



HIV in Ireland: Latest trends to end 2021

Updated November 2022

Health Protection Surveillance Centre

Acknowledgements

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) would like to sincerely thank all of the data providers and all who have contributed data to this report including: National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL); Microbiology laboratories; Departments of Public Health; Consultants in Infectious Disease/Genitourinary Medicine; Infectious Disease Unit, Our Lady's Hospital for Children (OLHC), Crumlin for paediatric data; GPs; HIV clinical nurse specialists; Health Advisors; All other clinical staff involved.

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The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on HIV surveillance in Ireland, 2021

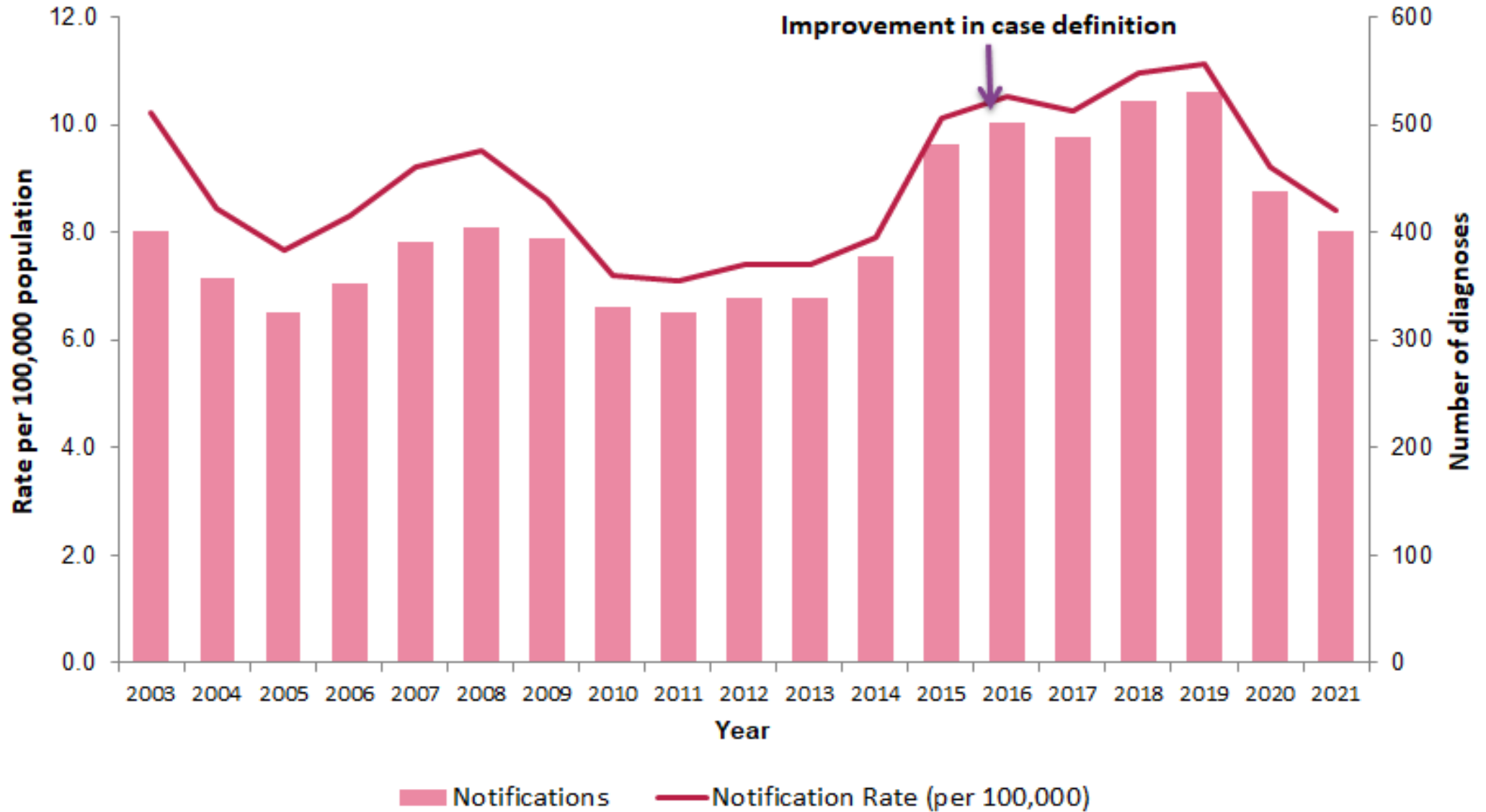


These slides presents data on HIV diagnoses via the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting system (CIDR) to the end of 2021.

