n=8) and Sub-Saharan Africa (n=6). See Table 6 below.

**Gender of Testing Participants (Drogheda)**

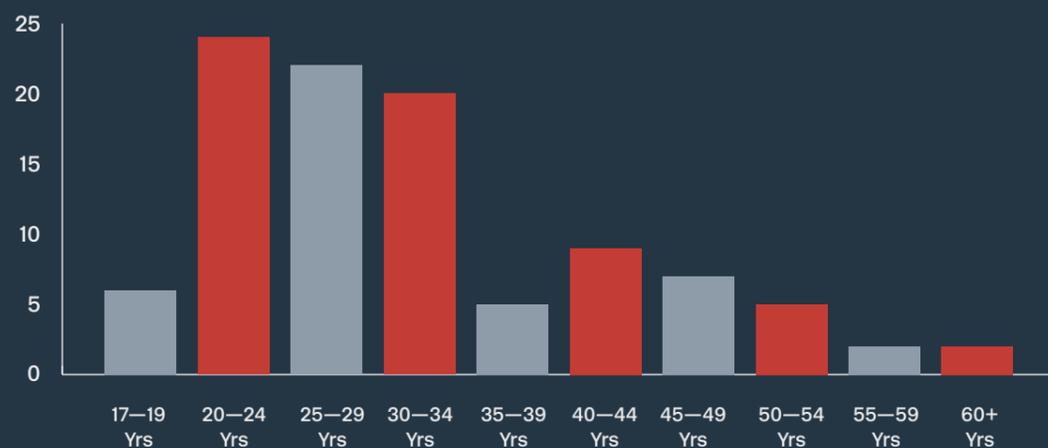


**Table 6: Country/Area of Origin of Testing Participants 2018 (Drogheda)**

Country/Area of Origin	Frequency/Top Percentages
Ireland	78 (76%)
North Africa/Middle East	8 (7%)
Sub-Saharan Africa	6 (5%)
Central or Eastern Europe	4
South East Asia	3
Western Europe	1
North American	1
South American	1

Those in the age bracket of 20 yrs–24 yrs represented the highest number of participants testing in Drogheda (n=24), closely followed by the 25–29 yrs age bracket (n=22). Noting these two brackets, as well as the 6 individuals aged 17–19, 51% of all testing participants were under 30 years of age. The third highest age bracket represented those aged 30–34 yrs (n=21).

**Age Range of Testing Participants 2018 (Drogheda)**



When asked how they became aware of the testing service at the Red Door Project, 36% (n=35) of testing participants heard about the service through Red Door Project staff members or through outreach conducted by Red Door Project/HIV Ireland staff. 19% (n=19) became aware through Facebook (including HIV Ireland and The Red Door Project pages) and 17% (n=17) through a Google search. 10% (n=10) of participants heard about it through word of mouth. 15% (n=15) were signposted by a GP, Hospital, or other Agency. See Table 7.

**Table 7: How Testing Participants Heard of HIV Ireland's HIV and STI Testing Service 2018 (Drogheda)**

Mode	Frequency/Top 3 Percentages
Red Door Project Staff/Outreach	35 (36%)
Facebook	19 (19%)
Google	17 (17%)
Word of Mouth	10
GP	1
Hospital	8
Other Agency	5
LGBT Group	1
Other	2

Missing Cases = 4

The vast majority of testing participants (65%) resided in Louth at the time of testing. 29% resided in neighbouring County Meath. See Table 8.

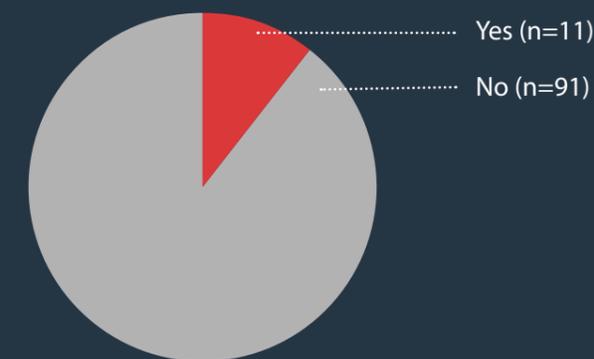
**Table 8: Residence of Testing Participants 2018 (Drogheda)**

County	Frequency/Top 2 Percentages
Louth	63 (65%)
Meath	28 (29%)
Dublin	6

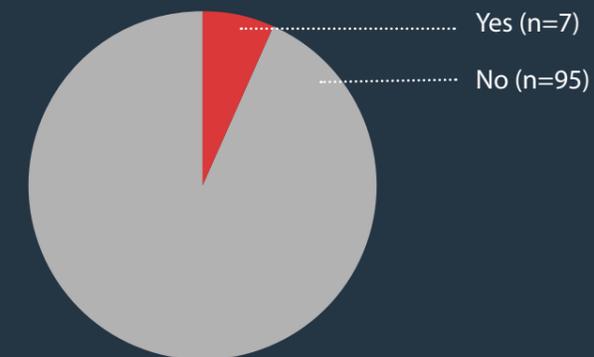
Missing Cases = 5

Core target groups of our testing service in Drogheda were those that had experienced IV drug use and/or homelessness. 11% indicated they had experienced homelessness and 7% stated they had experienced IV drug use.

**Have You Experienced Homelessness?**



**Have You Experienced IV Drug Use?**



**HIV and STI Detection Rates (Drogheda)**

In our Drogheda Testing service, there was a total of 8 STI detections. See Table 9 below.

*Table 9: Number of new HIV and STI Detections 2018 (Dublin)*

	HIV	Chlamydia	Gonorrhoea	Syphilis	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
Male	2	3*	1	0	0	0
Female	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	2	4	1	0	0	1

\* 1 male tested positive for both rectal Chlamydia and HIV.



**KNOWNOW SERVICE**

KnowNow is a free, peer-led, community based, rapid HIV testing service for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men. In 2018 the service was operating in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway. HIV Ireland provided management and governance of the service in those four counties and delivered the service to users in Dublin.

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'. 11 gay and bisexual men were recruited for the KnowNow training programme which took place in October, all of whom successfully passed training and joined the service. Excluding the 5 men who no longer volunteer or who are on breaks from volunteering, the service in Dublin has 31 active volunteers.

In total, 1,326 rapid HIV tests were carried out by KnowNow Dublin volunteers in 2018. Within this period, 17 reactive results were delivered – a reactivity rate of 1.3%. 15 were confirmed positive and successfully linked to care and 2 refused referral for confirmatory testing. 108 people were turned away due to the service meeting capacity.

