

HIV in Ireland, 2013 – In Brief

In 2013, 344 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in Ireland, giving a rate of 7.5 per 100,000 population. This compares with 340 new diagnoses in 2012. Since 2010, the annual rate of new HIV diagnoses has been relatively stable in Ireland, ranging from 7.0 to 7.5 per 100,000 population.

To date, 6,979 people have been diagnosed with HIV in Ireland since the early 1980's but this number does not represent the number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Ireland, as it does not take factors such as death and migration into account.

The key findings from 2013 are summarised in table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary table, HIV diagnoses 2013

Number of HIV diagnoses		344
Rate of diagnoses (per 100,000 population)		7.5
Age	Median age of adult cases	34 years
	Age Range of adult cases	19 to 70 years
Gender	Males	258 (75.1%)
	Females	86 (24.9%)
	Male to female ratio	3:1
Route of Transmission	Men who have sex with men (MSM)	159 (46.2%)
	Heterosexual	131 (38.1%)
	PWID (people who inject drugs)	18 (5.2%)
	Mother to Child transmission (MTCT)	3 (0.9%)
	Other	2 (0.6%)
	Unknown	31 (9.0%)
Geographic origin	Born in Ireland	141 (41.0%)
	Born Abroad	174 (50.6%)
	Unknown	29 (8.4%)
Stage of Infection	Late (CD4 <350 cells/mm ³)	150/303 (49.5%)
	Very late (CD4 <200 cells/mm ³)	77/303 (25.4%)
	Concurrent AIDS diagnosis	27 (7.8%)

Probable route of transmission

As has been found in recent years, the highest proportion of new HIV diagnoses in 2013 was among men who have sex with men (MSM) although this proportion dropped from 49% in 2012 to 46% in 2013.

Heterosexual contact was the second most commonly reported mode of transmission, accounting for 38% of new diagnoses in 2013 (39% in 2012). Among heterosexual cases, over half (57%) were among individuals originating from countries with generalised epidemics¹.

Five percent of new diagnoses (18 cases) were among people who inject drugs (PWID), a similar figure to that seen recently, which has ranged from 4 to 7% over the past four years. Of these, 56% were Irish-born and 17% were born in central and eastern Europe. Over 80% of PWID were co-infected with hepatitis C.

Three mother to child transmission (MTCT) cases were diagnosed in 2013. None of the MTCT cases were born in Ireland.

Figure 1 shows the trends in new HIV diagnoses from 2003 to 2013.

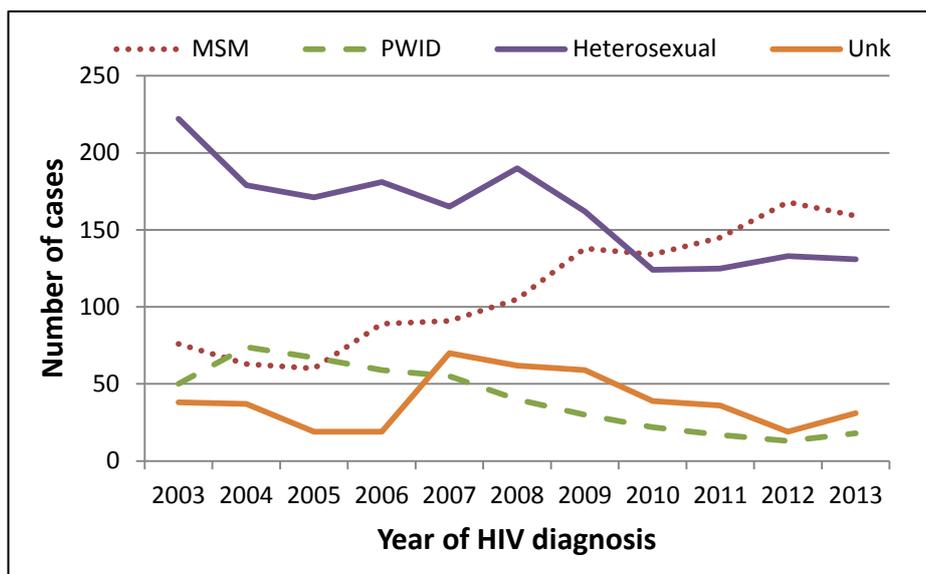


Figure 1: HIV cases by probable route of transmission and year of diagnosis, 2003 to 2013

Late HIV diagnosis

Of the new diagnoses in 2013 with CD4 count available (88%), 50% were reported as late presenters (CD4 count of <math><350\text{ cells/mm}^3</math>), compared with 48% in 2012 and 52% in 2011. The proportion of those diagnosed late varied by risk group and was highest among heterosexuals (59%) and PWID (56%). 25% of people were severely immuno-compromised at diagnosis. 27 cases (8%) were diagnosed with an AIDS defining illness at the time of their HIV diagnosis.

¹ A generalised HIV epidemic is where greater than 1% of the general population is HIV positive