



HIV in Ireland: Latest trends to end 2022

November 2023

Health Protection Surveillance Centre

Acknowledgements



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Background



HIV is of major public health importance in Ireland and worldwide.

Surveillance of HIV is vital for understanding and responding to the latest trends and features of the HIV epidemic in Ireland.

This slide set provides the latest data on the epidemiology of HIV in Ireland to the end of 2022

- Part A presents data on **total diagnoses**
- Part B presents data on **first-time diagnoses**
(see slide 5 for definitions)

Accompanying data tables for total diagnoses and first-times diagnoses can be found at <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/hivandaids/hivdataandreports/2022reports/>

Further information on HIV can be found at www.hpsc.ie and www.sexualwellbeing.ie.

Data Collection



In Ireland, HIV is notifiable since 2011 under the Infectious Disease Regulations as per the [case definition](#)

Case based data on HIV has been collected in Ireland since 2003, with all cases reported via the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system from 2012 onwards

[HIV enhanced surveillance forms](#) are completed by the practice or clinic where HIV is diagnosed (or the referral clinic) and provided to Departments of Public Health who enter data onto CIDR

National data analysis is then carried out by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) with Departments of Public Health carrying out regional data analysis

Completed enhanced surveillance forms were received for 87% of HIV notifications in 2022 and the proportion completed by HSE area ranged from 67% to 100% (as of 13th September 2023)

Definitions used in the slide set



In this slide set, the following definitions are used

- **Total HIV diagnoses:** all HIV diagnoses in Ireland which have been notified to Public Health, regardless of previous testing status
- **First-time HIV diagnoses:** HIV diagnoses in Ireland **excluding** those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown
- **Previous diagnoses:** HIV diagnoses in Ireland where the person had been previously diagnosed outside Ireland. These diagnoses are unlikely to reflect transmission in Ireland and so would not be prevented by public health measures in Ireland.

Total HIV Diagnoses and Rates in Ireland, 2022 (See figure 1 and 2)



In 2022, there were 884 HIV notifications in Ireland giving a rate of 17.2 per 100,000 population. This represents a 68% increase in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic year 2019 (n=527)

Previous history of diagnosis

- 62% (n=548) in people previously diagnosed with HIV outside Ireland
- 20% (n=173) in people with a first-time HIV diagnosis
- 18% (n=163) in people with unknown status (forms not returned or data not provided)

This slide set is therefore presented in two parts

(a) Total HIV diagnoses

(b) First-time HIV diagnoses (excluding previous positive and unknowns)

Part A: Total HIV diagnoses

All HIV diagnoses in Ireland, regardless of previous testing status.

More detailed data tables on total HIV diagnoses can be found at <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/hivandaids/hivdataandreports/2022reports/>

Trend in HIV diagnoses and rates (total diagnoses)

- Steady trend in HIV rate between 2015 and 2019 and lower rates in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic
- 68% increase in 2022 (17.2 per 100,000 population) compared to pre-pandemic year 2019 (11.1 per 100,000 population)

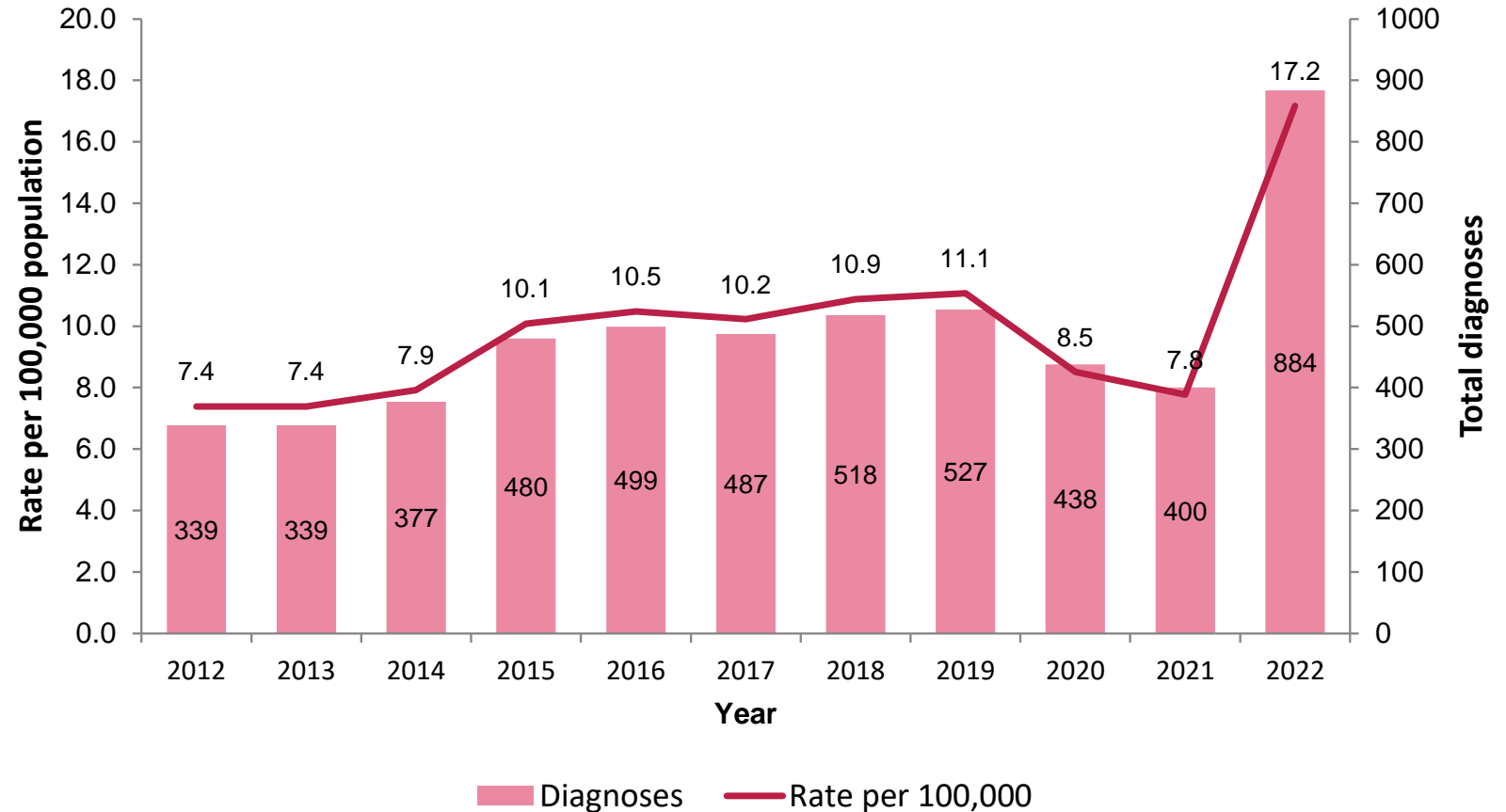


Figure 1: HIV diagnoses and rate per 100,000 population in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV diagnoses by history of previous diagnosis (total diagnoses)

- Increase of 138% in 2022 in HIV diagnoses among people who were previously diagnosed outside Ireland compared to pre-pandemic year 2019
- First-time diagnoses decreased by 9% compared to 2019

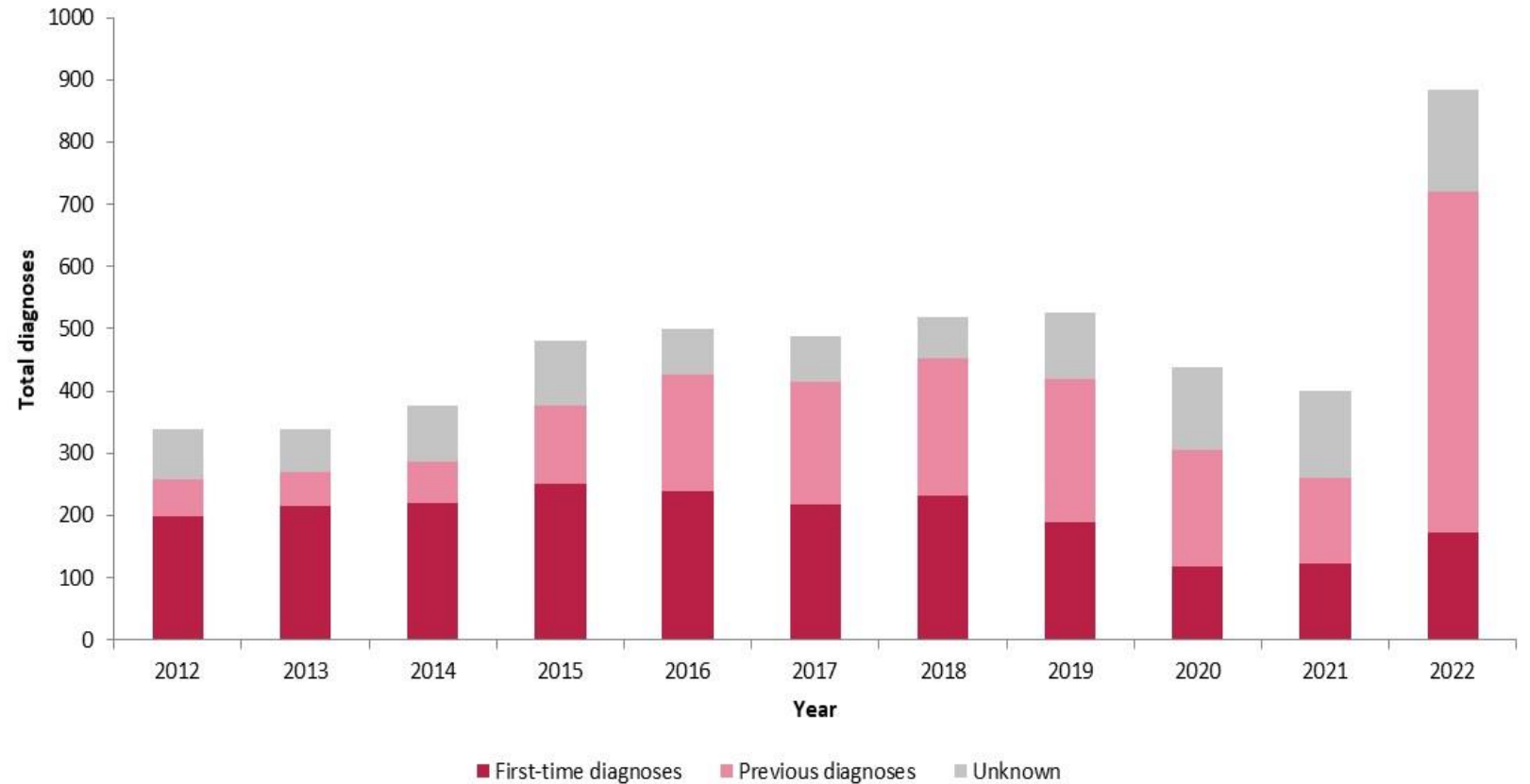


Figure 2: HIV diagnoses by history of previous diagnosis in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV rates by gender (total diagnoses)

- Two thirds of HIV diagnoses occurred in males in 2022 (n=586; 23.0 per 100,000 population) with one third in females (n=298; 11.4 per 100,000 population) giving a male to female ratio of 2:1
- Rate of HIV in 2022 compared to 2019
 - Increase of 38% in males
 - Increase of 104% in females

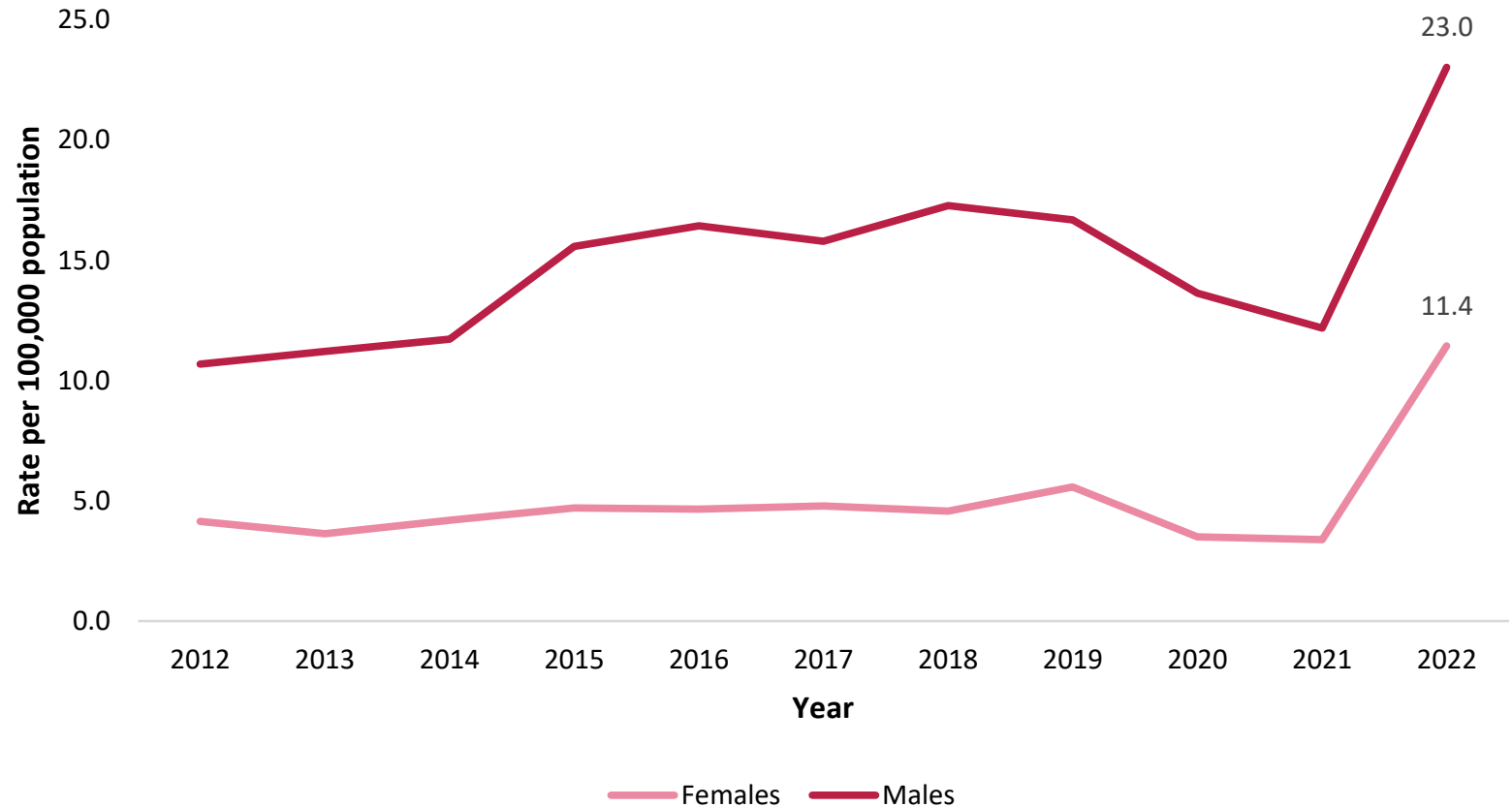


Figure 3: Rate of HIV by gender in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

HIV diagnoses by age group, 2022 (total diagnoses)

- 81% of HIV diagnoses were among those aged 25-49 years
 - 6% young people (15-24 yrs), similar to recent years
 - 12% aged 50 and older, similar to recent years
- Median age of adult cases was 36 years (range: 18-81 yrs), an increase since 2012 (33 yrs)
 - 34 yrs in males (range: 18-81 yrs)
 - 39 yrs in females (range: 19-66 yrs)

(Age unknown for one person)