*Table 10: Reactivity of KnowNow Dublin Testing 2018*

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	TOTAL
Number of rapid HIV tests	349	347	309	321	1326
Number of reactive tests	4	5	4	4	17
Reactivity rate					1.3%

**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 2018, HIV Ireland conducted outreach to Baleskin Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers (Dublin) and to Mosney Reception Centre (County Meath) in order to promote sexual health testing and information 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 free HIV and STI service targeting intravenous drug users, the homeless, and migrants (see above). In total, 68 street outreach sessions were conducted in Dublin and Louth in 2018. (See also *Free Condom Service and Outreach*).

**GENERAL PUBLIC**

Our Community Support staff field 'walk-in' queries, calls, and emails from the general public which includes the significant others, family, and friends of people living with HIV, a variety of professionals, as well as the general public looking for information on HIV and other STIs. In 2018, there were a total of 397 members of general public – including professionals - who sought out information from HIV Ireland. The vast majority of these had questions relating to HIV and STI risks, how to support friends, family, and partners, as well as clients living with HIV. In the event that CS staff are unavailable, callers are referred to the HSE HIV/Drugs Helpline.

**AGENCY VISITS AND RESEARCHERS**

Community Support Staff host agency and college visits and work with students and other researchers, providing information on, and insight into, services and issues for PLWHIV. In 2018, HIV Ireland facilitated 9 students (3 secondary school students, 2 MA students, 2 MSc students, and 2 PhD students) and accommodated visits from 13 organisations including those from the drug, homeless, mental health, HIV and sexual health, and general medical health sectors.



**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, a training for trainers programme (Let’s Talk About...Safer Sex) for youth and community workers, and training on Chemsex (the use of drugs to facilitate sexual activity).

Our primary focus for training delivery is the training of staff and professionals who may work with groups at risk of HIV and vulnerable to experiencing negative 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.

**TRAINING DELIVERY 2018**

A total of 29 various education and training programmes were delivered in 2018 to a total of 372 participants.

**Annual Calendar of Training**

Ten training programmes were delivered as part of our annual calendar of training. These programmes included education on HIV, hepatitis, STIs, Chemsex (in partnership with the Gay Men’s Health Service HSE), and HIV training for Counsellors.

**Training Partnerships**

HIV Ireland works in partnership with organisations to provide and facilitate the delivery of training. Partnerships in 2018 included the North West Inner City Network, Dóchas Centre – Irish Prison Service, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, the Talbot Centre (Learning Together, Working Together programme), the Irish Family Planning Association, Foróige (REAL U Programme), Offaly County Council Community and Local Development, and the Gay Men’s Health Service HSE (Understanding Chemsex training). A total of 20 education and training programmes were delivered in 2018 as part of these partnerships.



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

Three training for trainers programmes were delivered in 2018 with a total of 31 participants completing the programme. One programme was delivered in partnership with Offaly County Council Community and Local Development, and one in partnership with Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (funded by the St. Stephen’s Green Trust). The third programme was delivered as part of our annual calendar of training.



Training participants from the Offaly County Council Community and Local Development partnership who completed the Let’s Talk About... Safer Sex training for trainers programme in March 2018.

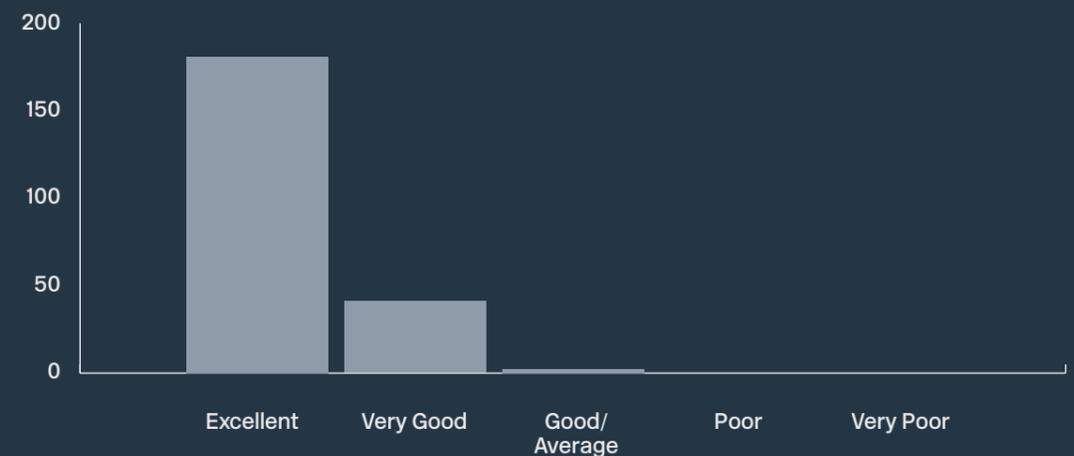
**TRAINING EVALUATION 2018**

Training participants are invited to complete an evaluation form following participation on an education and training programme organised and delivered by HIV Ireland. In 2018, 223 training participants completed an evaluation form and the majority of training participants (84%) rated the training programmes as ‘Excellent’.

*Words used to describe our Education and Training in 2018*



*Education and Training Programmes 2018 Participant Rating*



**FREE CONDOMS SERVICE**

HIV Ireland's free condoms services are focused mainly on key population groups at risk of HIV and STIs. 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 2018, a total of 25,160 free condoms were provided/distributed.

- 36% were distributed as part of our street and volunteer outreach programmes which primarily targets migrant population groups.
- 24% were provided to organisations working with young people for distribution through their services or for specific youth-focused events.
- 21% were distributed to drug user population groups/organisations.
- 10% were provided as part of our walk-in service.
- The remaining 9% were provided to organisations who work with sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), and people living with HIV. (Note: free condoms for MSM population groups are primarily provided through our partnership with the Gay Health Network via the joint HSE Man2Man.ie programme).
- 75 organisations/groups were supported in 2018 with the provision of free condoms for various events and services.

- The number of people accessing the walk-in service at HIV Ireland increased by 16.8% in 2018 when compared to 2017.
- 20 events were supported at third-level colleges including SHAG Week, Freshers Week, Health Promotion Days, Music Events and World AIDS Day initiatives.

**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, conferences, seminars, and through our training and support services.

In 2018, this continued to be a popular service with 21,330 information leaflets, booklets, posters, and red ribbons provided/distributed. 102 requests from organisations were supported for various services and events. Newly published resources added to the service in 2018 included Smoking and HIV information leaflets and posters, and GHB harm reduction information posters and cards.

**NEWSDESK WEEKLY**

The HIV Ireland NewsDesk Weekly includes news and updates on relevant national, European and international news and policy issues about 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.

40 editions of NewsDesk Weekly were published in 2018. There was a 14% increase in subscribers to the NewsDesk in 2018, and individuals and organisations can subscribe through the HIV Ireland website.

# Red Ball 2018

To mark Irish AIDS Day, the Inaugural Red Ball took place on 16th June 2018 at the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin. The event was opened by Miriam O'Callaghan RTE broadcaster. Those attending enjoyed a great dinner and an auction and raffle was hosted by Baz Ashmazy, Irish radio and TV personality. The night finished with music from Camille O'Sullivan and a disco set by DJ Tonie Walsh. The Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D., delivered the following speech.