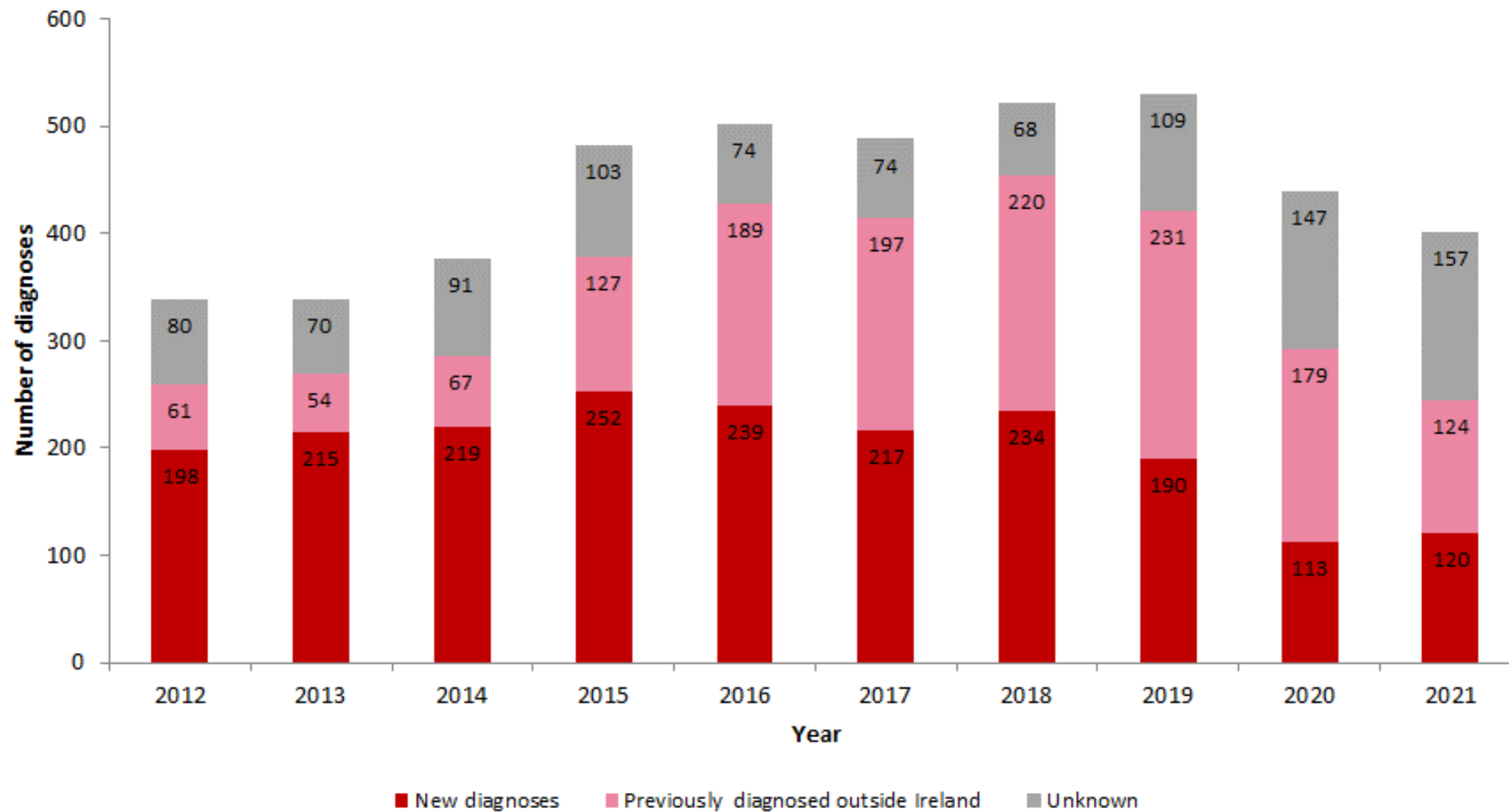
Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a reduction in the number of HIV dagnoses during 2020 and 2021. This is likely to be due to a number of factors including periods of national lockdown, social and physical distancing measures; reduced sexual health and GP services and reduced testing opportunities.

During 2020 and 2021, the collection of enhanced data (such as probable route of transmission, region of origin, history of previous positive test) was extremely challenging due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on clinical and public health staff. HPSC are continuing to work with clinical services and Departments of Public Health to improve the surveillance data.