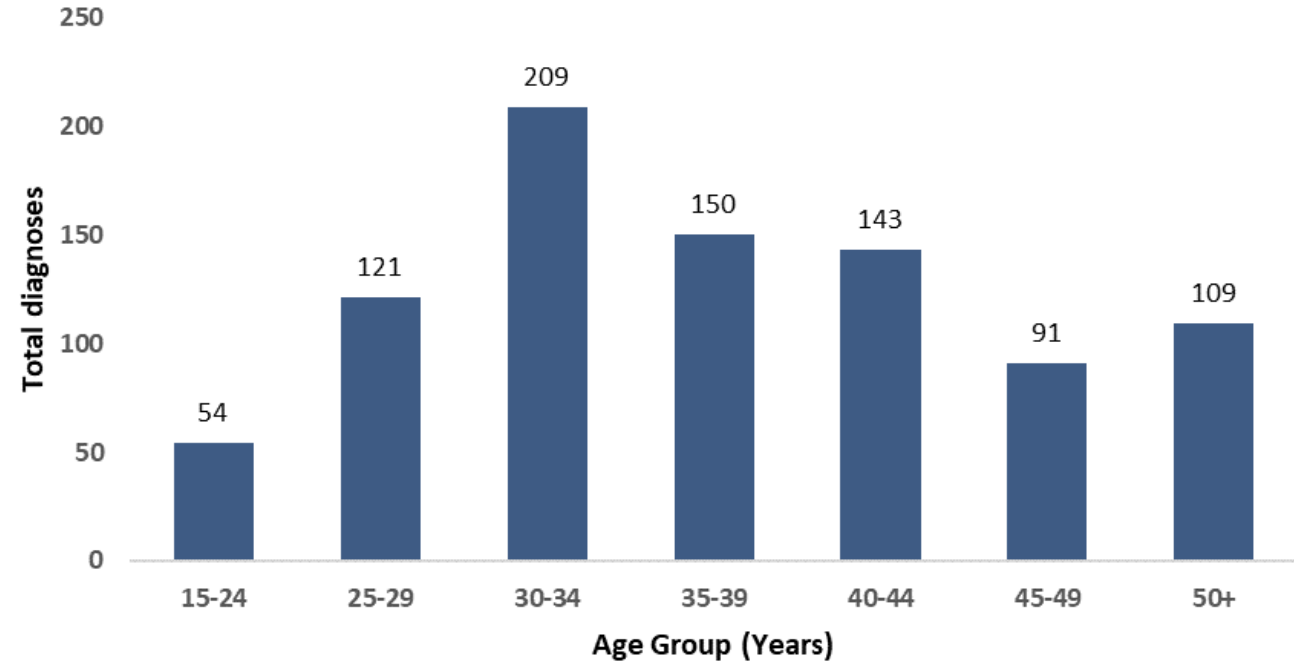


Figure 4: HIV diagnoses by age group in Ireland, 2022 (total diagnoses)

HIV rates by gender and age group, 2022 (total diagnoses)

- Higher age-specific rates in 2022 in males than females in all age groups
- Highest rate in males in those aged 30-34 years
- Highest rates in females in those aged
 - 30-34 years
 - 35-39 years
 - 40-44 years

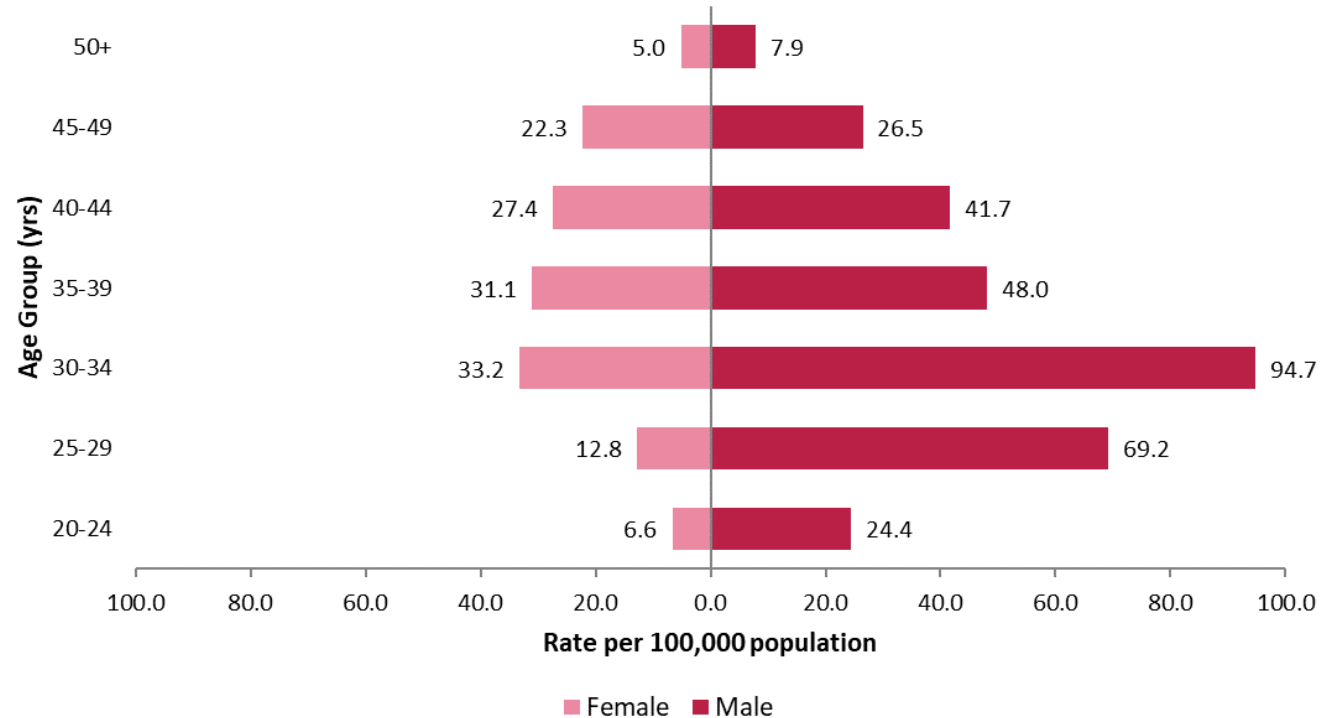


Figure 5: Rate of HIV by gender and age group in Ireland, 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV rates by age group (total diagnoses)



- Rates of HIV increased in all age groups in 2022 compared to 2019
- Largest increases in those aged
 - 30-34 years (132%)
 - 45-49 years (104%)

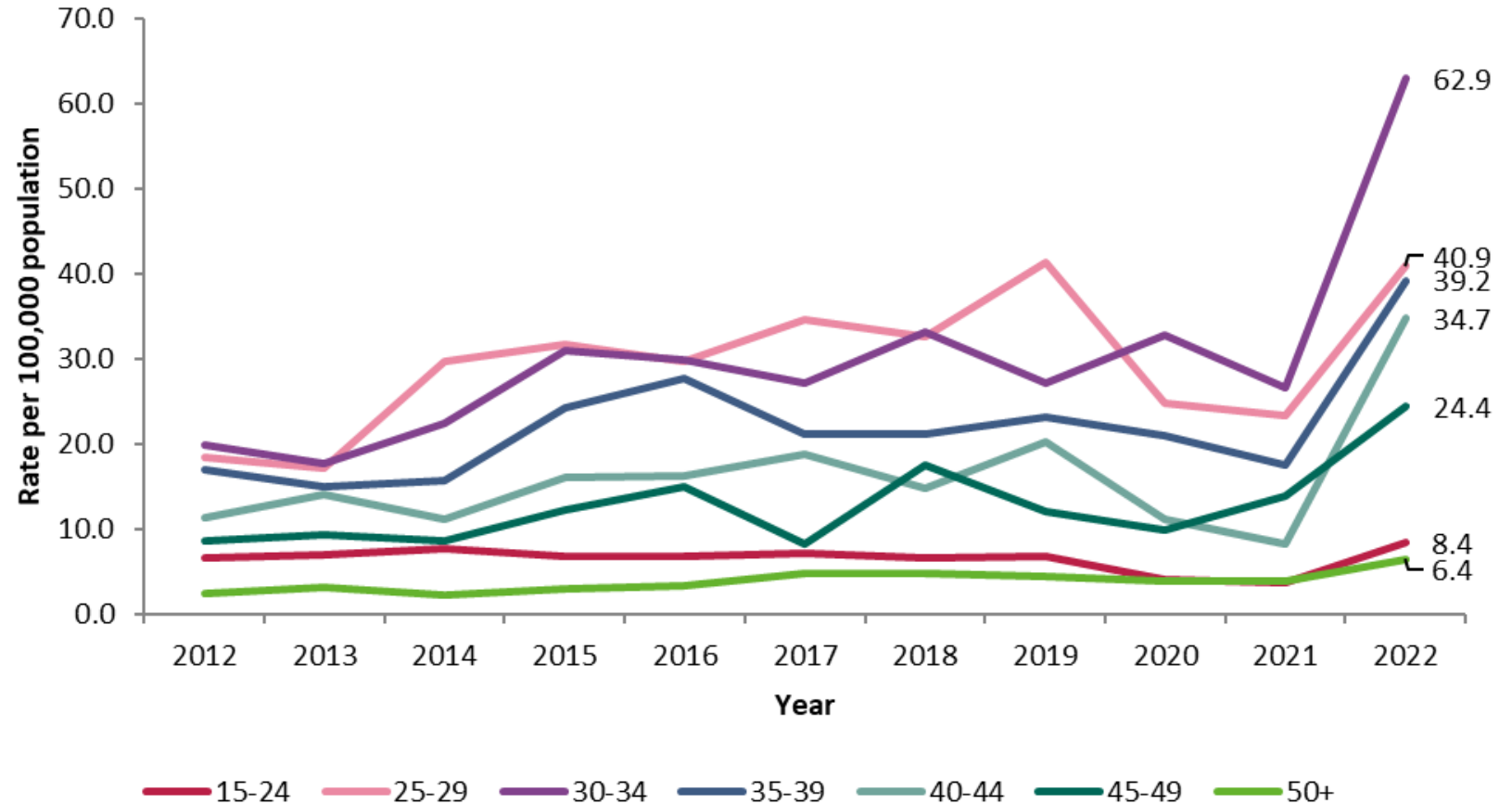


Figure 6: Rate of HIV by age group in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV rates by age group in males (total diagnoses)

- Rates of HIV in males in 2022 increased in all age groups compared to 2019
- Largest increase in those aged
 - 30-34 years (105%)
 - 45-49 years (60%)

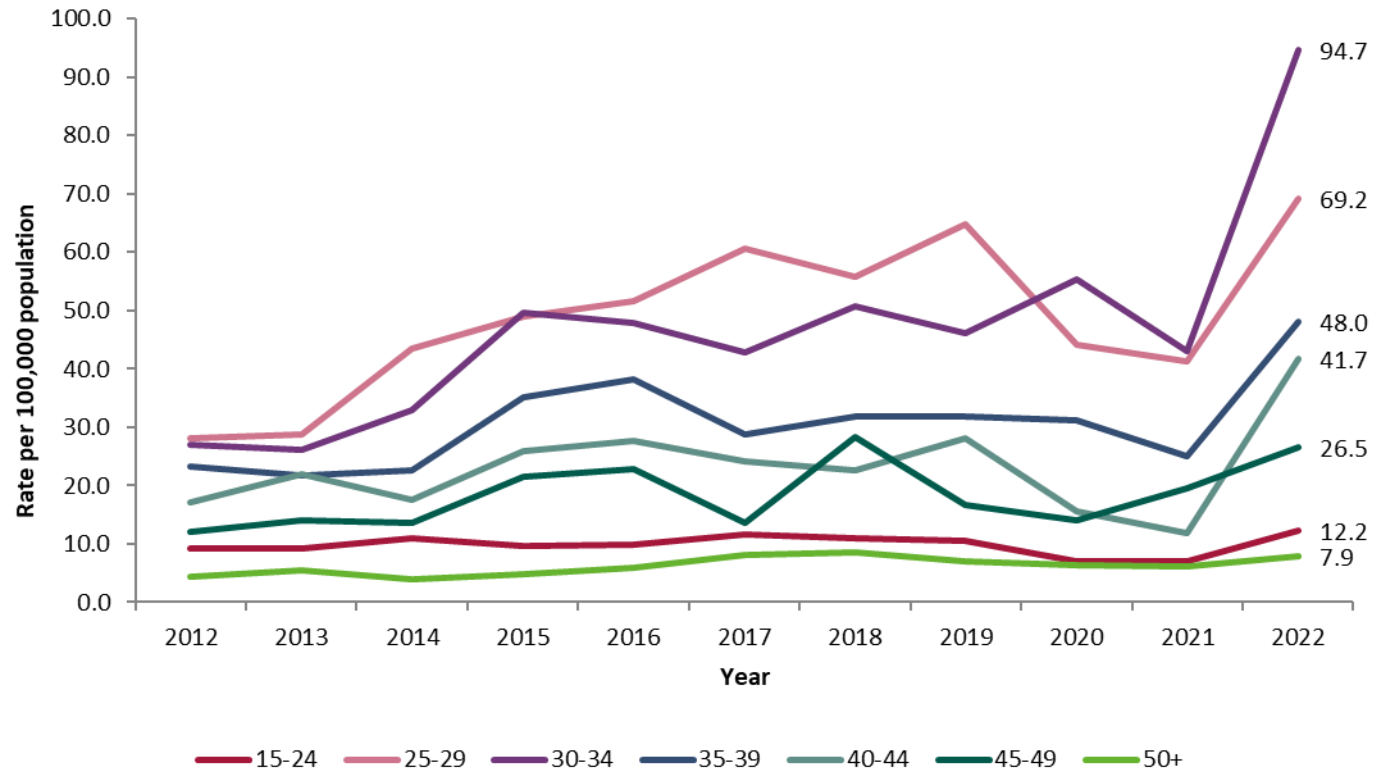


Figure 7: Rate of HIV in males by age group in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV rates by age group in females (total diagnoses)

- Rates of HIV in females in 2022 increased in all age groups, compared to 2019, except those aged 25-29 years
- Largest increases in those aged
 - 30-34 years (248%)
 - 45-49 years (203%)

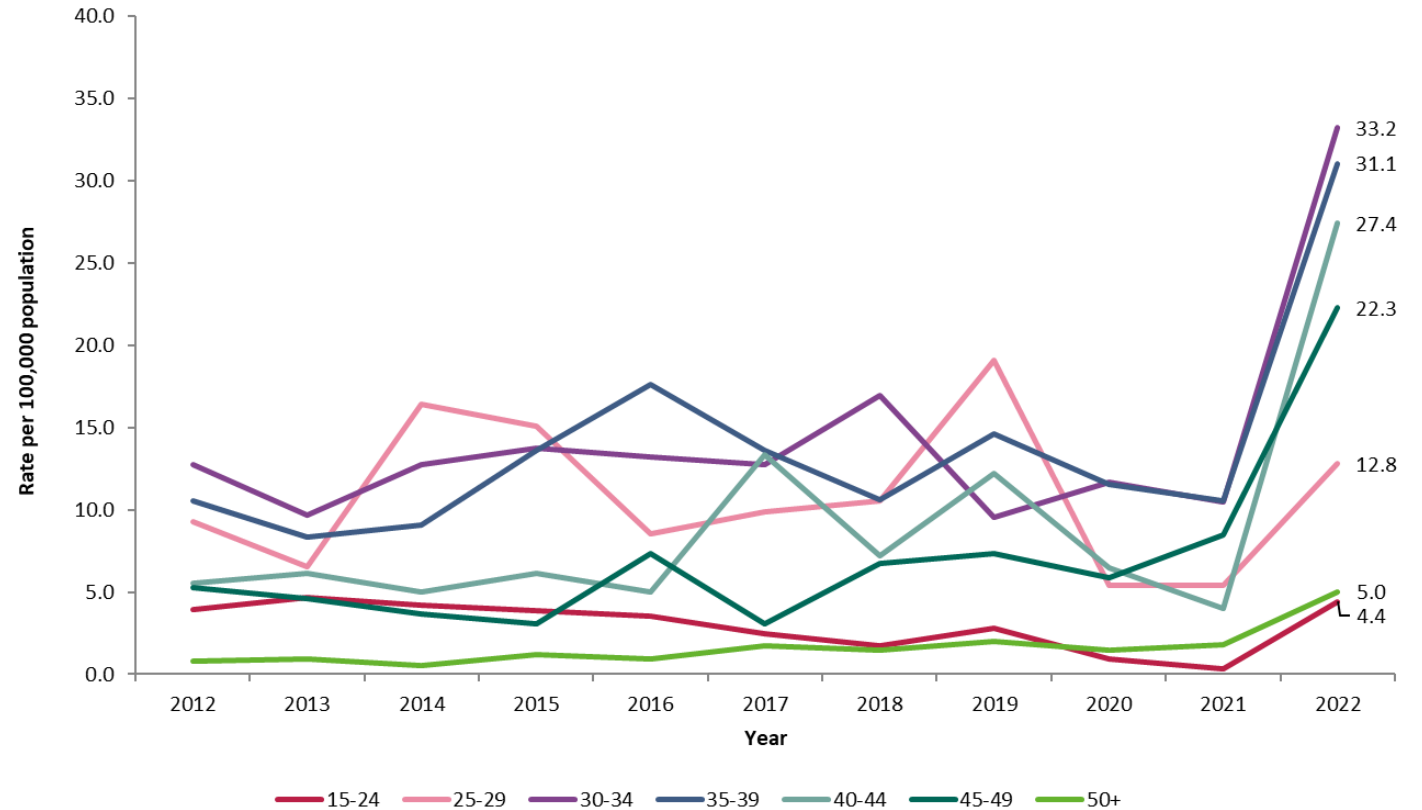


Figure 8: Rate of HIV in females by age group in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

HIV diagnoses in transgender people, 2022 (total diagnoses)

Since reporting of data on gender identity began in mid-2018, 24 HIV diagnoses have been recorded among trans people