## Speech by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, T.D.



Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to be here this evening at the inaugural Red Ball.

Today is Bloomsday and earlier I had the traditional 'Ulysses' breakfast of slightly burnt kidneys at the James Joyce Centre.

Joyce's masterpiece is about many things. One idea that runs through it is the stigma associated with certain medical conditions. We learn a lot from the way they are used as a source of humour, to mock and to shame.

Joyce believed that history was a nightmare from which we are trying to awake. I believe the history of how we used to treat people with HIV and AIDS was a nightmare that we are only now beginning to wake up from.

In place of judgement, we need understanding.

In place of coldness, we need compassion. I am here tonight because I believe we should celebrate the work of HIV Ireland and others, and we should take every opportunity we can to educate ourselves and raise awareness.

For over thirty years, HIV Ireland has provided a range of essential free services: counselling, information, advice, education, training, community support, and testing.

Every day you fulfil your mandate to help people and that's thanks to your hard working staff and dedicated volunteers.

All of you working in this challenging area can be:

- proud of your achievements;
- proud of how much you do to help and protect those living with HIV and AIDS; and
- proud that you care so much about their health and wellbeing.

I was honoured to officially launch HIV Ireland on World AIDS Day in 2015 while Minister for Health.

The change of name was an acknowledgement that the great improvements in treatment now mean that for many living with HIV in Ireland progression to AIDS is no longer inevitable.

Earlier this year the first audit of HIV treatment services was carried.

We now know that people attending HIV services in Ireland are doing very well. Last year, 5317 people living with HIV attended HIV services with 98% on antiretroviral drugs. Of those, 95% were virally suppressed.

Unfortunately, even today HIV is still one of the most stigmatised medical conditions.

This stigma is an additional burden on top of the burden of the disease.

This month marks 25 years since the decriminalisation of homosexuality. Three years since the marriage equality referendum.

The stigma against gay people is largely lifted. The same must happen for people who are HIV positive.

In the past, HIV Ireland has conducted excellent research on HIV-related stigma. It has shown how people may feel socially alienated from wider society to the point of feeling desperate.

So, events like tonight reach out to everyone who has been affected by HIV. When you raise awareness, when you inform and educate, you reduce stigma and fear.

The money raised from this event is also important, and the message it sends is even more valuable.

It says that we stand in solidarity with those who have HIV, their family and their friends.

Our strategy on National Sexual Health is set within the wider Healthy Ireland framework. A cross Government programme to encourage us all to make the right choices and improve our own health.

One of our goals is to ensure that everyone in Ireland receives comprehensive and age-appropriate sexual health education and information.

This builds on the positive and strong partnerships that exist between the voluntary sector in this area and the HSE's Sexual Health Crisis Pregnancy Programme.

We are also developing HIV prevention strategies. We are all aware of the recent availability of generic PrEP.

This is a significant positive step towards making this prevention tool more readily available to those at risk of HIV in Ireland.

However, there is a safety issue here. We need to ensure that people taking PrEP

are appropriately monitored so that they, and potentially others, come to no harm.

To achieve this, the HSE Sexual Health Crisis Pregnancy Programme has convened a multisectoral group to make recommendations around HIV PrEP for Ireland.

It recently disseminated practical guidance to healthcare professionals around caring for individuals accessing PrEP themselves, including sourcing medicines online.

It helps ensure that health care professionals are aware of how best to use PrEP, and that everyone is aware of how best to take PrEP.

We have also asked for a Health Technology Assessment of a HIV PrEP programme in Ireland. I am confident that we will have one in place next year and I expect no less.

I am grateful to have this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the Sexual Health Programme for their work, and all of you who are making a difference in this area.

The challenge of reducing the number of new HIV diagnoses in Ireland is a major public health issue.

I am pleased at the success of near patient and rapid testing. Initial results indicate that it has helped to capture people who otherwise would not get tested. This is so important because we know that people most likely to pass on HIV are those who don't know their status.

I began with Joyce, so perhaps I'll conclude with another Irish writer, this time the great 19th century novelist, George Eliot.

She believed that 'the growing good of the world' depended on ordinary people doing extraordinary things that would never appear in the history books.

Your action tonight and throughout the year contributes greatly to the growing good of the world.

And I am delighted to be here tonight on behalf of the Government and wider society to acknowledge that.

Thank You and enjoy your evening.

the  
**RED**  
ball



## Campaigns & Events



the  
**RED**  
ball

16 June 2018

## Thank you to our sponsors

We would like to thank the following organisations who have kindly donated funds to support the work of HIV Ireland and supporting people living with HIV.



DIAGEO



## Supporters

We would like to thank the following supporters who have helped make this night possible:

AVCOM



EVERSHED'S  
SUTHERLAND

SMIRNOFF

Standard Life



verve  
THE LIFE AGENCY

## HIV Ireland Community

HIV Ireland would also like to thank the individuals and companies within our community who have kindly supported this evening.

HIV Ireland is extremely grateful for the support of the individuals, companies and government departments who make our work possible. By working together to raise both funds and awareness of HIV in Ireland we can increase our impact and ensure that those living with HIV are afforded the best possible care. For further information on our work and how to get involved please see [www.hivireland.ie](http://www.hivireland.ie)

@HIVireland

#RedBall

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/justcarryone)), highlighting key messages about condom use, STI prevention, STI testing and where to access free condoms. Competitions are held throughout the year to encourage engagement with followers.

In 2018, an average of 3 campaign posts per week were published on Facebook, with a cumulative audience reach of 231k.

At the end of 2018 the campaign had 17,620 followers.

- 63% of followers are male and 37% female.
- 72% of followers are aged 18 to 24 years – the primary target group - and 24% are aged 25 to 34 years.
- Of the total followers where country location data is available, 16,200 (92%) are located in Ireland.



### Dublin Bus Summer Campaign 2018

In June and July 2018, the Just Carry One campaign was promoted on Dublin Bus. This promotional campaign was supported by Durex.

The campaign aimed to encourage the use of condoms to prevent STIs, signposting people to the free condoms service at HIV Ireland. Posters were displayed on half of the Dublin Bus fleet and Durex contributed free condoms for the duration of the campaign.

The Dublin Bus poster campaign was complemented by a social media campaign with the support of James Kavanagh, on behalf of Durex. Competitions were held on various social media platforms with prizes supplied by Durex, and podcasts and videos were used to communicate key messages about STI prevention and testing, and encouraging the consistent use of condoms.