HIV diagnoses and rates



HIV diagnoses by history of previous diagnosed positive outside Ireland



HIV diagnoses by gender*

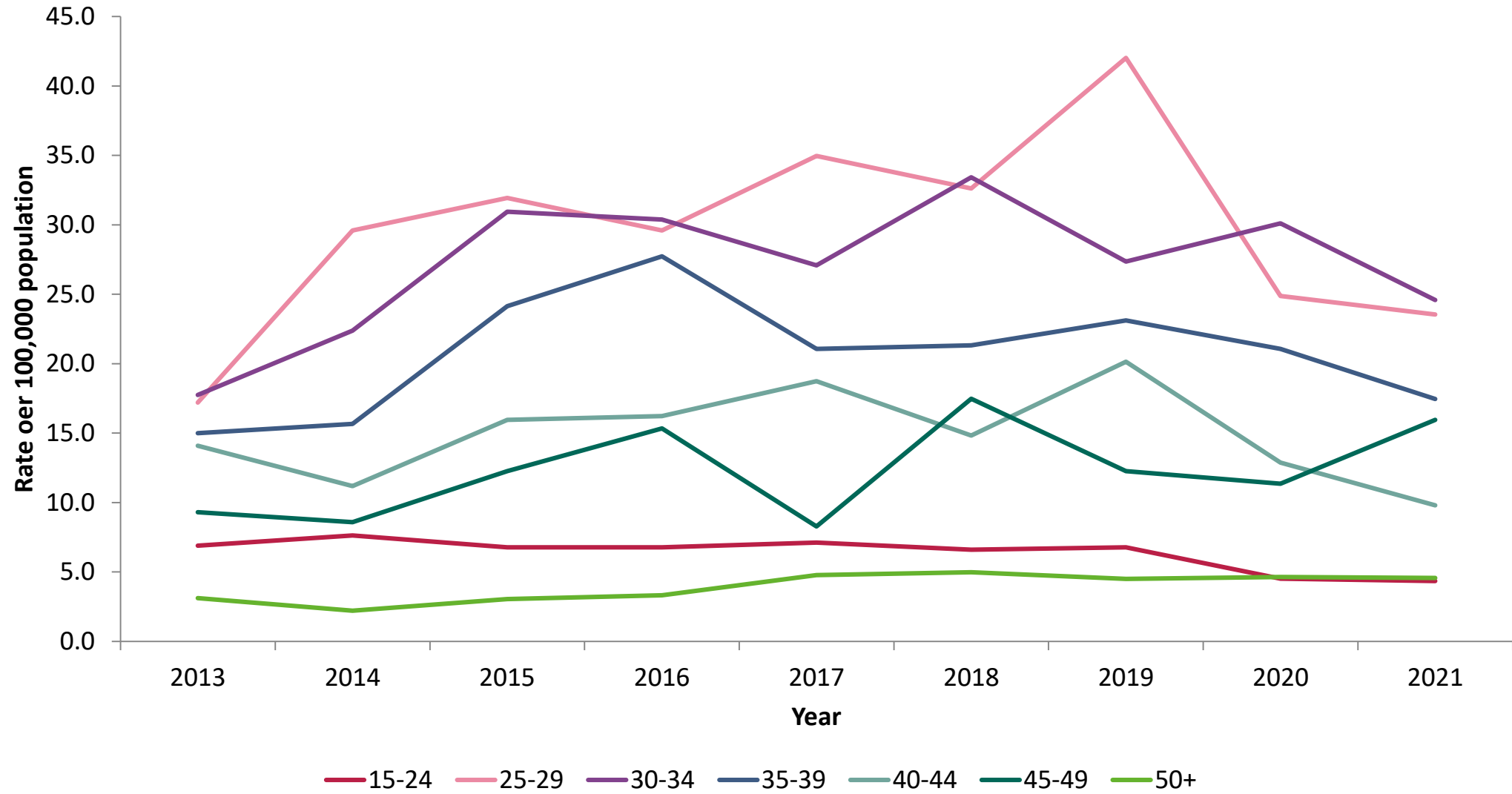


*See note on gender on slide 17

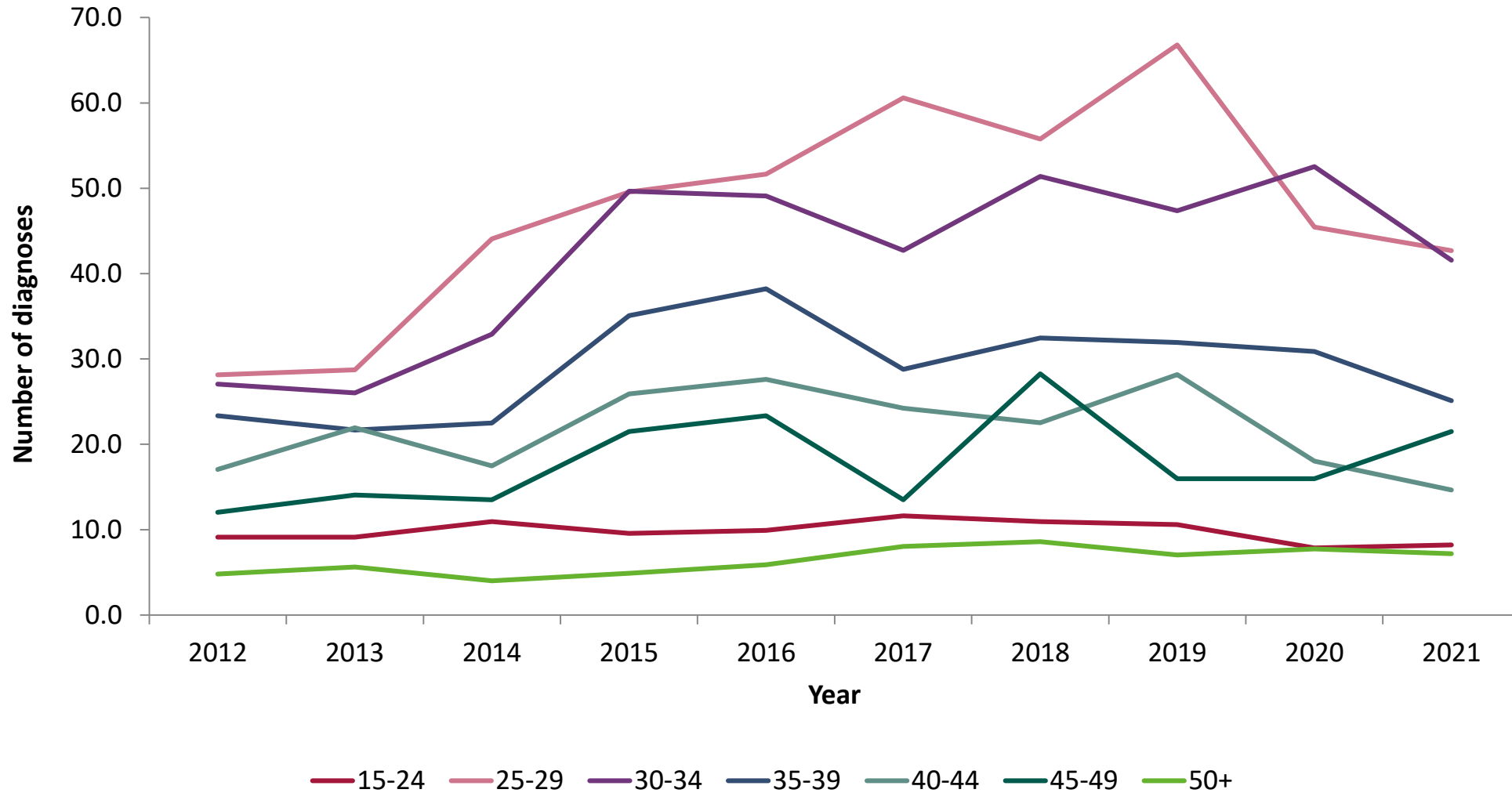
HIV diagnoses in transgender people

- Since reporting of data on gender identity was included in HIV surveillance in mid-2018, 16 new HIV diagnoses have been recorded among trans people
- 14 trans female
 - 4 in 2018; 2 in 2019; 4 in 2020; 4 in 2021
- 2 trans male
 - 1 in 2019; 1 in 2020