- 16 trans female*
 - 4 in 2018; 2 in 2019; 3 in 2020; 5 in 2021; 2 in 2022
- 8 trans male**
 - 1 in 2019; 1 in 2020; 1 in 2021; 5 in 2022

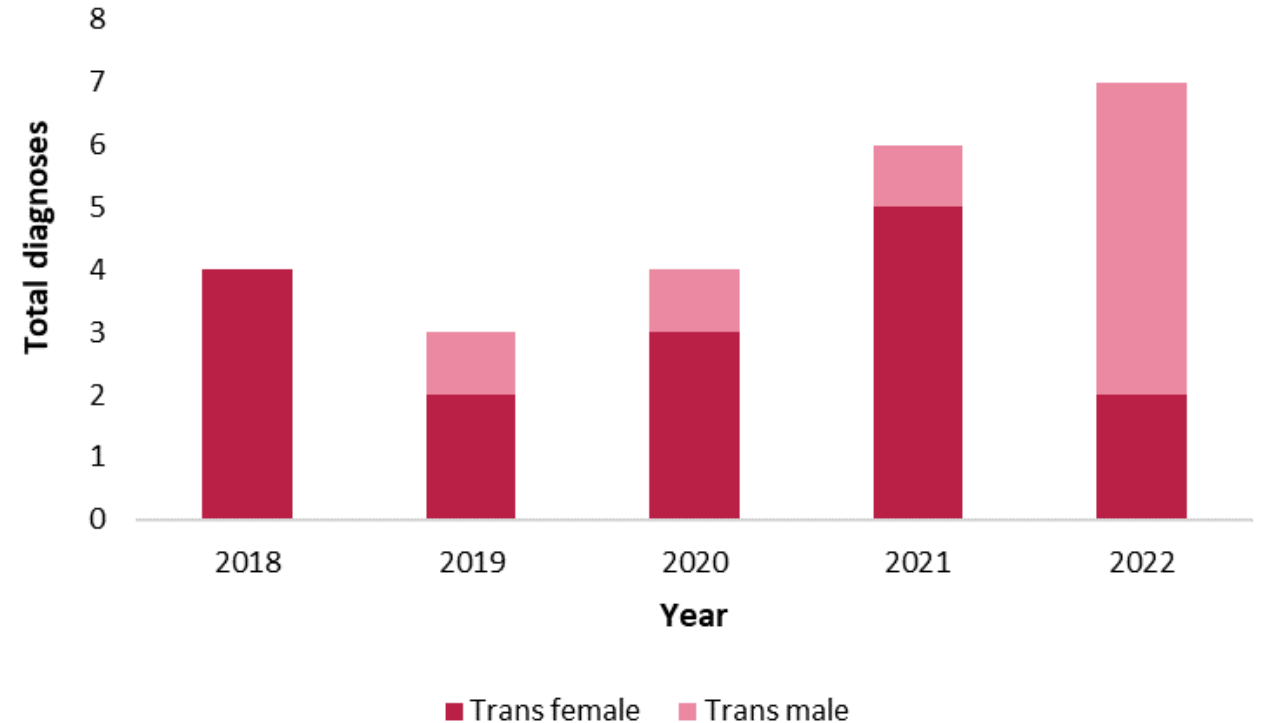


Figure 9: HIV diagnoses in transgender people in Ireland, 2018 to 2022
(total diagnoses)

*Trans female: Sex at birth is male and gender identity is female

**Trans male: Sex at birth is female and gender identity is male

Trend in HIV diagnoses by probable route of transmission (total diagnoses)

- Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) accounted for the largest proportion of HIV diagnoses (41%) in 2022
- Heterosexuals accounted for 35% of HIV diagnoses in 2022
- Diagnoses among people who inject drugs (PWID) accounted for <5% of HIV diagnoses in 2022

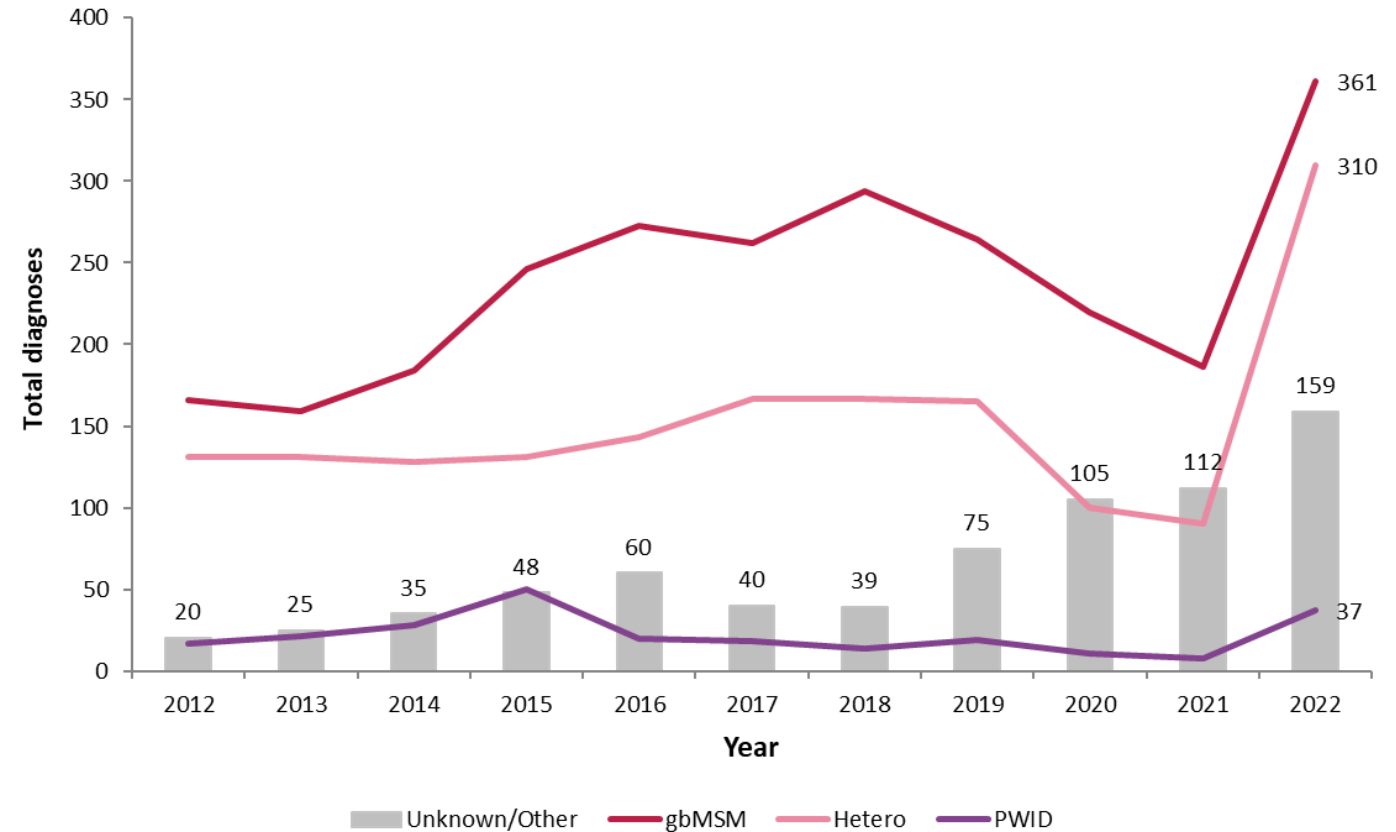


Figure 10: HIV diagnoses by probable route of transmission, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV diagnoses in heterosexuals (total diagnoses)

- Large increase in diagnoses in heterosexual females in 2022 compared to 2019 (107%) following a drop due to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/2021
- Increase in diagnoses in heterosexual males in 2022 compared to 2019 (55%) following a drop due to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/2021

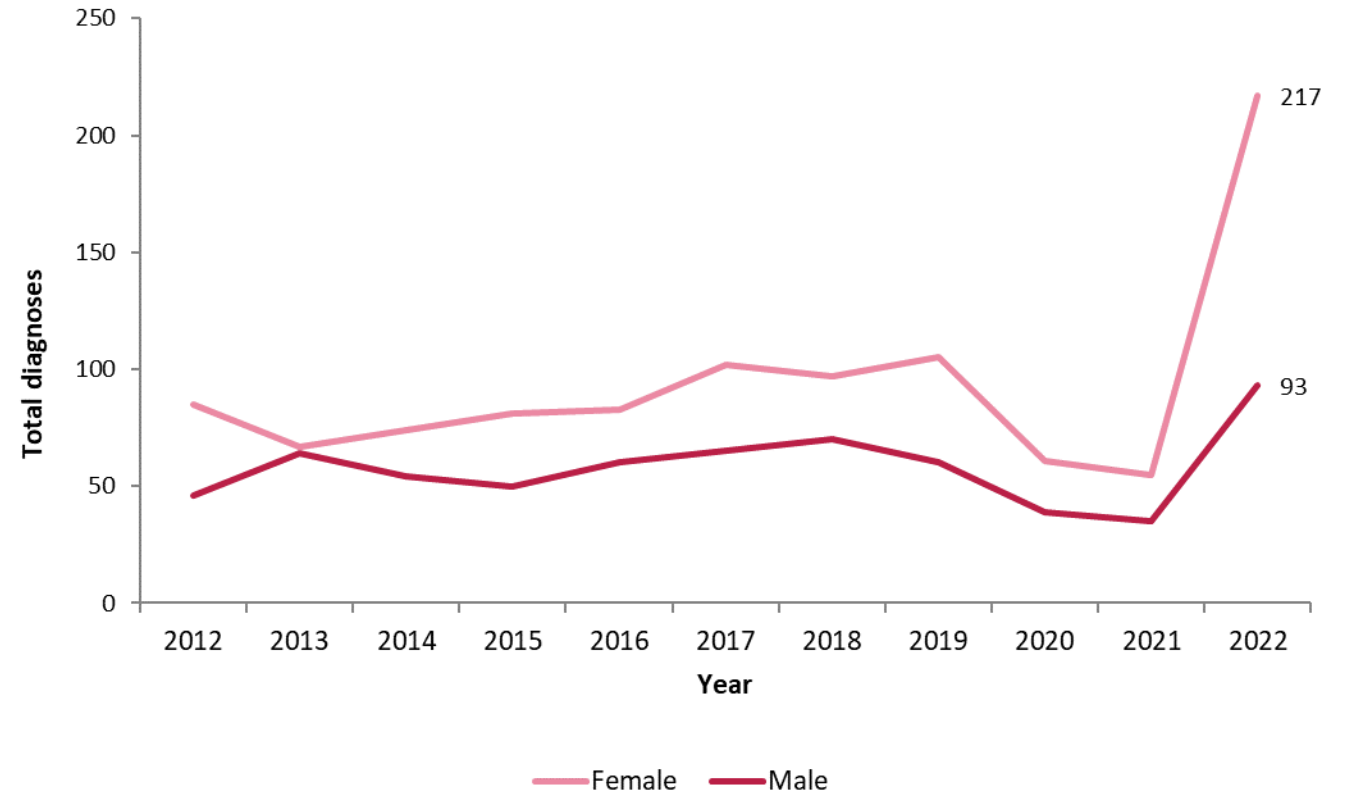


Figure 11: HIV diagnoses in heterosexuals by gender in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV diagnoses in gbMSM by previous history (total diagnoses)

- Majority (67%) of HIV diagnoses among gbMSM in 2022 were in people previously diagnosed with HIV outside Ireland, with 28% among people with a first-time diagnosis
- Compared to 2019, an increase (75%) in HIV diagnoses in 2022 in gbMSM with a previous diagnosis of HIV outside Ireland, with first-time diagnoses remaining unchanged

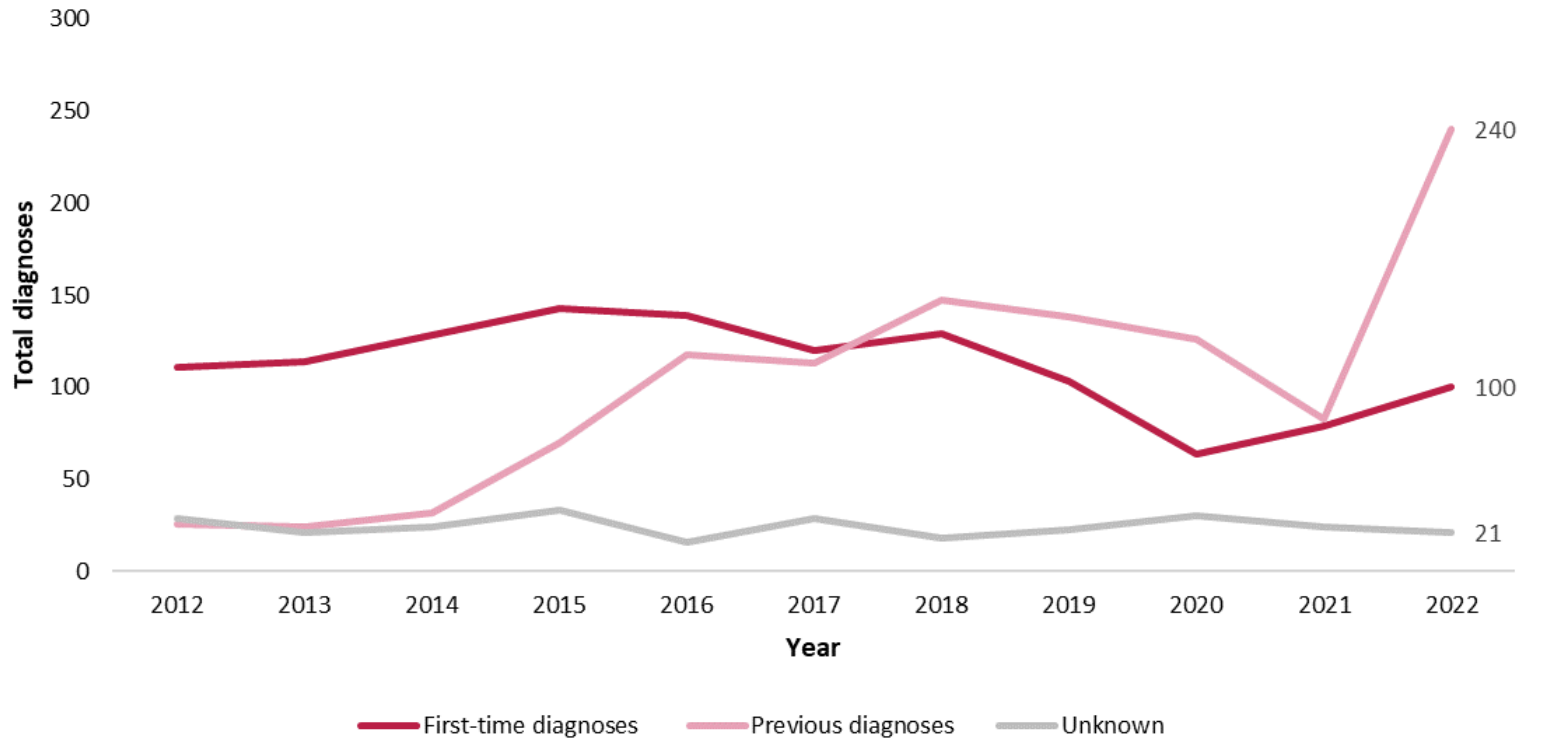


Figure 12: HIV diagnoses in gbMSM by history of previous diagnosis in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV diagnoses in heterosexuals by previous history (total diagnoses)



- Majority (75%) of HIV diagnoses among heterosexuals were in people who were previously diagnosed with HIV outside Ireland, with 19% among people with a first-time diagnosis
- Compared to 2019, a large increase (233%) in HIV diagnoses in 2022 among heterosexuals with a previous diagnosis of HIV outside Ireland while the number of first-time diagnoses decreased (19%)