The campaign gained a lot of media interest with print coverage in the Irish Independent and the Irish Daily Mirror, broadcast coverage on RTE2FM (The Eoghan McDermott Show) and online coverage at [buzz.ie](http://buzz.ie), [JOE.ie](http://JOE.ie), [Extra.ie](http://Extra.ie), [shemazing.net](http://shemazing.net), [SpunOut.ie](http://SpunOut.ie), and [GoDublin.info](http://GoDublin.info).

Over the duration of the campaign, there was a 170% increase in people accessing the free condoms walk-in service at HIV Ireland when compared to the same period the previous year, with significant increases noted in females accessing the service.





**PRESENTATIONS**

HIV Ireland’s expertise in the area of HIV and Sexual Health is well recognised and we work to educate the public on arising issues for PLWHIV, particularly around HIV related stigma and discrimination. In 2018, we engaged with the following:

**UCD Students (Annual Lecture — Professional Clinical Practice)**

This lecture, now in its 10th year, is an integral part of the “Professional Clinical Practice” module offered to both junior and senior medical students of University College Dublin. Given by our senior counsellor, the lecture offers insights into the differing perspectives of clients living with HIV or AIDS and emphasises the impact that words and the delivery of information by professionals can have on often vulnerable individuals. Held in May, the lecture was attended by over 100 3rd and 4th year students.

**Positiva Gruppen and Kvinnocirkeln Sverige (KCS), the Swedish Women’s Circle**

In March, HIV Ireland presented on its history and services to Positiva Gruuppen and Kvinnocirkeln Sverige (KCS), two HIV organisations visiting from Sweden.

**International Studies Abroad (ISA)**

In August, HIV Ireland presented on its services and HIV related issues to 15 Public Health Master’s Degree students from San Francisco, USA who are aligned with ISA (International Studies Abroad). Visits from ISA have become an annual event.

**MAN2MAN.IE**

As part of our partnership work, HIV Ireland supports initiatives developed by the Gay Health Network (GHN).

Man2Man.ie is a national HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Awareness programme targeting men who have sex with men (MSM) in Ireland, and is a joint GHN and HSE initiative.

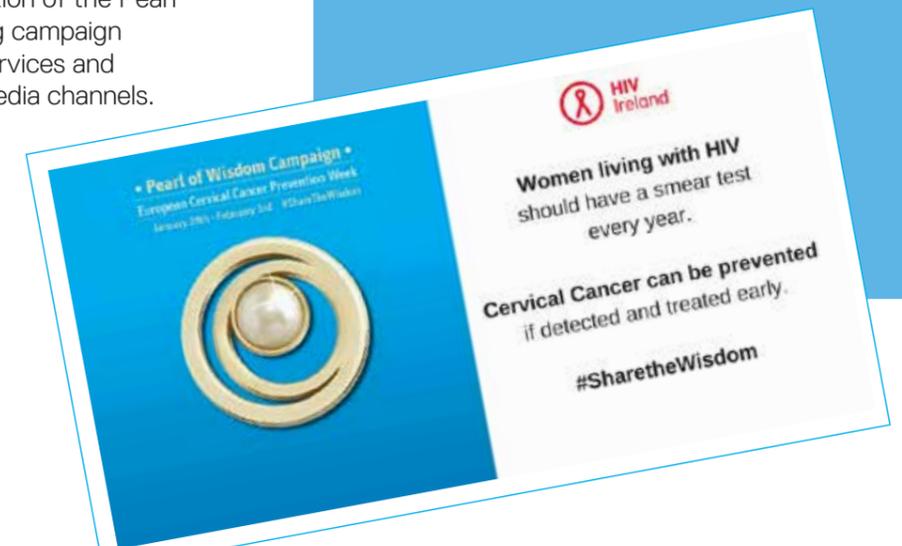
The Man2Man.ie programme was sustained throughout 2018 with support funding from the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme and the MAC AIDS Fund. The programme primarily consists of:

- A dedicated website ([www.man2man.ie](http://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.

**EUROPEAN CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION WEEK**

For European Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, which took place from 28<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018, HIV Ireland promoted key messages for women living with HIV about cervical cancer prevention and awareness.

HIV Ireland also supported the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) and CervicalCheck.ie with the promotion of the Pearl of Wisdom Campaign, distributing campaign information packs through our services and promoting messages via social media channels.



**PREP LOCATOR MAP**

In December 2017, HIV Ireland welcomed the announcement by Teva Pharmaceuticals Ireland that it would be introducing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to Ireland. From 4th December 2017, a generic version of the medication (Emtricitabine/Tenofovir disoproxil Teva) was made available in pharmacies in the Republic of Ireland, and can be obtained with a doctor's prescription.

In 2018 HIV Ireland worked with Teva Pharmaceuticals to provide information about pharmacies stocking and supplying PrEP in Ireland. A PrEP stockists locator map was developed for our website.



**ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY**

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, and HIV Ireland supports the initiative every year focusing on zero discrimination for people living with HIV.

The 2018 Zero Discrimination Day campaign invited people to ask themselves 'What if ...' and to reflect upon their own actions. Discrimination is often based on misinformation or fear of the unknown. By reflecting on people in everyday situations, the campaign challenged people to recognise where everyday discrimination takes place and to take action to stop it.



**BRASS MUNKIE ISSUE 34: BBV SPECIAL**

In 2018 HIV Ireland worked with UISCE to produce a special issue of the Brass Munkie magazine on Blood Borne Viruses (BBV), and specifically HIV and Hepatitis C. Now that we have the medication to cure Hepatitis C, and more options available to prevent the onward transmission of HIV, this was an important piece of work to inform, educate and raise awareness about these progressive changes amongst the population of people who use drugs.

HIV Ireland contributed information and articles about PrEP, Treatment as Prevention (Undetectable = Untransmittable), and HIV testing and services information.

UISCE is the Union for Improved Services, Communication and Education and has been the representative voice of people who use drugs in Ireland since 1992.

**SMOKING AND HIV – WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2018**

Every year on World No Tobacco Day (31st May), the World Health Organisation (WHO) highlights the health and other risks associated with tobacco use.

For World No Tobacco Day 2018, HIV Ireland launched a new campaign encouraging people living with HIV to get informed and educated about the health risks associated with smoking. This project was funded by MSD Ireland.

Cigarette smoking is one of the most harmful health concerns facing people with HIV today. HIV positive people are more likely to be smokers and the smoking prevalence among people living with HIV in Ireland is significantly higher than that of the general population.

Better treatment options have changed the long-term outlook for people with HIV, and HIV Ireland produced new resources, including an information leaflet and promotional posters, with factual evidence-based information about smoking and HIV and the health benefits of quitting.

The HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme held a conference in Dublin on 31st May 2018 to mobilise and empower key stakeholders at a community level to actively support the drive towards a tobacco-free Ireland. Minister Catherine Byrne, T.D. opened the conference and HIV Ireland attended the event to highlight the need for supports for HIV positive people to help reduce the harms associated with tobacco use.