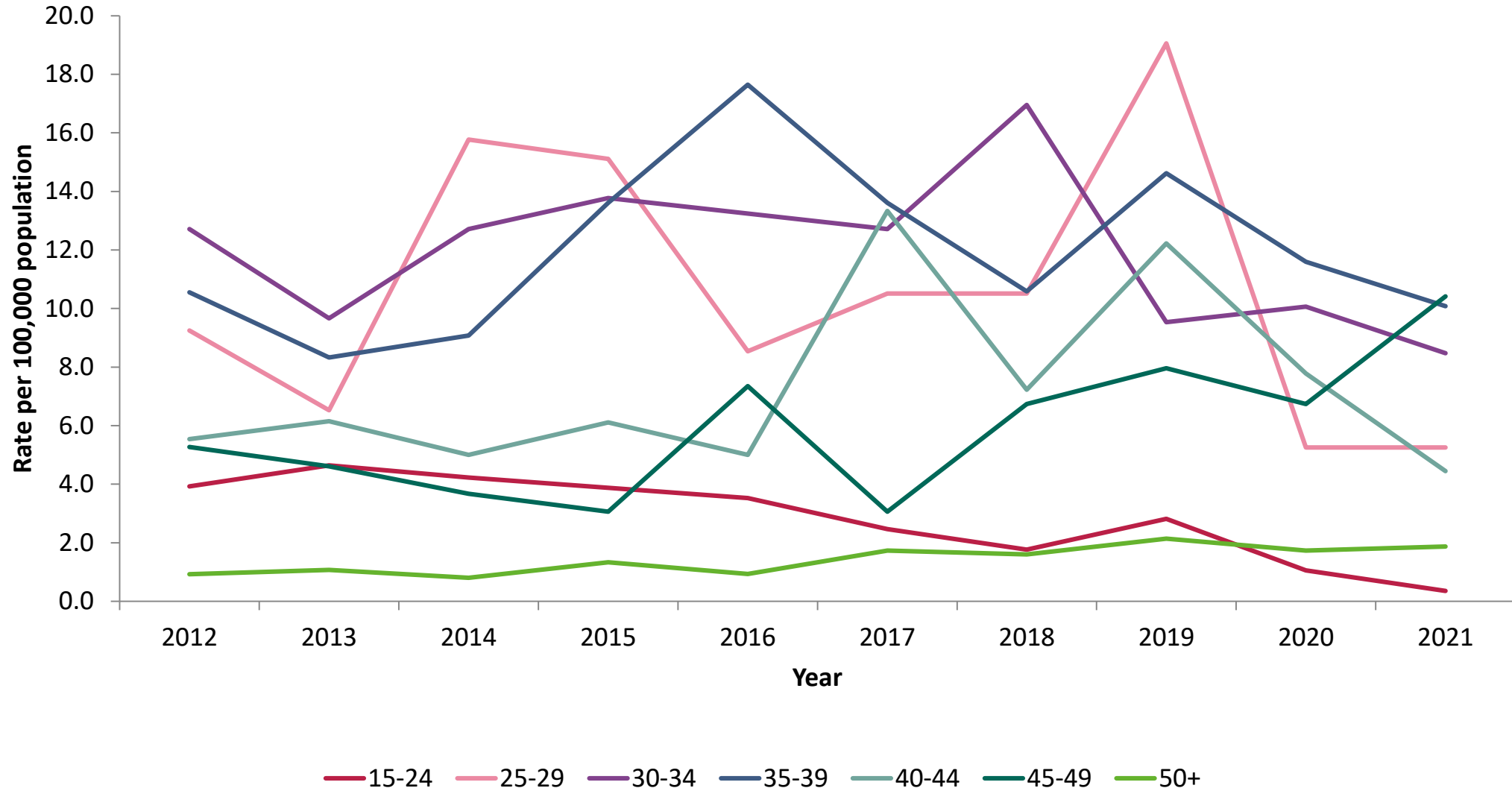
HIV rates by age group



HIV rates by age group in males



HIV rates by age group in females