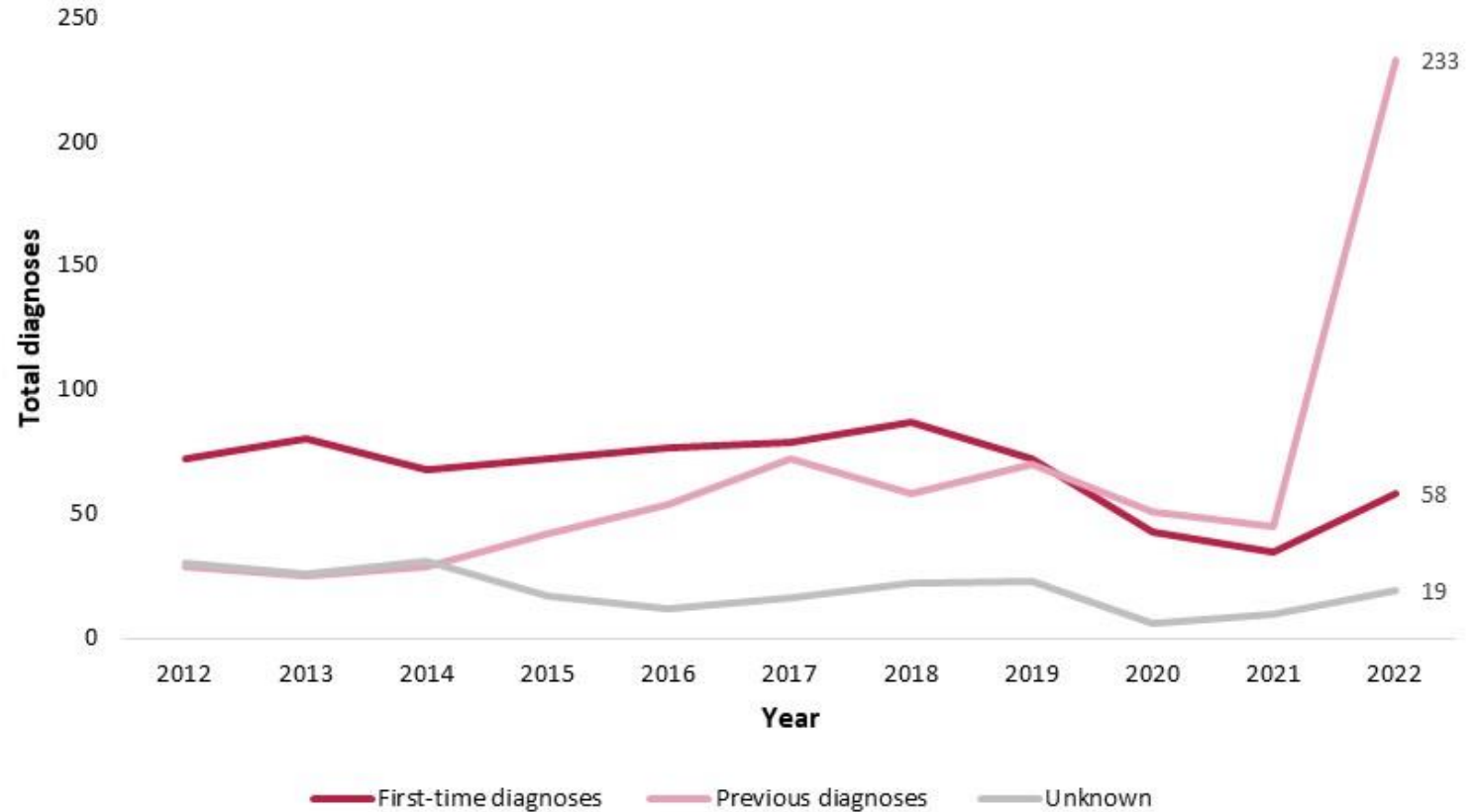


Figure 13: HIV diagnoses in heterosexuals by history of previous diagnosis in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV diagnoses in people who inject drugs by previous history (total diagnoses)



- Majority (81%) of HIV diagnoses among PWID were in people previously diagnosed with HIV outside Ireland, with 16% first-time diagnoses
- Compared to 2019, an increase (233%) of HIV diagnoses in people previously diagnosed outside Ireland while first-time diagnoses decreased by 14%

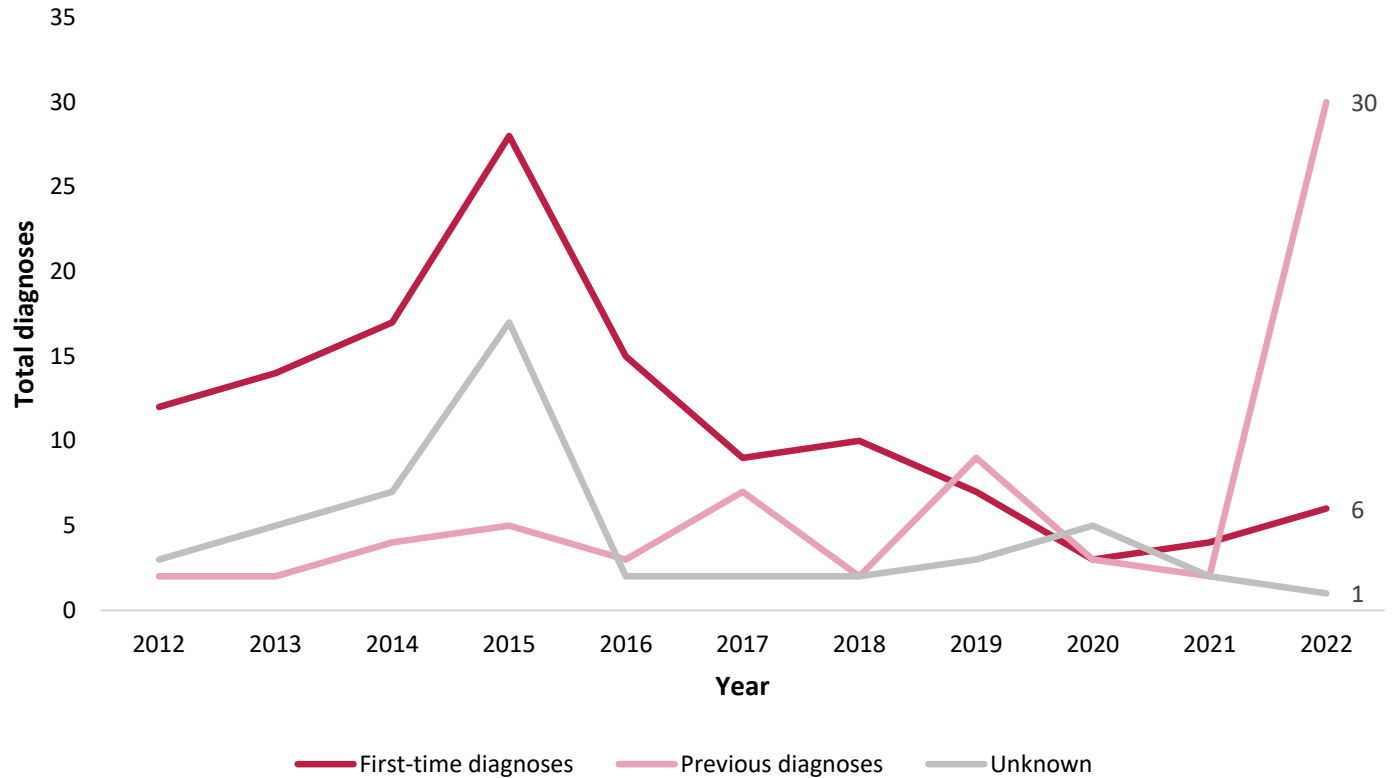


Figure 14: HIV diagnoses in PWID by history of previous diagnosis in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Vertical transmission, 2022 (total diagnoses)

- There were 17 diagnoses in 2022 which were reported to Public Health and where the probable route of transmission was attributed to vertical transmission
 - Nine adult cases: all previously diagnosed outside Ireland
 - Eight paediatric cases: seven previously diagnosed outside Ireland and one a first-time diagnosis
- The Rainbow Clinic in Children's Health Ireland (CHI) reported that 60 babies were born to 59 women known to be HIV positive in pregnancy in 2022.
 - Following serial PCR testing, all infants are HIV negative

Trend in HIV rates by region of birth (total diagnoses)

- Those born in Ireland
 - Steady HIV rate in recent years (2.6 per 100,000 in 2022)
- Those born outside Ireland
 - Rate of HIV considerably higher than the rate in people born in Ireland (66 per 100,000 in 2022)
 - 46% increase compared to 2019
 - Decrease in 2020 and 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic

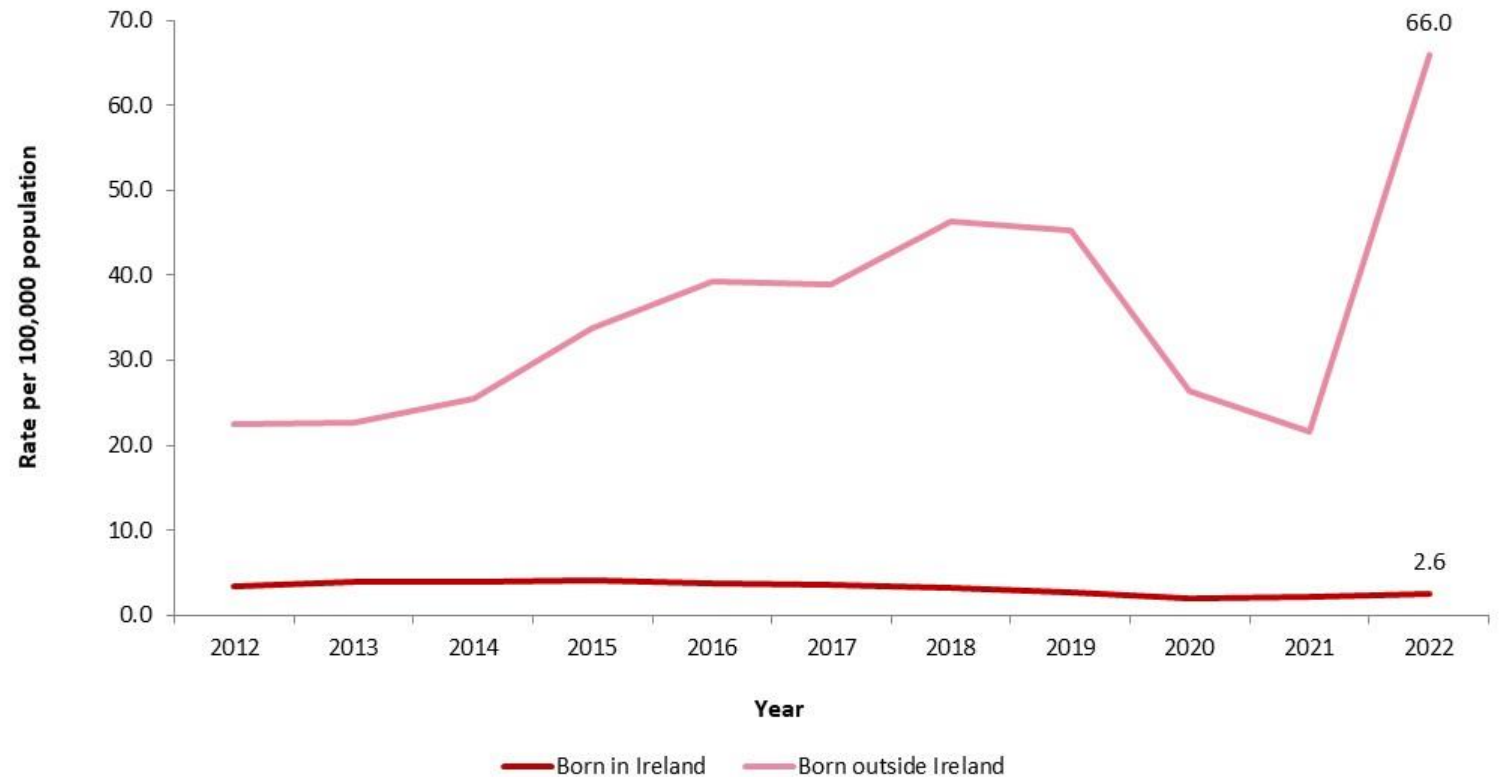


Figure 15: HIV rates by region of birth in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV diagnoses by region of birth, excluding Ireland (total diagnoses)



- Of those born outside Ireland, majority born in: Latin America and Caribbean (34%); Sub-Saharan Africa (30%) and Eastern Europe (23%)
- Compared to 2019, largest increases in 2022, in people born in:
 - Eastern Europe (744%);
 - Latin America & Caribbean (78%);
 - Sub-Saharan Africa (38%)

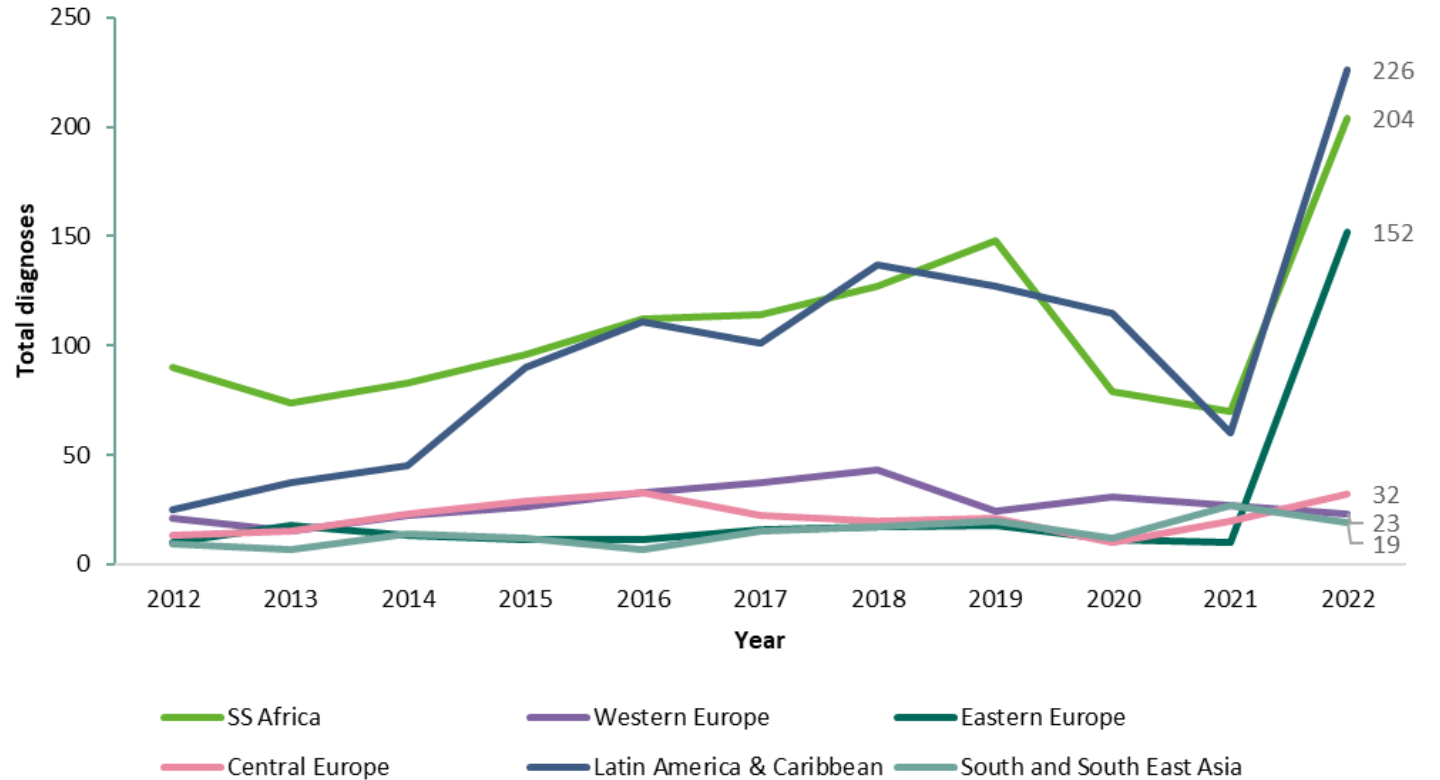


Figure 16: HIV diagnoses by region of birth (excluding Ireland), 2012 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

Trend in HIV rates by HSE Area* (total diagnoses)

- Rates of HIV increased in 2022 in all HSE areas, compared to 2019
- In all areas, the largest proportion of HIV diagnoses were among those who were previously diagnosed with HIV abroad (see next slide)