**16TH ANNUAL GAY HEALTH FORUM (GHF16)**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Gay Health Forum took place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 at the Conference Centre, Dublin Castle. This annual event is organised by the Gay Men’s Health Service HSE, the Gay Health Network and HIV Ireland, and is supported by the Department of Health and the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme.

This annual forum provides an important platform for presentations from up to date research, surveillance, policy and clinical information, from those involved with and working in the areas of HIV and sexual health in Ireland and internationally.

GHF16 was officially opened with an address by Catherine Byrne, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy.



**AIDS 2018**

The International AIDS Conference, which takes place every two years, represents the largest conference on any global health issue in the world. The theme of AIDS 2018, held in Amsterdam in July, was ‘Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges’. HIV Ireland attended the event which brought together over 16,000 researchers, advocates, policy makers, funders and community leaders from more than 160 countries.

HIV Ireland was invited by the European Civil Society Forum to present in their Global Village Booth on HIV-related stigma in Ireland and the findings from the 2017 People Living with HIV Stigma Survey.

Following on from the conference, Irish Aid, the Irish Forum for Global Health (IFGH), Concern Worldwide and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland held a follow-up event, bringing together health workers, patient advocates, and civil society to present their highlights of AIDS 2018 and the implications for the Irish and global response to the epidemic.

The event took place on Friday 5th October 2018 in the Royal College of Surgeons and presented a great opportunity to learn more about what happened at the AIDS 2018 conference and engage in a lively debate about HIV. The event was chaired by Emma Warwick, Irish Aid and speakers included Jack Lambert, UCD-Mater Hospital; Susan Donlon, HIV Ireland; Robbie Lawlor, Youth STOP AIDS; and Breda Gahan, Concern Worldwide.



**GHB HARM REDUCTION 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, HIV Ireland, BeLonG To Youth Services, the Rialto Community Drug Team, the Gay Men’s Health Service, HSE National Social Inclusion, HSE Public Health, and HSE Addiction Services.

A new poster, outreach information cards and video were produced in 2018 adding to other resources available, all of which can be viewed and downloaded at [hivireland.ie](http://hivireland.ie).

The outreach information cards were distributed widely at the annual Dublin Pride Festival, posters displayed at a wide range of venues and services and the video promoted on various social media platforms.



**PRIDE 2018**

HIV Ireland and Positive Now, along with our friends in the Gay Men’s Health Service and Gay Switchboard Ireland, participated in the 2018 Pride Parade, held in June. We were supported by Jamie Kelly and the JK Dance Academy.



**WORLD AIDS DAY 2018**

**#5Asks**

To mark the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day 2018, HIV Ireland held a political briefing on 28th November 2018 in the AV Room in Dáil Éireann, and published a key framework document asking for political commitments to prioritise and accelerate the response to the growing HIV crisis in Ireland.

The full document can be viewed at [hivireland.ie](http://hivireland.ie), and the #5Asks are:

- #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.
- #4. Increase resources for community-based supports for people living with HIV in Ireland.
- #5. Invest in HIV prevention services and implement a national PrEP programme in Ireland.



The theme for the 30<sup>th</sup> year of World AIDS Day was ‘Know your Status’ and five political party leaders from the Green party, Labour party, Social Democrats, Sinn Féin and Fianna Fáil took rapid HIV tests at the event to increase awareness and encourage people to avail of HIV testing services.



**Panti Bliss and Professor Fiona Mulcahy in Conversation: The Legacy of AIDS Activism in Ireland**

This joint GCN and HIV Ireland World AIDS Day community and fundraising initiative took place on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Smock Alley Theatre. Panti Bliss hosted a conversation with Professor Fiona Mulcahy exploring the legacy of AIDS activism in Ireland, the changing landscape of medical research and new challenges in light of increasing new HIV diagnoses in Ireland.



The stage was set with a number of panels from the Irish AIDS Memorial Quilt which paved the way for a conversation that looked to the future while remembering the past.



Professor Fiona Mulcahy has been the Consultant in charge of Ireland’s largest HIV clinic in St. James’s hospital since 1987, when AIDS was making a devastating impact here. The conversation chronicles Professor Mulcahy’s experiences of the transformation of HIV in Ireland (and globally) from a terminal to a chronic illness, from people dying in the 80’s and 90’s to the introduction of antiretroviral treatment (ART) in 1996, through to the advent of Treatment as Prevention and PrEP. Panti Bliss shared her own experience of being diagnosed with HIV in 1995.

Professor Mulcahy spoke about how she sees the future of HIV prevention being at the centre of community-led initiatives:

***“I think my role will diminish and the roles of the hospitals will diminish. I think where the future is, is in the community. So if I was to ask the community to do anything, it would be to set up more testing. I think they will take over dispensing PrEP, I think they will take over PEP. I think it will be programmed, I’ll be happy to drive it.”***



The event was kindly supported by GSK Ireland working on behalf of ViiV Healthcare in HIV, and a podcast of the conversation can be found at [gcn.ie](http://gcn.ie)

This historical event and conversation will be an asset to the National HIV and AIDS Archive project, a comprehensive collection of material in Ireland charting the story of HIV and AIDS over three decades.



**Durex #GAF Campaign**

HIV Ireland teamed up with Durex for World AIDS Day 2018 to support and promote the global ‘Give a F\*\*k’ (#GAF) campaign. Durex has partnered with non-profit organisation (RED) to support its mission to end AIDS. Boxes of limited edition Durex RED condoms went on sale nationwide with funds raised going directly towards a programme in South Africa. The ‘Keeping Girls in School’ programme aims to reduce new HIV infections and pregnancies among young women, through encouraging girls to stay in education and improving access to sexual health and reproductive services.



## 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. In recent years this sub-committee has been involved in a number of significant initiatives including organising youth conventions and hosting seminars. In June 2018 a report of the 2017 forum was published and launched by the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton. 'Let's Get Specific' was a follow-up to a previous round-table discussion involving a number of key projects working with youth on substance misuse issues, and sought to further explore how the drug problem is being experienced in communities. The report reflects the input of the attendees at the forum and has a number of recommendations including working with the Department of Education to enhance and support the teaching of SPHE, addressing funding reductions, supporting the development of youth-friendly educational materials and building a stronger evidence base to show the impact of substance misuse education.

HIV Ireland's work is strongly linked with the National Drugs Strategy – Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery - with support funding from the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.

### CHEMSEX WORKING GROUP

Members of this partnership in 2018 included HIV Ireland, the Ana Liffey Drug Project, Drugs.ie, BeLonG To Youth Services, the Rialto Community Drug Team, the Gay Men's Health Service, HSE National Social Inclusion, HSE Public Health, and HSE Addiction Services.

In addition to producing harm reduction resources, the work of this collaborative partnership was presented (oral and poster presentations) at a range of conferences and seminars in 2018 including the IUSTI Congress in June 2018, the National Drugs Forum on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the SSSTDI Autumn Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, and at the National Forum on Integrated Care in Ireland on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### 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.