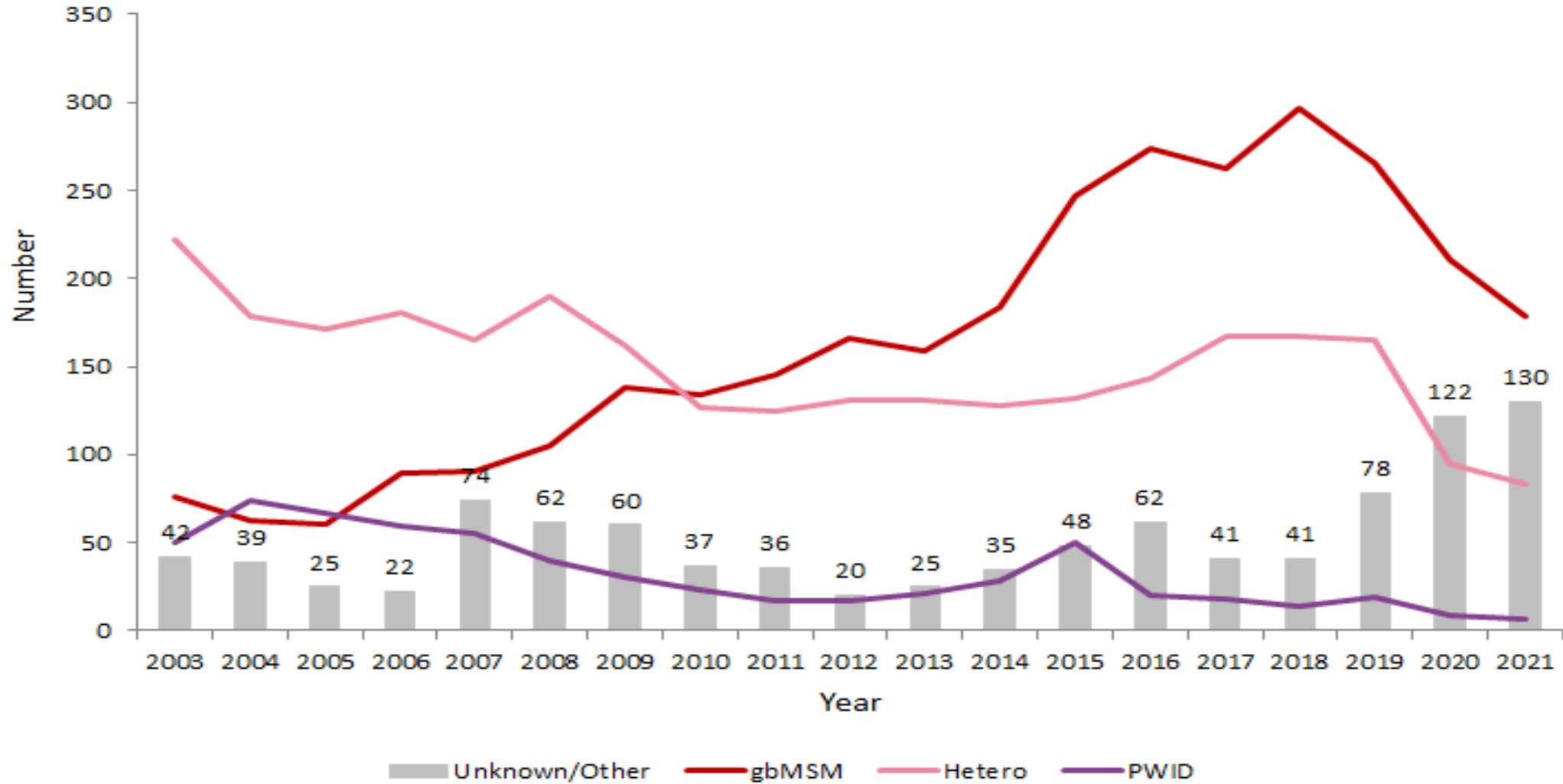


HIV rates by HSE Area*

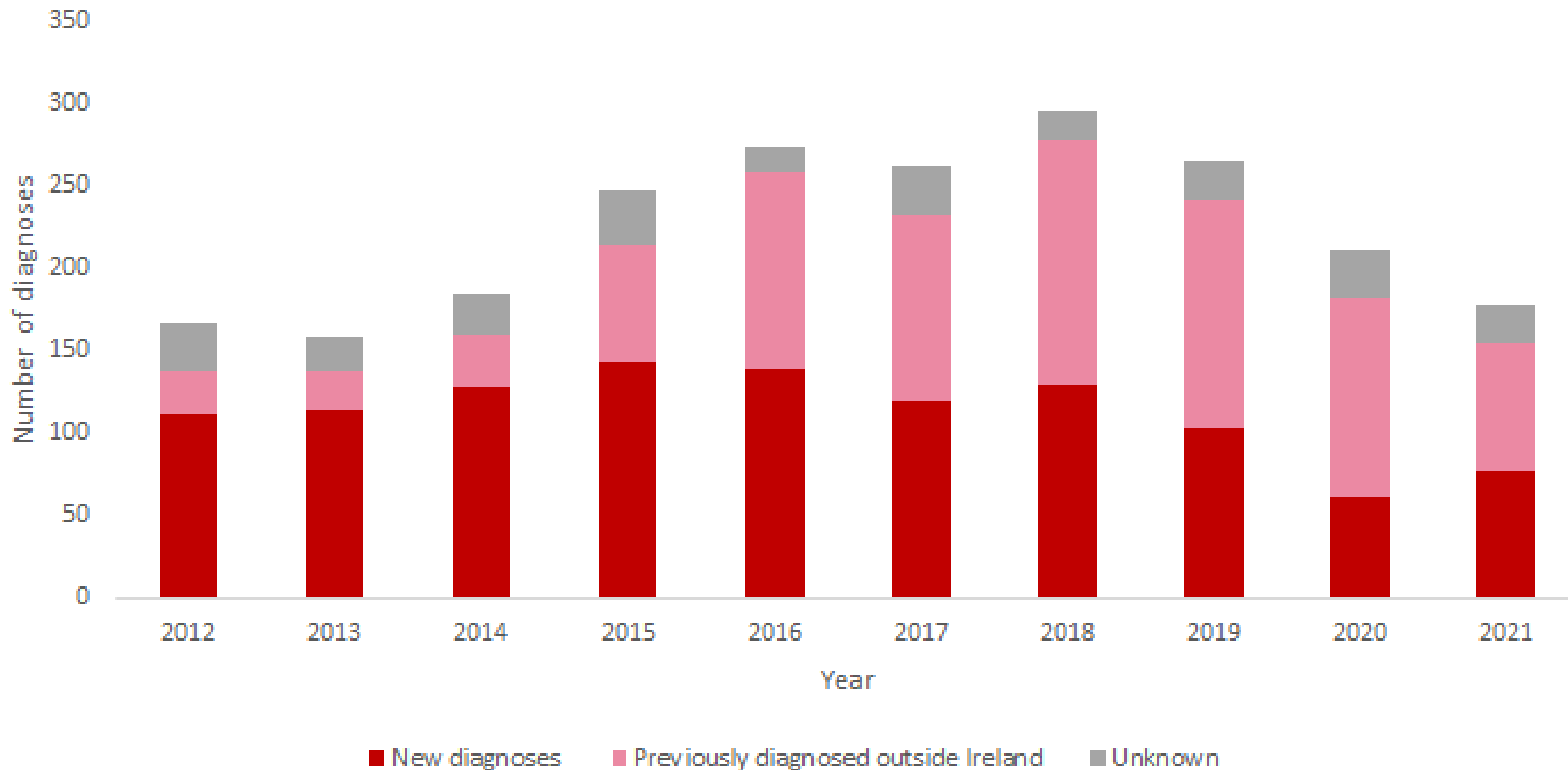


*Based on area of residence (where available), otherwise is based on