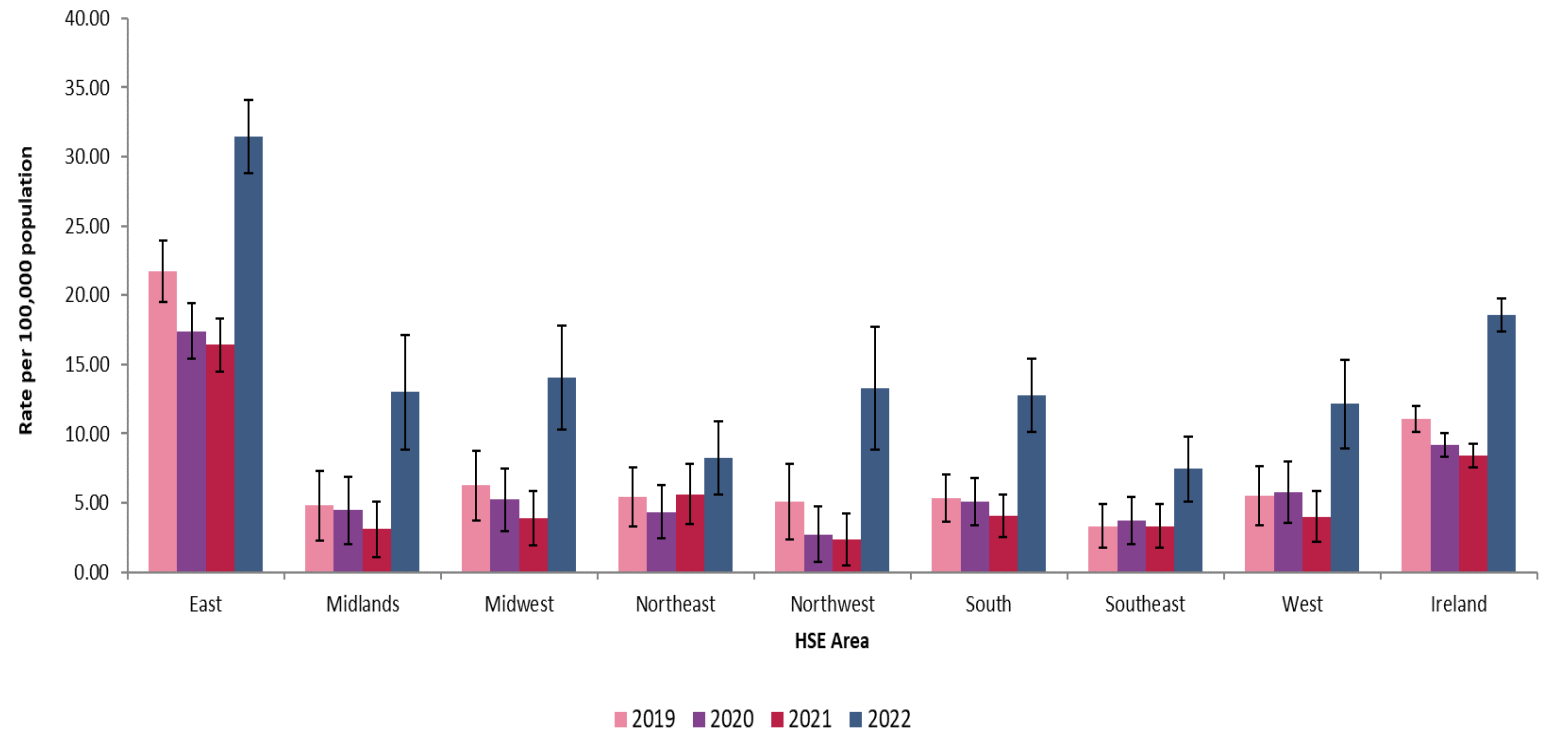


Figure 17: HIV rates by HSE Area in Ireland with 95% confidence intervals 2019 to 2022 (total diagnoses)

*Based on area of residence (where available), otherwise is based on area of clinician. See slide 44 for counties in each HSE area; 2016 census data were used to calculate notification rates in HSE areas.

HIV diagnoses by HSE Area and previous history of diagnosis* (total diagnoses)

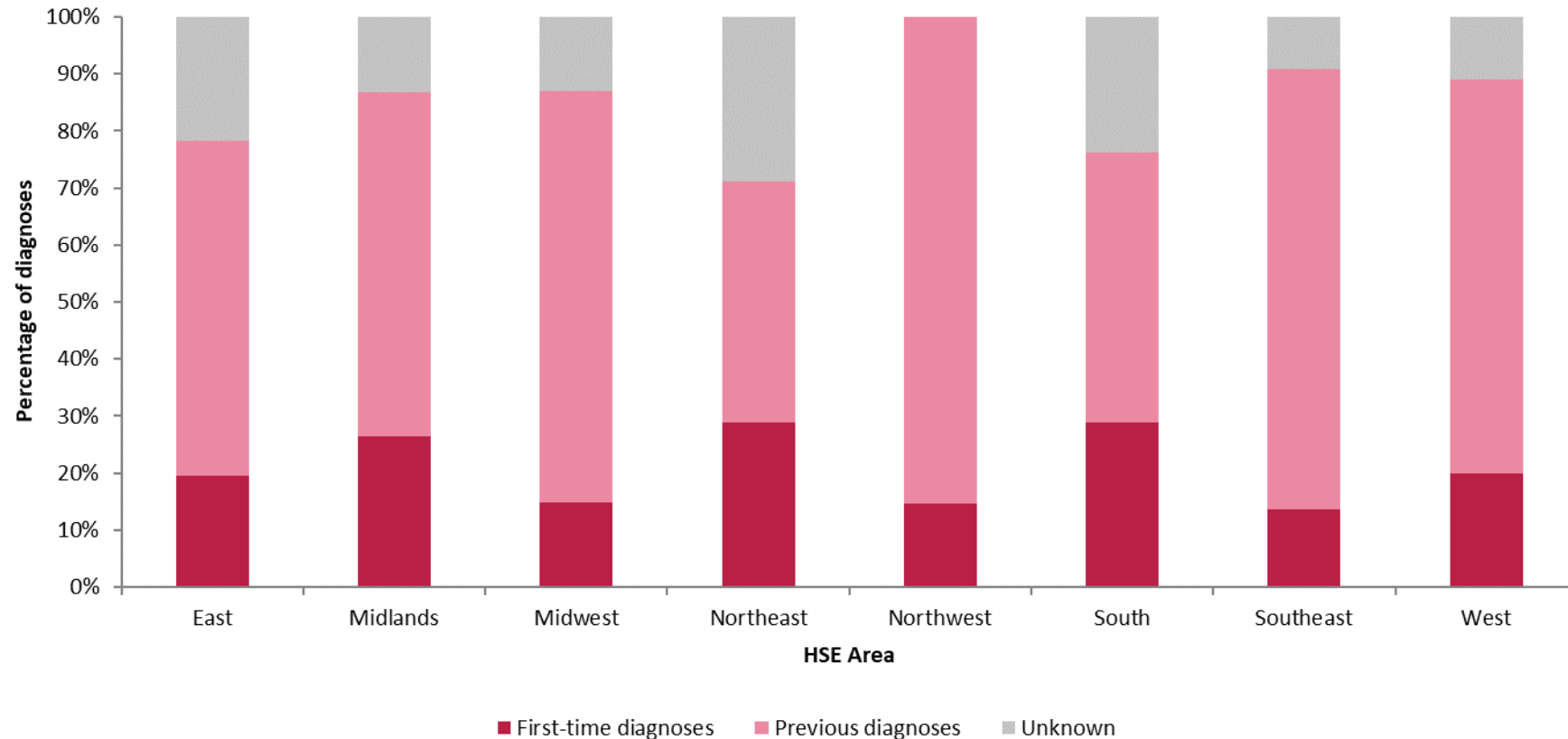


Figure 18: HIV diagnoses by HSE Area and previous history in Ireland, 2022 (total diagnoses)

*Based on area of residence (where available), otherwise is based on area of clinician. See slide 50 for counties in each HSE area;

Key Points – Total HIV diagnoses (1)



Total HIV Diagnoses and Rates

- 884 HIV diagnoses in Ireland in 2022, giving a rate of 17.2 per 100,000 population
 - 68% increase compared to pre-pandemic year 2019
 - Decrease in diagnoses in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Majority of HIV diagnoses (62%) in people previously diagnosed outside Ireland with 20% among people with a first-time diagnosis

Gender and Age Group

- Majority of HIV diagnoses in males. Rate in females nearly doubled (compared to 2019) while the rate in males increased by less than 50%
- Since reporting of data on gender identity began in mid-2018, 24 HIV diagnoses have been recorded among trans people
- Most commonly affected age group is 30-34 years in males and 35-39 years in females

Key Points – Total HIV diagnoses (2)



Probable route of transmission

- gbMSM accounted for the largest proportion (41%) of diagnoses, followed by heterosexuals (35%). PWID accounted for less than 5% of diagnoses.
- Majority of cases among gbMSM, heterosexuals and PWID in people previously diagnosed with HIV outside Ireland

Region of origin

- Rate of HIV considerably higher among those born outside Ireland compared to those born in Ireland
- Largest increases in people born in Eastern Europe (744%); Latin American and the Caribbean (78%); and Sub-Saharan Africa (38%)

Part B: First-time HIV diagnoses

HIV diagnoses in Ireland **excluding** (a) those with a previous HIV diagnosis and (b) those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown.

More detailed data on first-time HIV diagnoses can be found <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/hivandaids/hivdataandreports/2022reports/>

Trend in HIV diagnoses and rates (first-time HIV diagnoses*)

- 173 first-time HIV diagnoses in 2022, giving a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 population
- 16% decrease in rate in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic year 2019 (4.0 per 100,000 population)

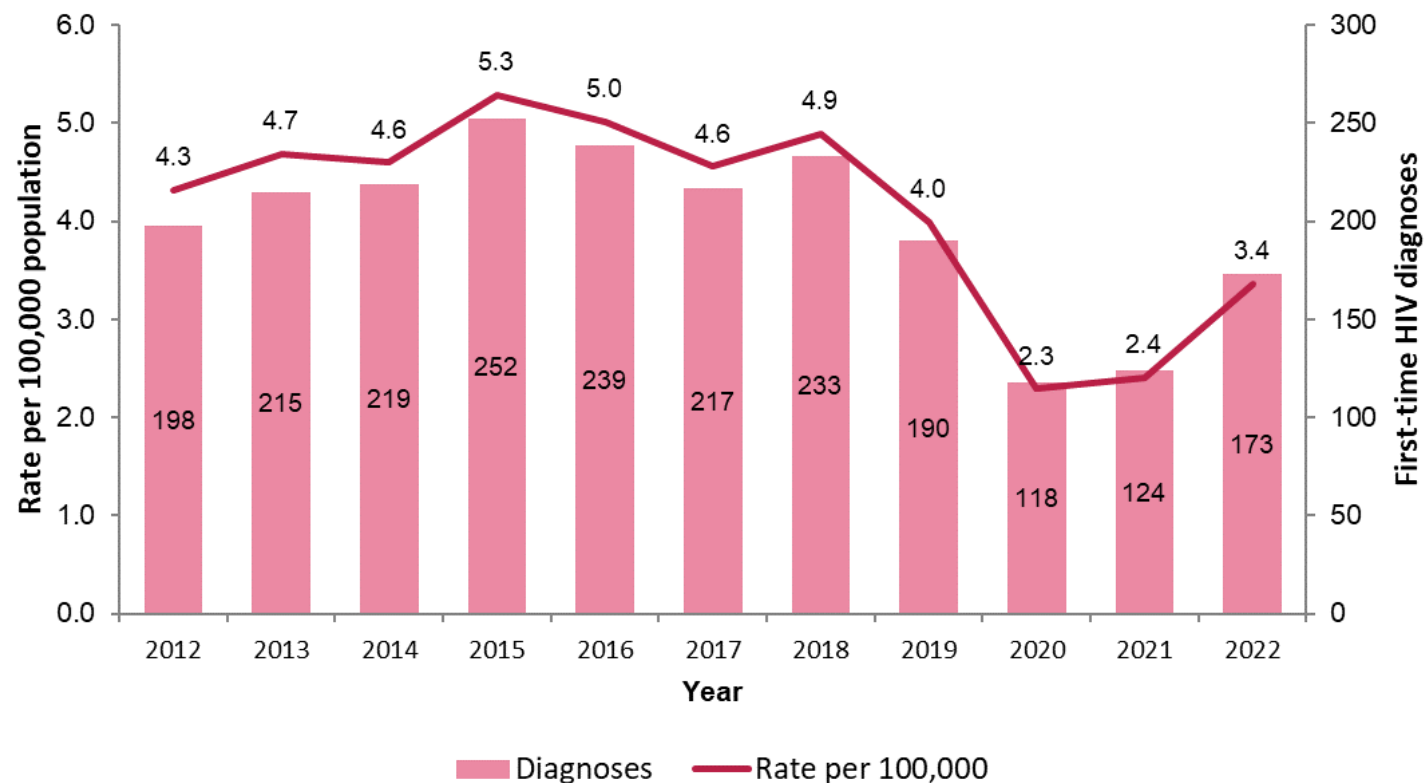


Figure 19: HIV diagnoses and rate per 100,000 population in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

Trend in HIV rates by gender (first-time HIV diagnoses*)

- Rate in males in 2022 nearly four times the rate in females in 2022
- Rates among males decreased by 13% in 2022 compared to 2019, continuing a decreasing trend since 2015
- Rates among females decreased by 26% compared to 2019, continuing a decreasing trend since 2017

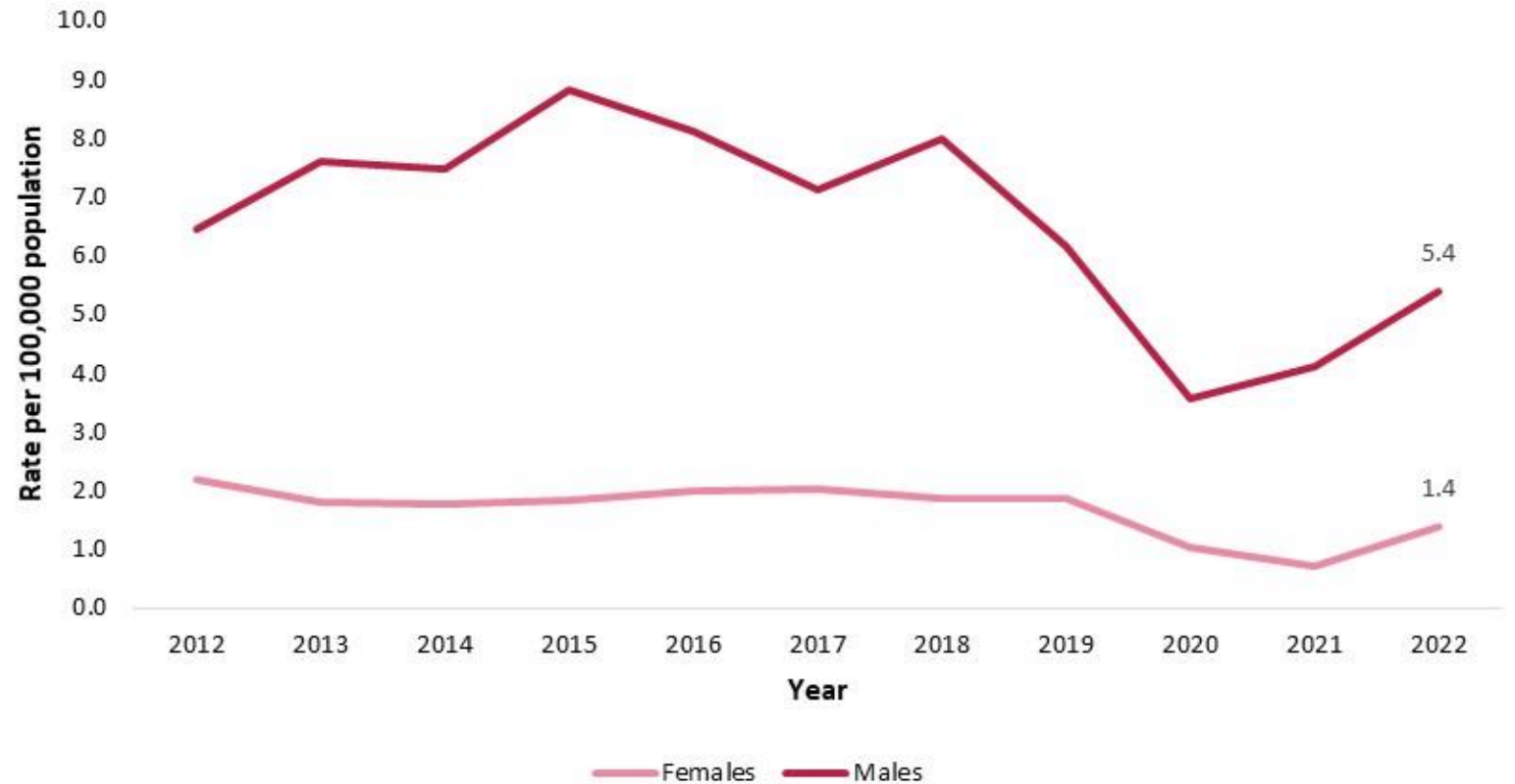


Figure 20: Rate of HIV by gender in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

HIV diagnoses by age group, 2022 (first-time diagnoses*)

- 79% aged 25-49 years
 - 9% young people (15-24 years)
 - 11% aged 50 and older
- Median age of adult cases was 35 years (range 19 to 76 years)
 - Males: 34 yrs (range: 20-76 years)
 - Females: 39 yrs (range: 19-57 years)