### EU CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON HIV, HEPATITIS AND TUBERCULOSIS

In 2018, HIV Ireland continued to participate on 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.

### 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 2018, we continued to contribute to 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.

### REPRESENTATION ON HSE NATIONAL SEXUAL HEALTH STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP

In 2018, HIV Ireland continued to participate on the Implementation Working Group for the National Sexual Health Strategy. This group is tasked with providing strategic advice and direction to support the implementation of the National Sexual Health Strategy (2015-2020). It also exists to provide oversight, examine and make recommendations on the actions within the sexual health strategy action plan. This is a key committee for HIV Ireland to be involved with and we bring not just our own perspective to the strategy but also that of our many partners within the community and voluntary sector.

### 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. Promotion of the survey continued up to the end of January 2018 with initial findings presented at the AIDS2018 conference in Amsterdam in June 2018. A European report from EMIS 2017 is expected to be published mid-year in 2019, with reports from Ireland later in 2019.



### HEALTH PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE CENTRE (RECENT HIV INFECTION COMMITTEE)

In 2018, HIV Ireland continued its participation on the HPSC's Recent HIV Infection Committee which is overseeing the integration of recent infection testing into national HIV new diagnoses surveillance.

### HEALTH PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE CENTRE (HIV DRUG RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE PILOT)

In 2018, HIV Ireland was asked to participate in a committee formed to oversee the integration of HIV drug resistance surveillance into national HIV case based surveillance. The expected benefits are the establishment of a national HIV drug resistance surveillance programme that will enhance the treatment, and prevention and control of HIV in Ireland.

### FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE (BALSESKIN RECEPTION CENTRE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS)

In 2018, HIV Ireland was invited to join an initiative in Baleskin Reception Centre which was set up to establish and develop linkages with benefits to both the residents of Baleskin and the greater community. As part of this initiative, HIV Ireland participated in Baleskin's Fáilte Project Open Day in May.

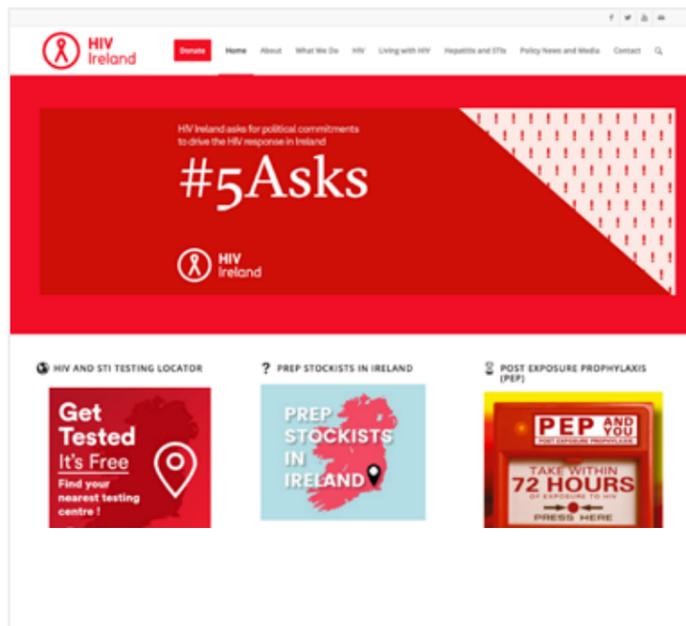
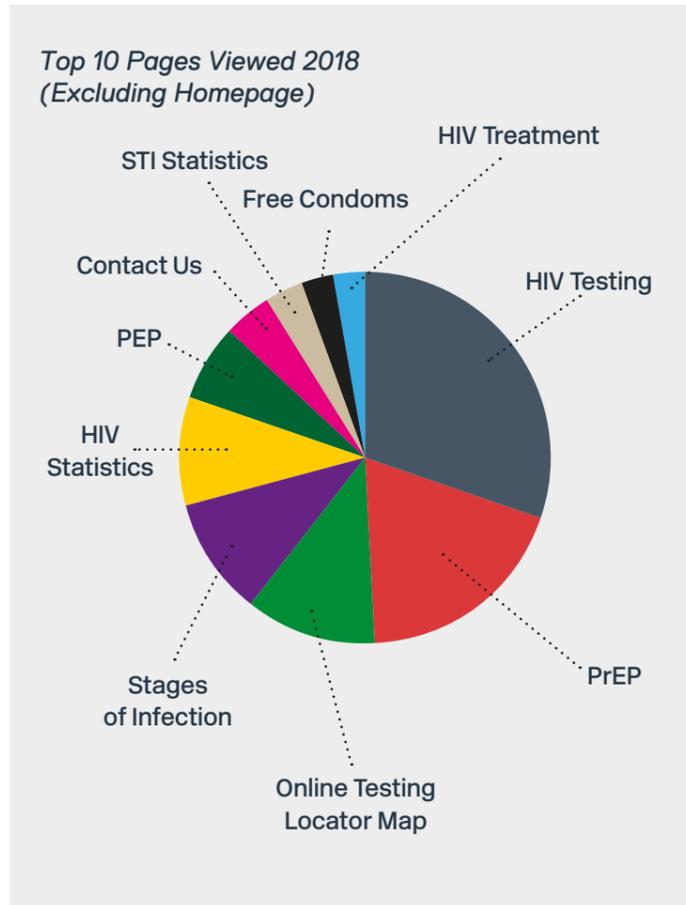
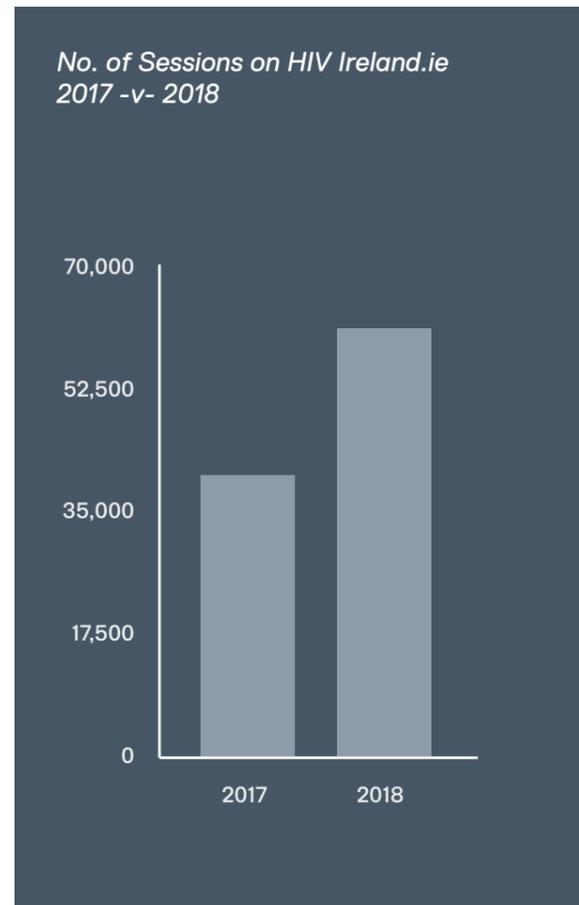
# Digital & Social Media

HIV Ireland utilises social media platforms 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 primary platforms are our website, Facebook and Twitter.