area of clinician. See slide 17 for counties in each HSE area;

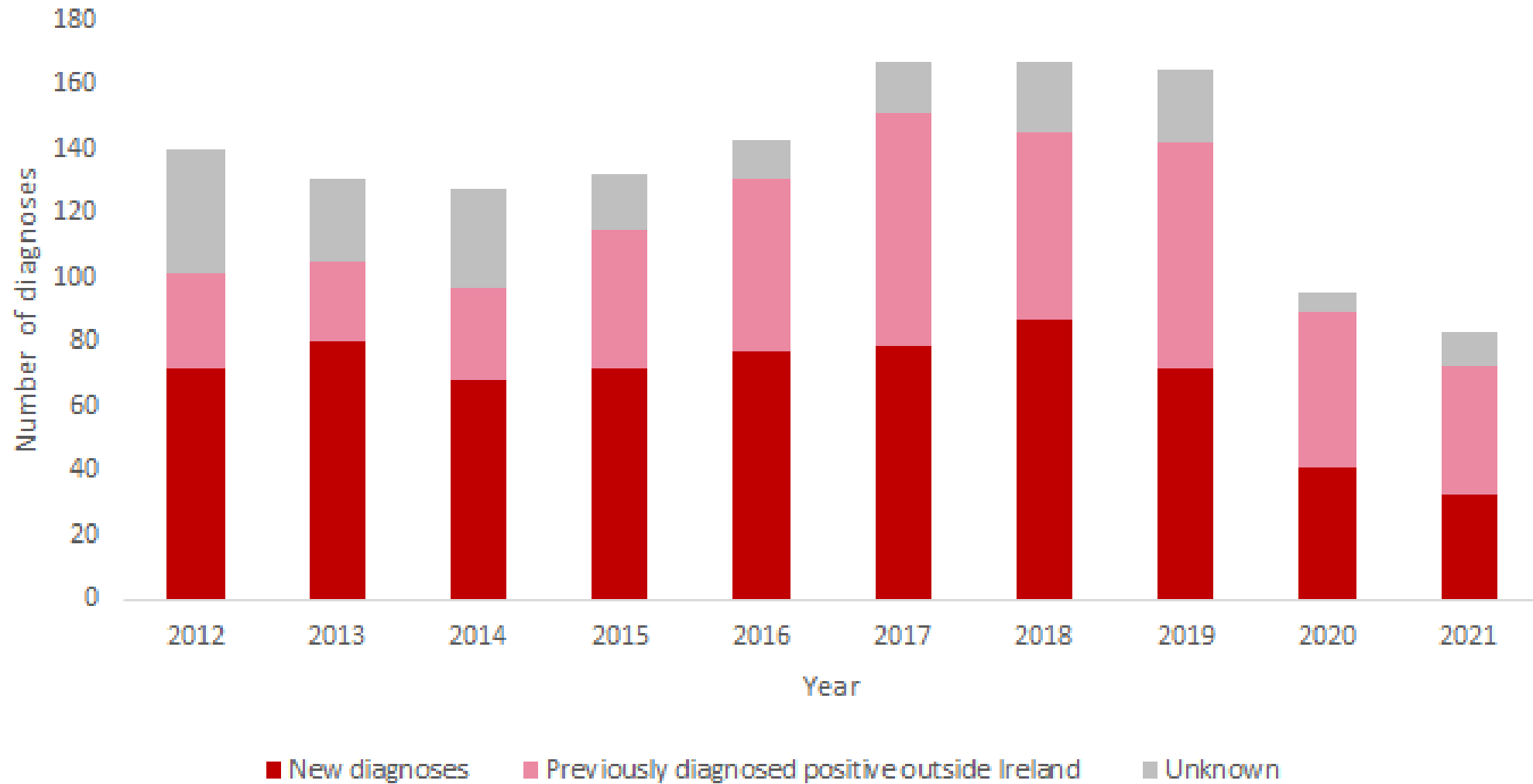
HIV diagnoses by probable route of transmission