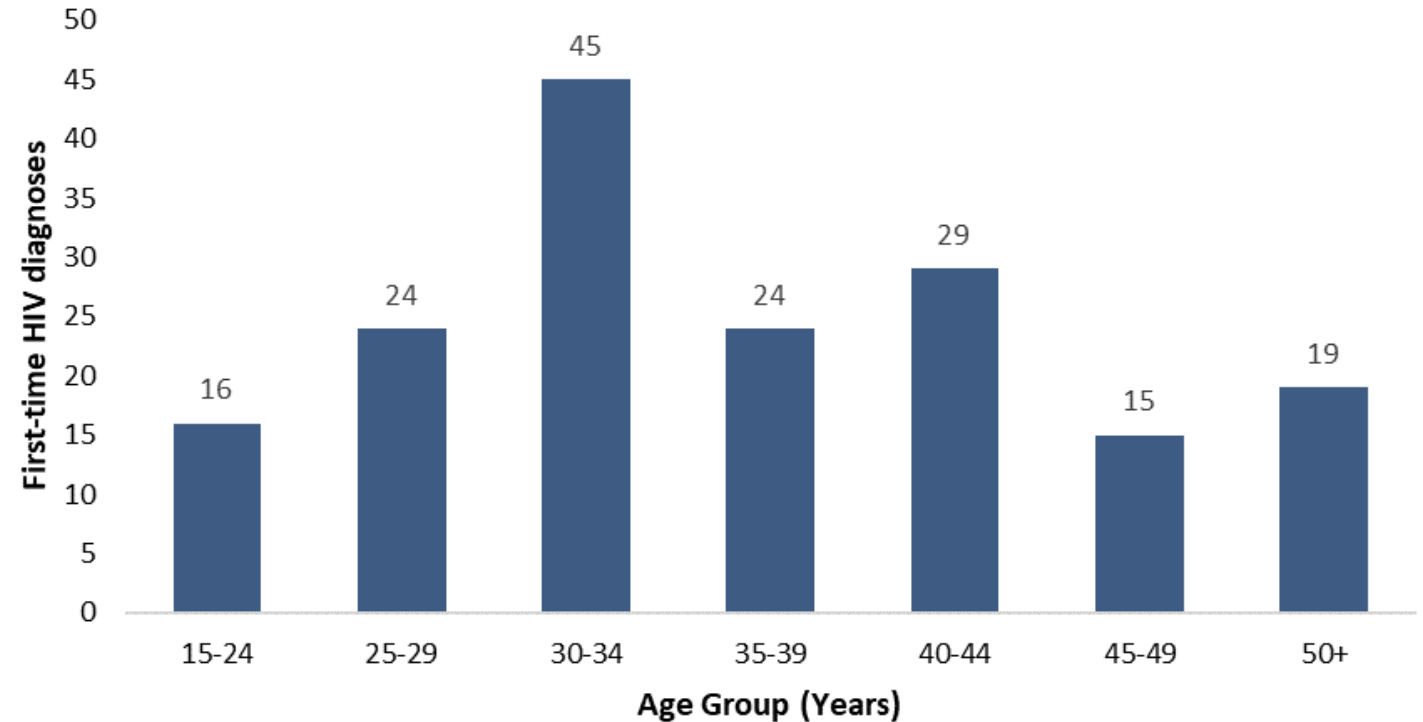


Figure 21: HIV diagnoses by age group in Ireland, 2022
(first-time diagnoses)

HIV rates by gender and age group, 2022 (first-time diagnoses*)

- Higher age-specific HIV rates among males in 2022 compared to females in all age groups
- Highest rate among males aged 30-34 years in 2022 (22.4 per 100,000)
- Highest rate among females aged 30-34 years in 2022 (5.2 per 100,000)

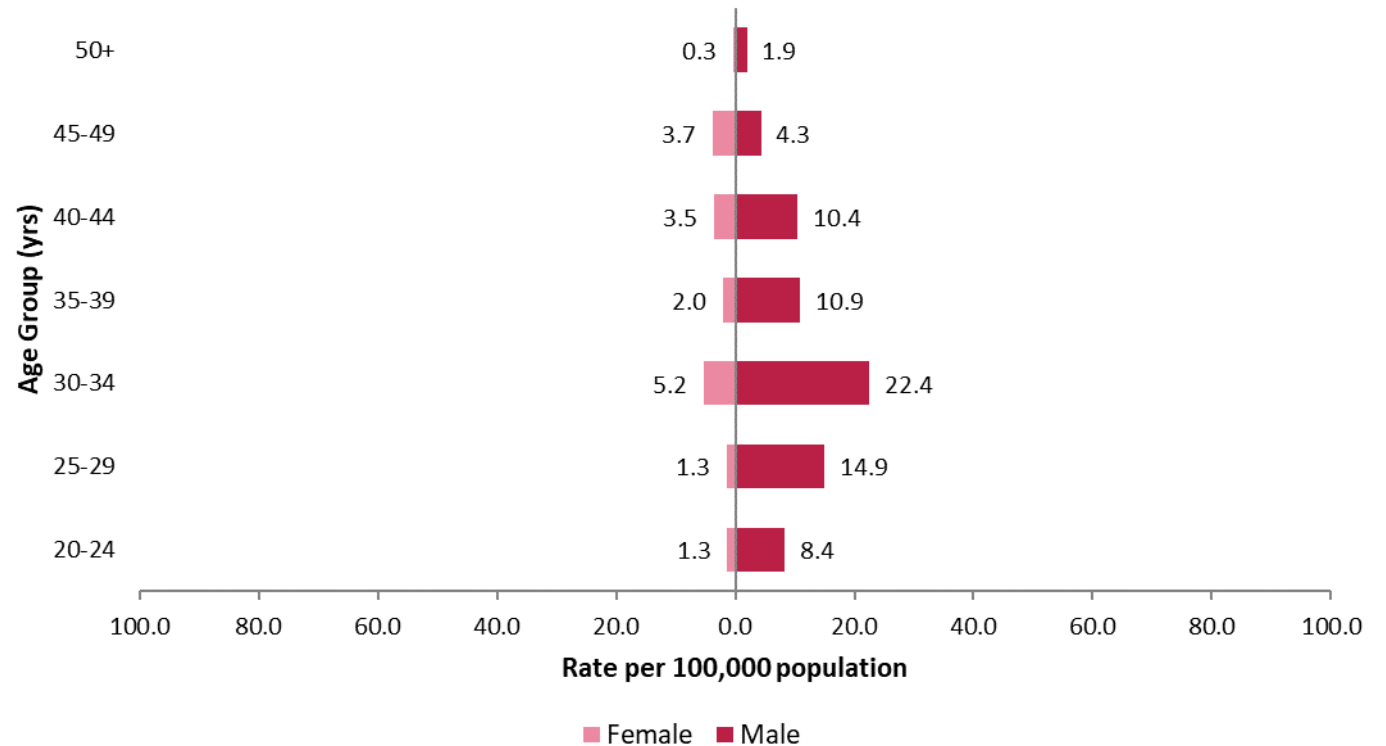


Figure 22: Rate of HIV by gender and age group in Ireland, 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

Trend in HIV rates by age group (first-time diagnoses*)



- Rates of HIV in all age groups decreased in 2022 compared to 2019, except in those aged 30-34 years
- Compared to 2019, largest decrease in rates of HIV in 2022 among those aged
 - 25-29 years (45%)
 - 50+ years (30%)

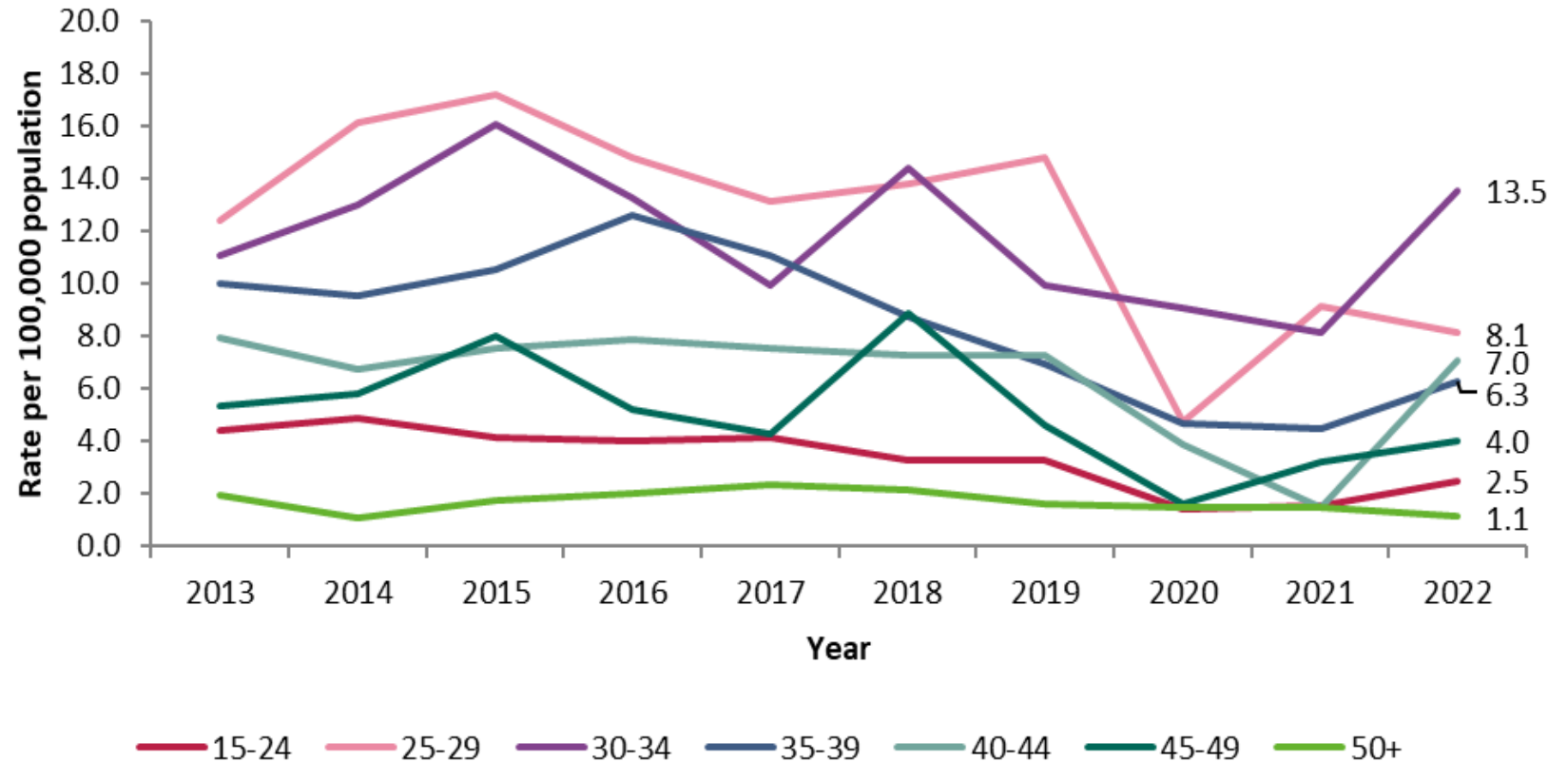


Figure 23: Rate of HIV by age group in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

*First-time diagnosis: HIV diagnosis in Ireland excluding those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

Trend in HIV rates by age group in males (first-time diagnoses*)

- Rates of HIV among males decreased in all age groups in 2022 compared to 2019, except in those aged
 - 30-34 years
 - 35-39 years
- Compared to 2019, the largest decrease in rates of HIV in 2022 were in those aged 45-49 years (46%)

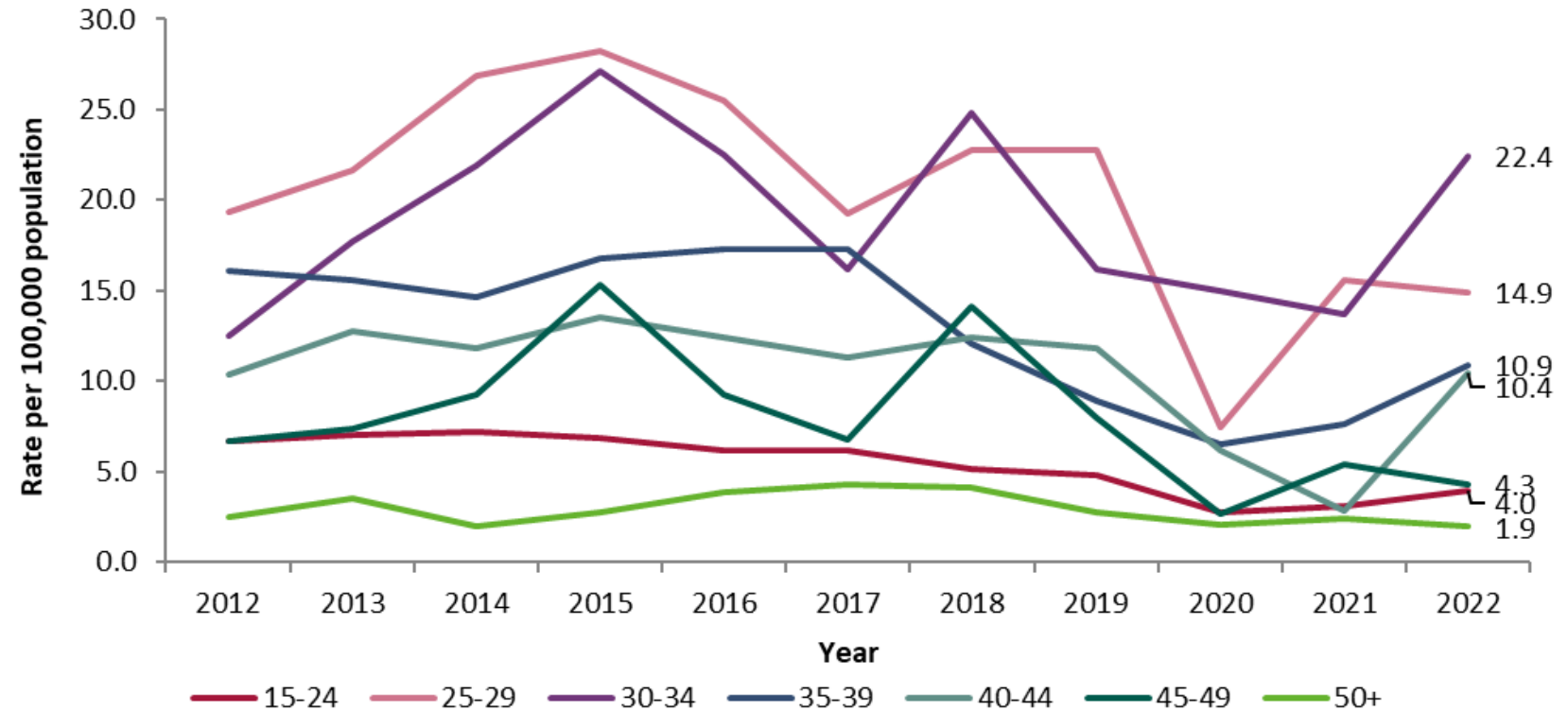


Figure 24: Rate of HIV in males by age group in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

Trend in HIV rates by age group in females (first-time diagnoses*)