### WEBSITE (WWW.HIVIRELAND.IE)

In 2018 there were a total of 62,599 sessions on the HIV Ireland website (+41.7% over 2017), and 48,901 users (+43.8% over 2017). 87% of users were new visitors with 13% returning visitors.

There was a total of 113,719 page views (an increase of 29.9% over 2017). Of the top 10 pages viewed (excluding the homepage), 41.8% related to HIV testing information, while 25.6% related to information about PrEP (19%) and PEP (6.6%).



### FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

At the end of 2018, our Facebook page (@hivireland.ie) had a total following of 7,549 (88% of these located in Ireland), and 2,920 followers on Twitter (@HIVireland).

With an average of 5 posts per week on Facebook, we reached a cumulative audience of 276.5k in 2018. Tweets averaged at 129 per month with a monthly average of 106.8k tweet impressions.

Campaigns and trending hashtags included #PrEPforIreland, #RedBall, #ZeroDiscrimination, #JustCarryOne, #SmokingandHIV, #IrishAIDSDay, #UequalsU, #WorldAIDSDay, #KnowYourStatus, #5Asks.



## Our Work in Numbers 2018

48,901

UNIQUE VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE

397

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AVAILING OF SUPPORT AND INFORMATION SERVICES

21,330

INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND BOOKLETS DISTRIBUTED

29

EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMMES DELIVERED

2,495

INTERVENTIONS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

10,469

FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

372

TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

17,621

PEOPLE FOLLOW THE JUST CARRY ONE CAMPAIGN

40

EDITIONS OF NEWSDESK WEEKLY

458

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV WHO RECEIVED SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY SERVICES

41

VOLUNTEERS WHO SUPPORTED OUR WORK IN MANY DIFFERENT CAPACITIES

25,160

FREE CONDOMS DISTRIBUTED

655

INDIVIDUALS WHO TESTED IN HIV IRELAND'S FREE HIV AND STI TESTING SERVICES AND WHO KNEW THEIR HIV AND STI STATUS IN 2018.

62,599

SESSIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

68

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

113,719

PAGE VIEWS ON OUR WEBSITE

1,480

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS MET DURING COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO AT-RISK GROUPS WHO RECEIVED FREE CONDOMS AND SEXUAL HEALTH AND TESTING INFORMATION

## Community Employment Scheme

### DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME (JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2018)

This annual report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2018.

Community Employment (CE) Scheme is a Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) funded intervention that provides practical work experience for the long term unemployed. It also provides them with access to relevant accredited training, to enhance their post-CE prospects of joining the tax-paying workforce, or engaging in full-time education.

This year started with fourteen CE staff from many different countries, including Russia, Poland, DR Congo, Zambia, Nigeria, Italy, Romania, Estonia and of course Ireland. Slightly more than half of these are engaged in various positions with our sub-sponsor organisations - Cairde, Outhouse and New Communities Partnership (NCP). These include Receptionists, Administrative Assistants, a Health Information Worker, Coffee Shop Assistants, and General Operatives/Cleaners.

Most of our staff this year were already in their second and third years of the programme and had already gained Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)-approved and industry-recognised qualifications. All staff successfully completed the mandatory HSE-approved *An Introduction to Children First* online certification course. One also successfully completed the QQI Level 6 Community Organisation Management course with Dublin City University, while another is

currently engaged in a QQI Level 8 Bachelor of Business (Hons) degree course in International Business with Dorset College, Dublin.

Other courses successfully completed this year include Social Studies (QQI Level 6), Health and Safety at Work (QQI Level 5), Cleaning Professional Skills (QQI Level 5), Reception Skills (QQI Level 5), as well as Food Safety and HACCP (QQI Level 5) certification.

During the year, we continually experienced problems populating available positions and ended the year with five vacancies. Of the seven staff that completed their contracts, over 70% went into full-time employment with the Civil Service, Focus Ireland, self-employment and Krispy Kreme Ireland. Overall, staff progression (internal and external) was 100%.

2018 ended with 12 active participants and five vacancies.

## Financial Report & Acknowledgements



# 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 2018

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018		2017	
	€	€	€	€
<b>Income</b>				
Donations & Fundraising	76,244		11,050	
HSE Dublin North City Social Inclusion	308,000		280,000	
HSE National Social Inclusion	22,000		65,000	
D.S.P.	233,537		231,495	
HSE (NICDAFT)	68,400		68,400	
HSE Health & Well Being	129,310		75,089	
Other grants	88,389		125,595	
Other income	19,105		31,573	
		944,985		888,202
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Salaries incl. Employer's PRSI	592,792		618,033	
Training & Consultancy	3,842		4,271	
Rent payable	36,530		36,166	
Building Reinstatement Provision	-		1,211	
Project costs	221,614		217,468	
Combined Overheads	49,545		47,166	
		904,323		924,315
		40,662		(36,113)

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018		2017	
	€	€	€	€
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	28,200		14,107	
Cash at bank and in hand	240,387		174,572	
	268,587		188,679	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	(157,273)		(118,027)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		111,314		70,652
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		111,314		70,652
<b>Funds</b>				
General Fund (Unrestricted)		111,314		70,652
<b>Total Funds</b>		111,314		70,652

## Lily Hyland's Retirement



In 2018, Lily Hyland retired after 21 years working with HIV Ireland. Having joined the organisation on a CE scheme, Lily initially helped to run a drop-in and information centre for injecting drug users in the basement of our building in Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

In late 2008, Lily joined Joel Biongo as a street outreach worker to migrants in Dublin's North Inner-City, building up a highly unique and hidden client group of vulnerable men and women who would seek her out every Friday to ask questions and to avail of free condoms.

Lily began working in our free HIV and STI testing service in 2011, becoming perfectly placed to greet the people she was meeting on street outreach. She ensured each testing session ran smoothly and she was skilled in making highly anxious people way less anxious. It was not uncommon for us to hear roars of laughter coming from the waiting room or to see people giving Lily hugs as they left the testing service. Again, Lily played a huge role in building up the very good reputation of this service.

What Lily has and does, you could never teach - her compassion and kindness, her ability to meet people where they are at, her ability to put people at ease, her non-judgement and humour; these are her gifts.