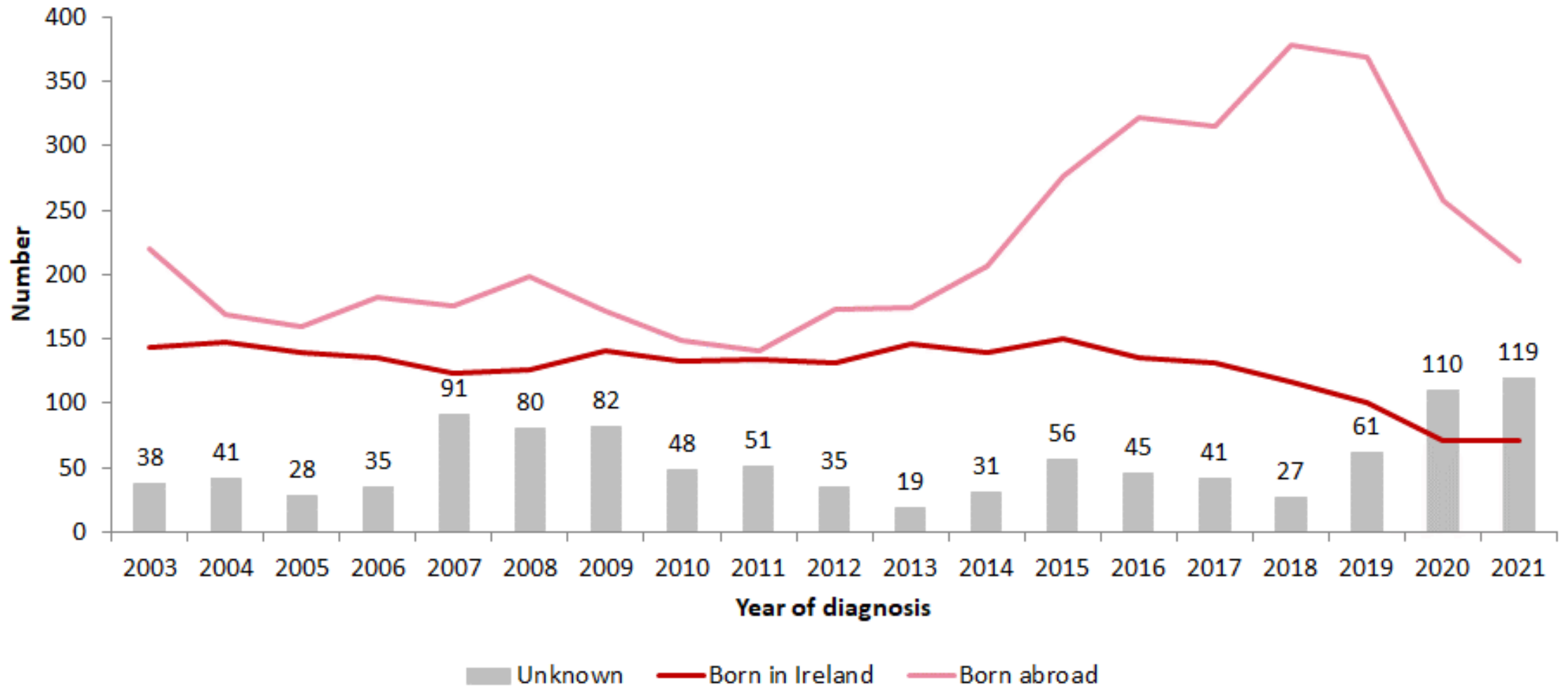
Previous diagnoses and new diagnoses among gbMSM



Previous diagnoses and new diagnoses among heterosexuals



HIV diagnoses by region of origin



Key Points

The trend in HIV diagnoses was stable between 2015 and 2019 and decreased during 2020 and 2021. This decrease was likely to be due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HIV diagnoses include people who were previously diagnosed outside Ireland. As this is their first diagnosis in Ireland, they are included in the national data. Since 2019, over half of HIV diagnoses annually are in people previously diagnosed outside Ireland (where information on previous history is provided).