- Rates in women remain low. Actual numbers are small for each age category

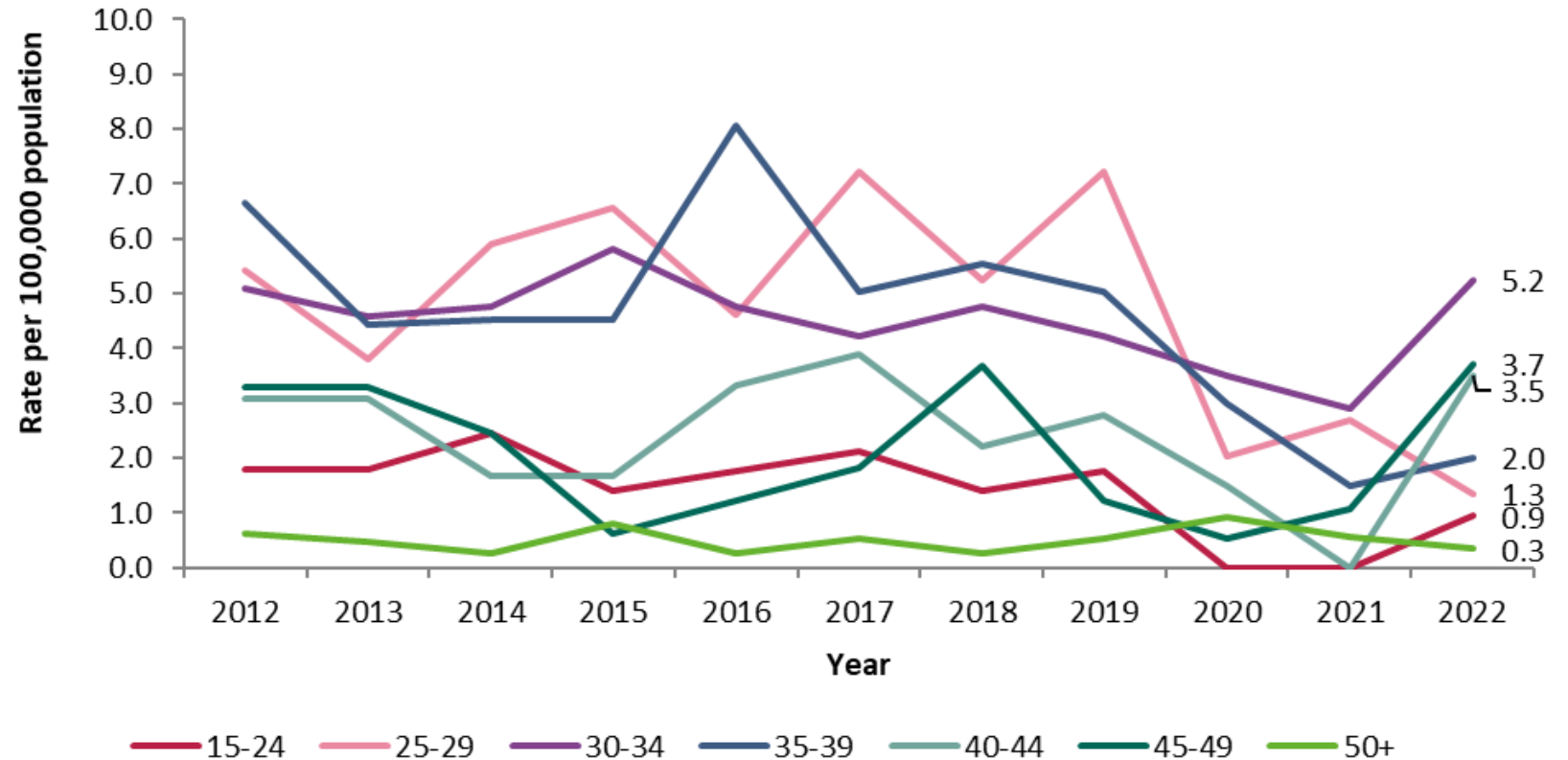


Figure 25: Rate of HIV in females by age group in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

*First-time diagnosis: HIV diagnosis in Ireland excluding those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

Trend in HIV rates by region of birth (first-time diagnoses*)

- In 2022, 38% of HIV diagnoses were in people born in Ireland with 61% in those born outside Ireland
- HIV rate in those born in Ireland
 - similar rate in 2022 compared to 2019
- HIV rate in those born outside Ireland
 - considerably higher than rate in people born in Ireland
 - decreased by 29% in 2022 compared to 2019 following a decrease in 2020/2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic

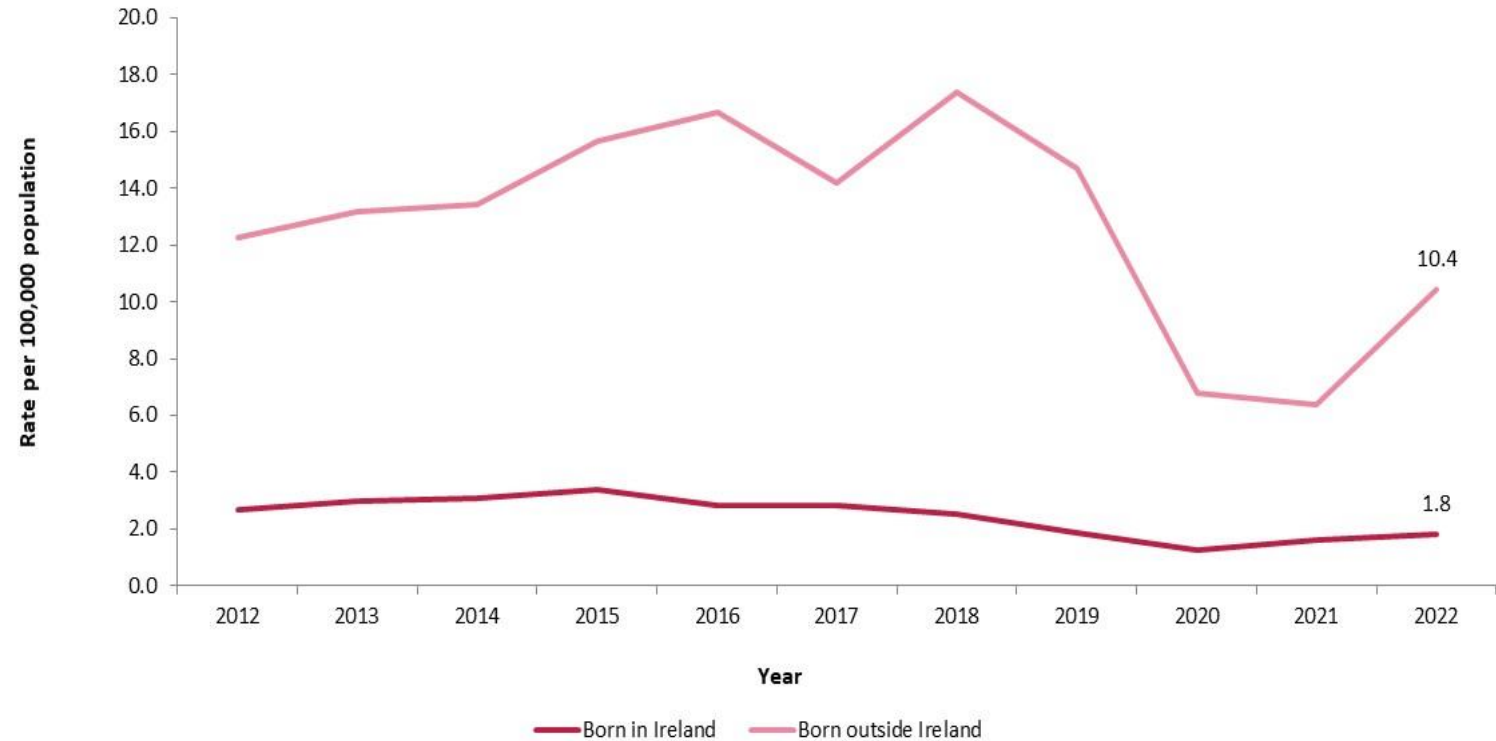


Figure 26: Rate of HIV by region of birth, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

Trend in HIV rates by region of birth and gender (first-time diagnoses*)

- Highest rates among males born outside Ireland (15.6 per 100,000 in 2022) with lower rates among men born in Ireland (2.9 per 100,000 in 2022)
- Low rates are observed in females born in Ireland (0.3 per 100,000) and outside Ireland (1.4 per 100,000)

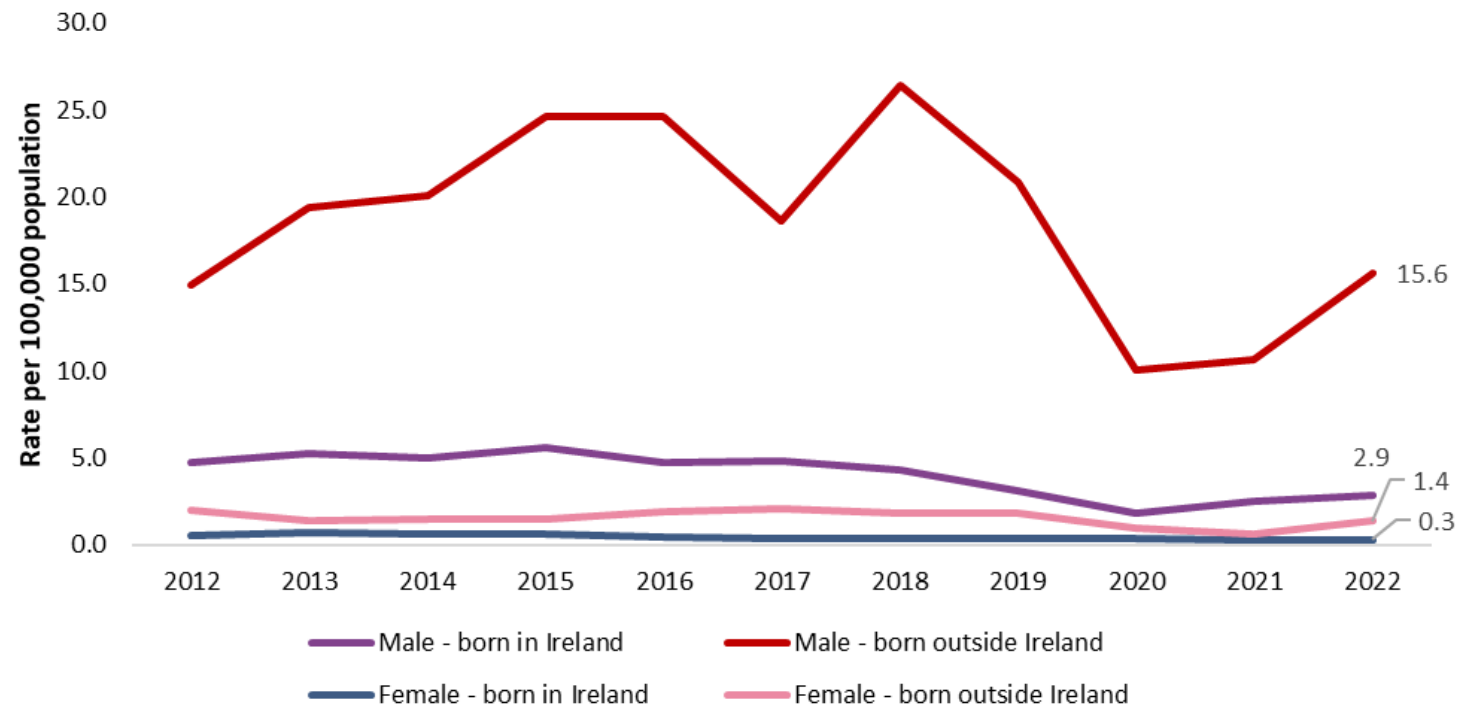


Figure 27: Rate of HIV by region of birth and gender, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

Trend in HIV diagnoses by region of birth, excluding Ireland (first-time diagnoses*)



- Small increases seen in 2022 in people born in Central Europe (42%) and Latin American & Caribbean (14%) compared to 2019
- Compared to 2019, decreases in 2022 in people born in
 - Western Europe (50%)
 - South & South-East Asia (44%)
 - Sub-Saharan Africa (33%)
 - Eastern Europe (14%)

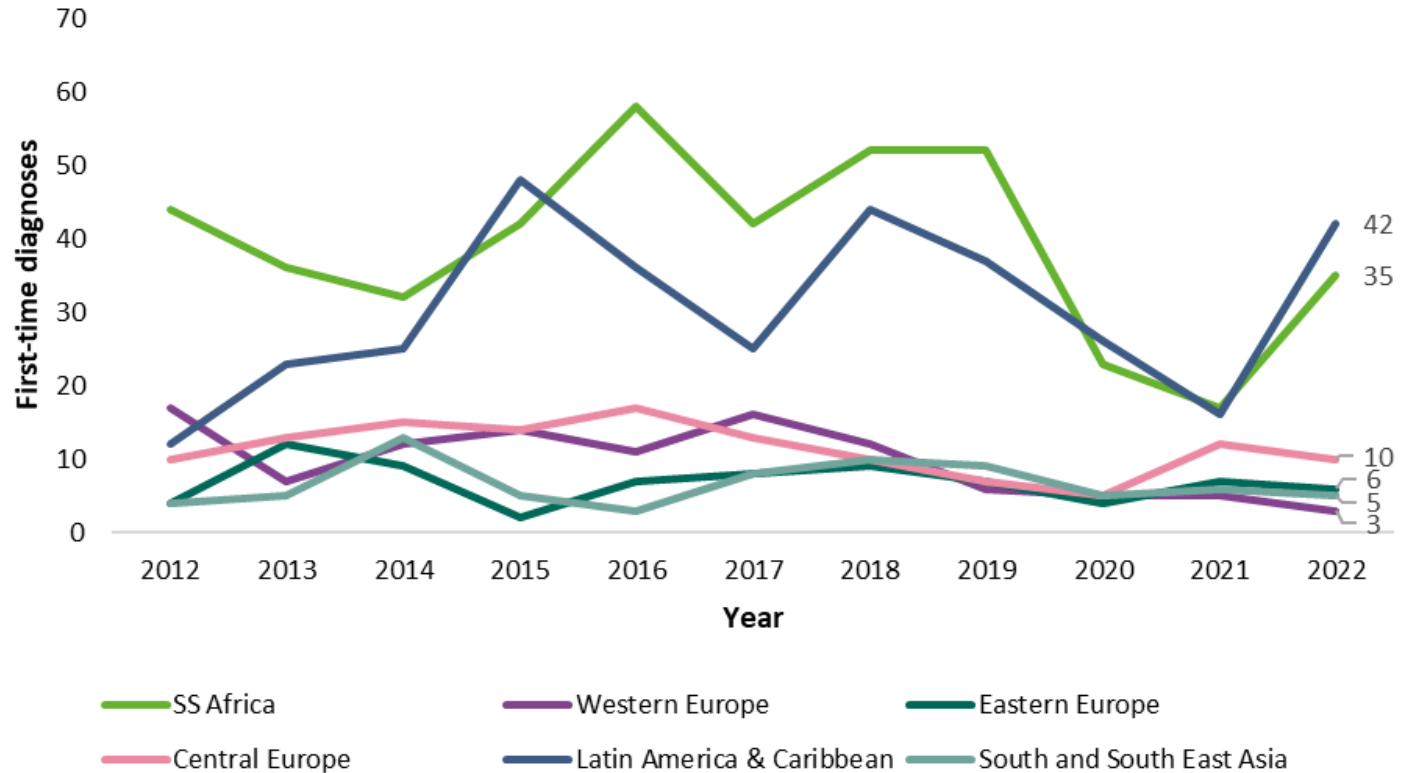


Figure 28: HIV diagnoses by region of birth (excluding Ireland), 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

*First-time diagnosis: HIV diagnosis in Ireland excluding those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

Trend in HIV diagnoses by region of origin and probable country of infection (first-time diagnoses*)

- In 2022, for people born in Ireland, the probable country of infection (where known) was Ireland for the majority (89%)
- In 2022, for people born outside Ireland, the probable country of infection (where known) was Ireland for approximately half of cases (48%) and outside Ireland for approximately half (52%)

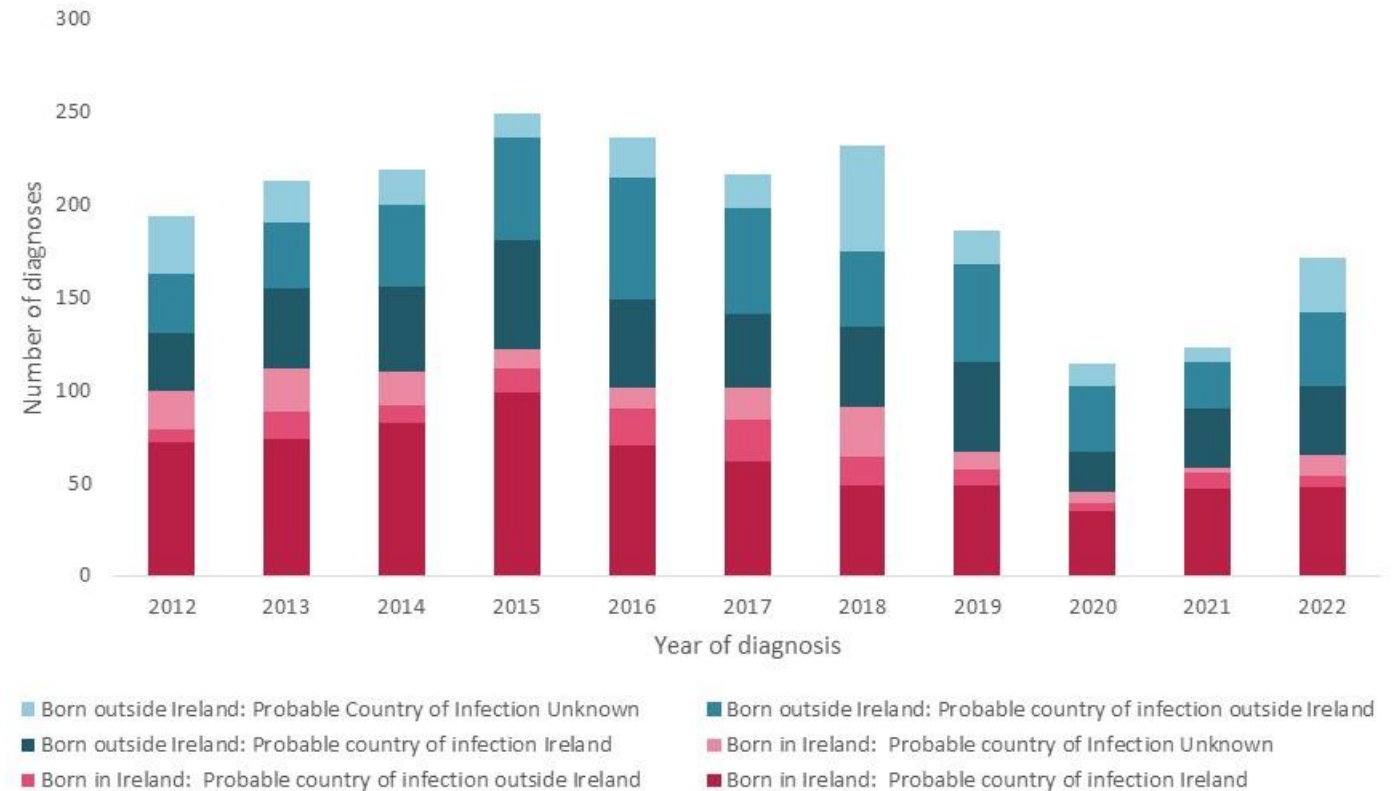


Figure 29: HIV diagnoses by region of origin and probable country of infection, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