Lily has left a massive imprint on HIV Ireland. She touched the lives of everyone she met through her work and it is a testimony to her that today, clients of HIV Ireland, the staff and customers of migrant businesses in the north inner-city, and people coming in for testing, still warmly ask after her.

So, we thank Lily for everything she has done for us, for HIV Ireland, and most of all, for our service users. We miss her greatly.

## Acknowledgements

HIV Ireland would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to all who worked with and supported our organisation throughout 2018.

The Directors holding office during the year comprised Bernard Condon, Jeanne McDonagh, Tim Lee, Fergal O'Sullivan, Claire Power, Gerald Kennedy, Dr. Patrick Mallon, Stephen Rourke (until January 2018).

**Executive Director:** Niall Mulligan

**Administration:** Marie Hamilton (Office Manager), Patricia Dillon-Killeen, Olusola Martin Ade-Onojobi, (CE Supervisor), Charity Makala, Tara Sinclair, Valerie Beklesov, Boguslaw Okroj (until July), Niall Dunleavy (until November).

**Prevention Education & Training Programme staff team:** Susan Donlon, Sue Carter, Silvana Avigliano.

**Community Support staff team 2018:** Dr Erin Nugent, Rebecca Seery (until April 2018), Anthony Newsome, Lily Hyland (until August 2018), and Richard Boyle.

**Volunteers 2018:** Joel Biongo, Gerald Browne, Peter Kellegher, Martha Mutanda, Guylaine Ndonga Mbaki, Barbara Lunga, Patrick Murphy, Alex MacUaid, and Luiz Guaracy Gasparelli Junior, and Rachel McCann.

**Volunteer Counsellors:** Arnaud Bongrand, David Field.

**Work Placement:** Francesca Scully  
**KnowNow Rapid HIV Testing Service:** Adam Shanley (Co-ordinator) + 30 Volunteers

**Our Express thanks to our principle funders...**

Health Service Executive Northern Area; Health Service Executive Office for Social Inclusion, Health Service Executive Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme. Department of Social Protection, Parnell St; North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force; MAC AIDS Fund; Open Society Foundation, TUSLA.

**... We wish to thank the individuals and companies who supported our inaugural Red Ball 2018**

Miriam O'Callaghan, Camille O'Sullivan, Baz Ashmazy, Carbury Printing & Packaging, "The Garden" – Powerscourt Town Centre, Iveagh

Gardens Hotel, Claytown Crown Hotel, Guinness Storehouse, Origin Spirits Ireland, Coppinger Row, Exchequer Wine Bar, Cloud 9, C  fe Rubis, Verve Magic Mirror, Niall Sweeney, Barbara Stack, Richard Moore, Tonie Walsh, Craig Dwyer, Alan Hatton, Ross Flanagan, Paul J Franey, Patrick Sweeney, Vivienne Clarke, Karl Hayden, JB Isabelle.

**... We wish to thank the individuals and companies who donated and fundraised for us in 2018, including**

Ebay Sports & Social, MAC Staff, State Street, Zen Desk, Mother, CPL Recruitment, Premier Recruitment, BT Ireland, Aviva Ireland, Civil Service Credit Union, Jim Allen Veritas, Mastercard, Abtran-Mahon Fund, Adobe, Dublin Pride fundraiser, and the 5 women who took part in the VHI Women's Mini marathon to fundraise for us.

**... and additional organisations and individuals for their support in 2018**

Dublin Bus; Durex Ireland; GSK Ireland working on behalf of ViiV Healthcare in HIV; St. Stephen's Green Trust; MSD Ireland; Department of Health National Lottery Fund; Teva Pharmaceuticals Ireland;

Breanna Coyle, Irish Family Planning Association; Avril Hickey, For  ige; Siobh  n O'Dea and Adam Shanley, Gay Men's Health Service; Niamh Dowler, Offaly County Council; Noeleen Jennings, North West Inner City Network; Brigid McKeever, D  chas Centre – Irish Prison Service; Aoife Mallon, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre; Abigail O'Reilly, Talbot Centre; Carol Donohue, Dublin Bus; Maria Mealiffe, Reckitt Benckiser/Durex Ireland; Sandra Ryan and Nicole Chesser, Teneo PSG; James Kavanagh; Lisa Connell and the GCN Magazine team; Rory O'Neill, aka Panti Bliss; Professor Fiona Mulcahy; Breda Gahan, Concern Worldwide and the D  chas Group; the Irish Forum for Global Health; Irish Aid; UISCE; the Board and members of the Gay Health Network; Dr. Derval Igoe, Kate O'Donnell and the team at the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Anita Butt and the team at the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme; Mark Shiels, Form Design; the HSE Quit Team and Tobacco Free Ireland Programme.

Grainne Kelly, Sinead Murphy, Laura Quinn, Clara O'Neill, and Marie Burke at the GUIDE clinic, St. James's Hospital; Dr Justin Low and Clio Milner, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda; Lisa Donaghy, RGN; Louise Mahoney and the Team at the Red Door Project, Drogheda; the Medical Social Workers of Beaumont Hospital, Mater Hospital, and St. James's Hospital; Dr PJ Boyle, Áine Lambe, Linda McDonnell, and the medical and social work team of Baleskin Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers; Dr Ray O'Neill, Machna; Adam Stubb, Ronan Lynskey, Grainne Farrell and the team at GSK; Declan Hayden, Dublin City Council; 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, and the staff of Capital Financial Planning; Karen Sutton and the Griffith College Law Department; Graham Ryall and the Rialto Community Drug Team; Shaun Dunne and Talking Shop Ensemble; Lysander Preston, Irish Institute of Legal Executives; Margaret Horan and Co. Solicitors; O'Connor Bergin Solicitors; Maureen Gourley, Sinead Lucy, and the team at FLAC; Sinead Fitzpatrick and the team at The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; Dr Aislinn O'Donnell, Maynooth University; Eoin McReamoinn, Oxford University; Dr Nigel Richardson, Trinity College Biomedical Sciences Institute, Jonathan McCrae; Whipsmart Media/*Future Proof*, Newstalk 106 - 108FM; John Paul O'Brien; Mary Shannon, David Shannon, of the Irish Names Quilt; Trish Conway; Orlagh Hester; Dublin MAC Cosmetic staff who supported fundraising events; Jamie Kelly and the JK Academy Dancers and their Parents; Paula O'Brien; all the shops and businesses on Frederick Street, Henry Street, Moore Street, Parnell Street, and in Drogheda town who support our street outreach service.

### A Special Thank You to Tracey



In 2018 Tracey Byrne, a long-time friend and supporter of HIV Ireland, put on her adventure boots, and faced up to the challenge of climbing Kilimanjaro in aid of HIV Ireland. We were overwhelmed by Tracey's total commitment, hugely positive attitude, and genuine empathy for our work. Her efforts raised over €3000, and we are forever grateful. Thank you Tracey!

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