The majority of HIV diagnoses continue to be among males. The most commonly affected age group among males is 25-34 years. The most commonly affected age groups among females are 30-39 years and 45-49 years.

Enhanced data for HIV diagnoses during 2020 and 2021 are less complete than for previous years. Enhanced HIV surveillance forms are available for 72% and 65% of diagnoses in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

The key population group affected by HIV in Ireland is gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM).

The majority of HIV diagnoses occur in migrants, defined as those born in a different country to that in which they were diagnosed in.

Technical Notes



Non-identifiable HIV data were extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 23.11.2022 and were correct at the time of publication.

It is important to note that

- the HIV surveillance system captures new diagnoses of HIV infection and therefore does not measure incidence.
- persons newly diagnosed in Ireland may have been previously diagnosed with HIV in another country and are included in surveillance figures at first confirmatory test in Ireland.
- Data are analysed by date of notification on CIDR
- Gender is based on gender identity where provided, otherwise based on sex at birth
- gbMSM: gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men; PWID: People who inject drugs
- Counties covered by each HSE area are as follows: HSE East (HSE E): Dublin, Kildare & Wicklow; HSE Midlands (HSE M): Laois, Longford, Offaly & Westmeath; HSE Midwest (HSE MW): Clare, Limerick & Tipperary North; HSE Northeast (HSE NE): Cavan, Louth, Meath & Monaghan; HSE Northwest (HSE NW): Donegal, Leitrim & Sligo; HSE South (HSE S): Kerry & Cork; HSE Southeast (HSE SE): Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South, Waterford & Wexford; HSE West (HSE W): Galway, Mayo & Roscommon.

Data tables – 2012 to 2021

HIV diagnoses by Gender* and Year

	Females	Males	Unknown	Total
2012	96	243	-	339
2013	84	255	-	339
2014	101	276	-	377
2015	114	368	-	482
2016	112	390	-	502
2017	116	372	-	488
2018	110	411	1	522
2019	134	396		530
2020	88	351	-	439
2021	83	314	4	401

*See note on gender on slide 17

HIV diagnoses by Age Group and Year



	0-14	15-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+	Unk	Total
2012	5	37	65	77	61	37	26	31	-	339
2013	3	39	61	69	54	46	28	39	-	339
2014	3	44	88	81	61	40	28	32	-	377
2015	1	39	95	112	94	57	40	44	-	482
2016	1	39	88	110	108	58	50	48	-	502
2017	0	41	104	98	82	67	27	69	-	488
2018	1	38	97	121	83	53	57	72	-	522
2019	1	39	125	98	90	72	39	65	-	530
2020	0	26	73	109	80	46	37	67	1	439
2021	0	24	69	88	67	35	52	66		401

HIV diagnoses by HSE Area and Year

	East	Midlands	Midwest	Northeast	Northwest	South	Southeast	West	Total
2012	241	10	20	17	6	21	14	10	339
2013	234	10	21	14	5	33	12	10	339
2014	261	15	18	22	7	32	10	12	377
2015	358	13	19	22	7	34	14	15	482
2016	358	14	22	23	5	47	13	20	502
2017	339	24	18	23	5	44	16	19	488
2018	374	8	19	33	5	43	22	18	522
2019	374	14	24	25	13	38	17	26	530
2020	298	13	20	20	7	35	19	27	439
2021	281	9	15	26	6	28	17	19	401

HIV diagnoses by probable route of transmission

	gbMSM	Hetero	PWID	Unk	Total
2012	166	131	17	25	339
2013	159	131	21	28	339
2014	184	128	28	37	377
2015	247	132	50	53	482
2016	274	143	20	65	502
2017	262	167	18	41	488
2018	296	167	14	45	522
2019	265	165	19	81	530
2020	211	95	9	124	439
2021	178	83	7	133	401

HIV diagnoses by region of origin

	Born in Ireland	Born Abroad	Unk	Total
2012	131	173	35	339
2013	146	174	19	339
2014	140	206	31	377
2015	150	276	56	482
2016	135	322	45	502
2017	131	316	41	488
2018	116	379	27	522
2019	100	369	61	530
2020	71	258	110	439
2021	71	211	119	401

HIV diagnoses by history of previous HIV diagnosis

	New diagnoses	Previously diagnosed HIV positive outside Ireland	Unknown	Total
2012	198	61	80	339
2013	215	54	70	339
2014	219	67	91	377
2015	252	127	103	482
2016	239	189	74	502
2017	217	197	74	488
2018	234	220	68	522
2019	190	231	109	530
2020	113	179	147	439
2021	120	124	157	401