

## HIV in Ireland, 2014 – In Brief

In 2014, 377 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in Ireland, giving a rate of 8.2 per 100,000 population. This is an increase of 11% compared to 2013 and can be accounted for by an increasing number of HIV notifications among men who have sex with men (MSM) and people who inject drugs (PWID). Between 2010 and 2013, the annual rate of new HIV diagnoses had been relatively stable in Ireland, ranging from 7.0 to 7.5 per 100,000 population.

To date, 7,353 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 2014 are summarised in table 1 below.

**Table 1: Summary table, HIV diagnoses 2014**

Number of HIV diagnoses		<b>377</b>
Rate of diagnoses (per 100,000 population)		8.2
Age	Median age of adult cases	33 years
	Age range of adult cases	18 to 77 years
	Young people (15-24 years)	44 (11.7%)
Gender	Aged 50 and older	32 (8.5%)
	Males	277 (73%)
	Females	100 (27%)
Route of Transmission	Male to female ratio	2.8
	Men who have sex with men (MSM)	183 (49%)
	Heterosexual	125 (33%)
	PWID (People who inject drugs)	27 (7%)
	Mother to Child transmission (MTCT)	2 (0.5%)
Geographic origin	Unknown	40 (11%)
	Born in Ireland	137 (36.3%)
	Born Abroad	203 (53.8%)
Stage of Infection	Unknown	37 (9.8%)
	Late	159 (48.6%)
	Advanced HIV infection	90 (27.5%)
Co-infections	Concurrent AIDS diagnosis	38 (10.1%)
	Acute STI	39 (10.3%)
	TB	16 (4.2%)
	Hepatitis B	18 (4.8%)
	Hepatitis C	31 (8.2%)

### Probable route of transmission

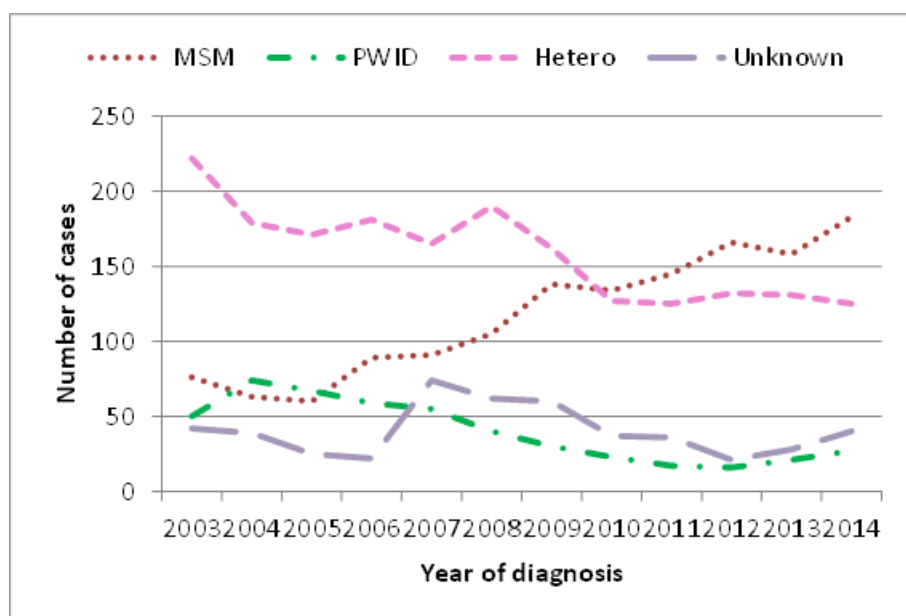
As in recent years, the highest number of new diagnoses was among MSM (183; 49%). In the ten years since 2005, the number of new diagnoses among MSM has increased threefold and the median age at diagnosis has dropped from 37 to 31 years.

Heterosexual contact was the second most commonly reported mode of transmission, (125; 33%). The majority of heterosexual cases (62%) were born in countries with generalised HIV epidemics<sup>1</sup>.

Seven percent of new diagnoses (27 cases) were among people who inject drugs (PWID), which is an increase on recent years. Of the new diagnoses, 85% were Irish born, 89% were resident in Dublin and 89% were co-infected with hepatitis C.

Two mother to child transmission (MTCT) cases were notified in 2014. Both of the children were born in sub-Saharan Africa.

Figure 1 shows the trends in new HIV diagnoses from 2003 to 2014.



### Late diagnosis

Forty nine percent of new diagnoses in 2014 were late presenters (with CD4 <350 cells/ $\mu$ l or an AIDS defining illness at diagnosis). This is very similar to the proportion in recent years (50% in 2013 and 49% in 2012). Late presentation was less common among MSM (38%) and PWID (44%) than among heterosexuals (56% in females and 71% in males).

Thirty eight (10%) people were diagnosed with an AIDS defining illness at the time of their HIV diagnosis.

<sup>1</sup> A generalised HIV epidemic is where greater than 1% of the general population is HIV positive