Trend in HIV diagnoses by probable route of transmission, 2022 (first-time diagnoses*)



- gbMSM
 - accounted for the largest proportion (58%) of first-time diagnoses in 2022
 - 30% lower than peak in 2015
- Heterosexuals
 - accounted for 34% of first-time diagnoses in 2022
 - 33% lower than peak in 2018
- People who inject drugs (PWID)
 - accounted for 3.5% of first-time diagnoses in 2022

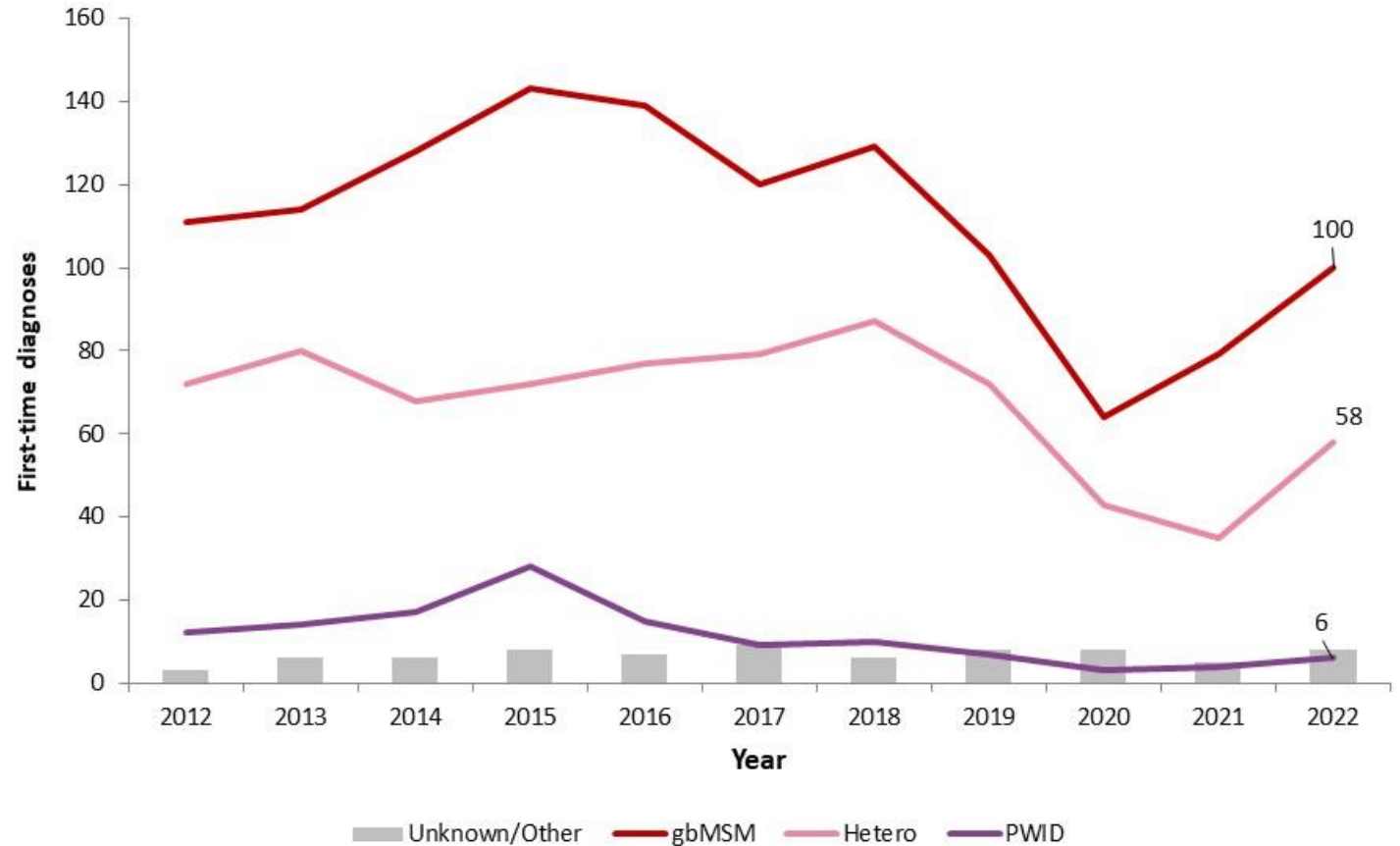


Figure 30: HIV diagnoses by probable route of transmission, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

*First-time diagnosis: HIV diagnosis in Ireland excluding those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

Trend in HIV rates in gbMSM, all males, and all females aged 18 years and over (first-time diagnoses*)



- The rate of first-time diagnoses in 2022 in gbMSM was 87.7 per 100,000 population. This is 11% lower than the rate in 2019 and 36% lower than the peak in 2015
- The rate in the male population (aged 18 and over) was 7.2 per 100,000 population
- The rate in the female population (aged 18 and over) was 1.8 per 100,000 population

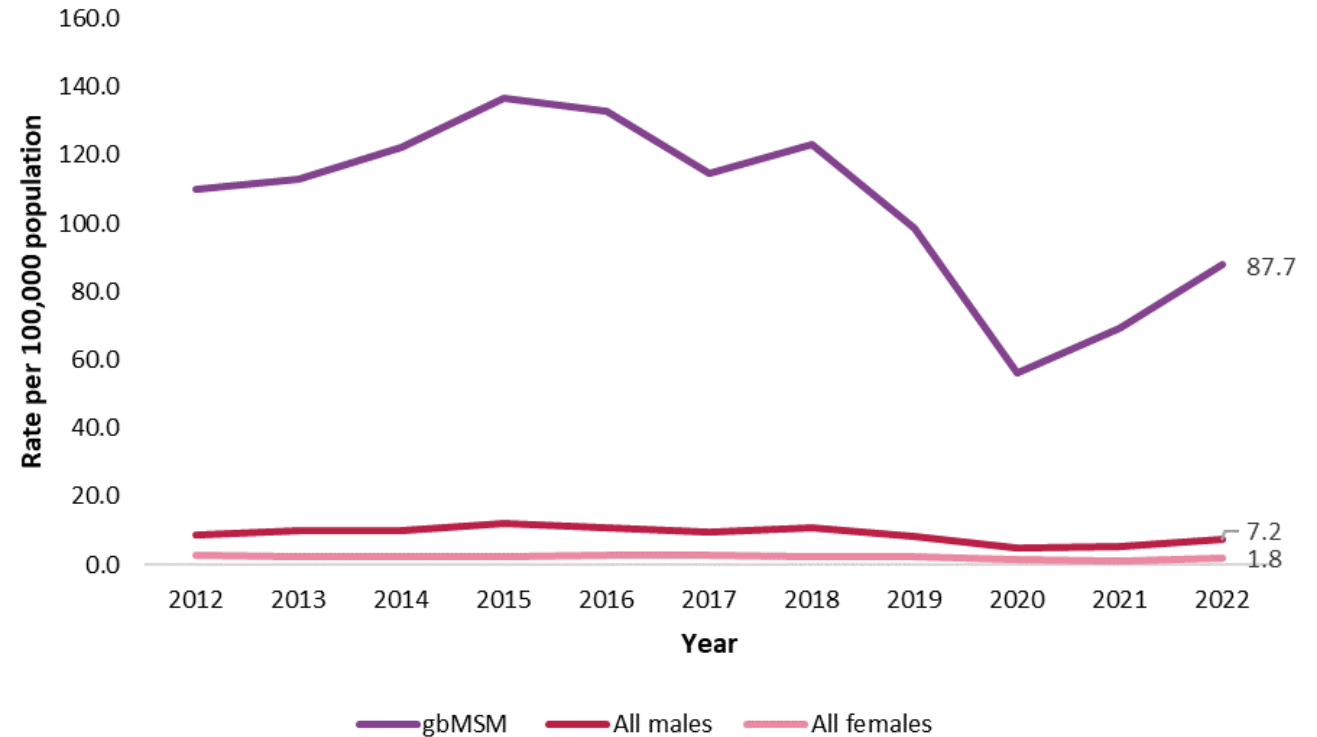


Figure 31: HIV rates in gbMSM, all females and all males aged 18 and over in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

Census data and estimates from the [2015 Healthy Ireland survey](#) were used to calculate notification rates in gbMSM – see technical notes

Trend in HIV diagnoses in gbMSM by age group (first-time diagnoses)

- The number of first-time diagnoses among gbMSM in 2022 decreased in all age groups compared to 2014-2017
- Some increases in the number of first-time diagnoses in gbMSM in 2022 compared to 2019:
 - 50+ years (20%)
 - 40-44 yrs (21%)
 - 30-34 yrs (17%)
 - 35-39 yrs (9%),

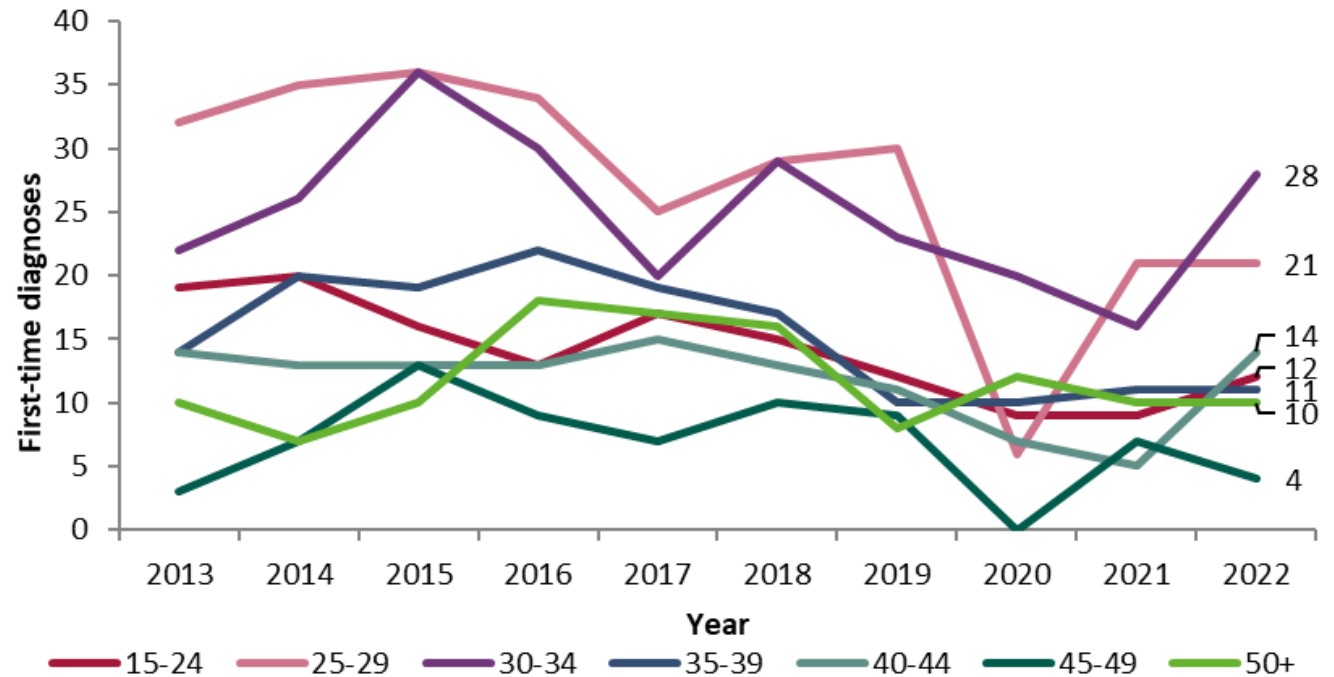


Figure 32: HIV diagnoses in gbMSM by age group in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

Trend in HIV diagnoses in gbMSM by region of origin (first-time diagnoses*)

- Majority of first-time diagnoses (80%) among gbMSM born in Ireland or Latin America and Caribbean.
- Decrease in the number of first-time diagnoses among gbMSM born in Ireland in recent years while the number of first-time diagnoses among those born in Latin America and the Caribbean has remained relatively stable

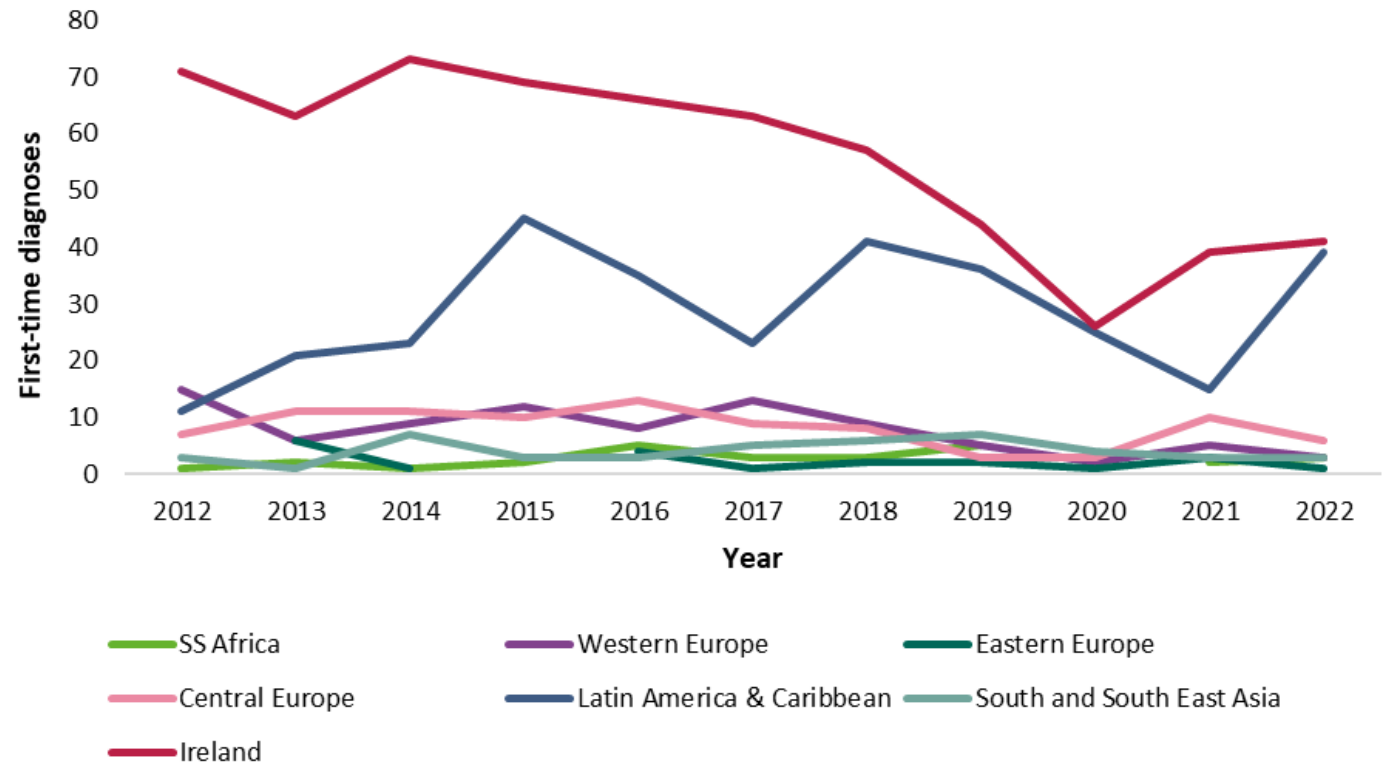


Figure 33: HIV diagnoses in gbMSM by region of origin in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

*First-time diagnosis: HIV diagnosis in Ireland excluding those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

Trend in HIV diagnoses in heterosexuals (first-time diagnoses*)

- 24% decrease in first-time diagnoses among heterosexual females in 2022 compared to peak in 2019
- 13% decrease in first-time diagnoses among heterosexual males in 2022 compared to peak in 2018

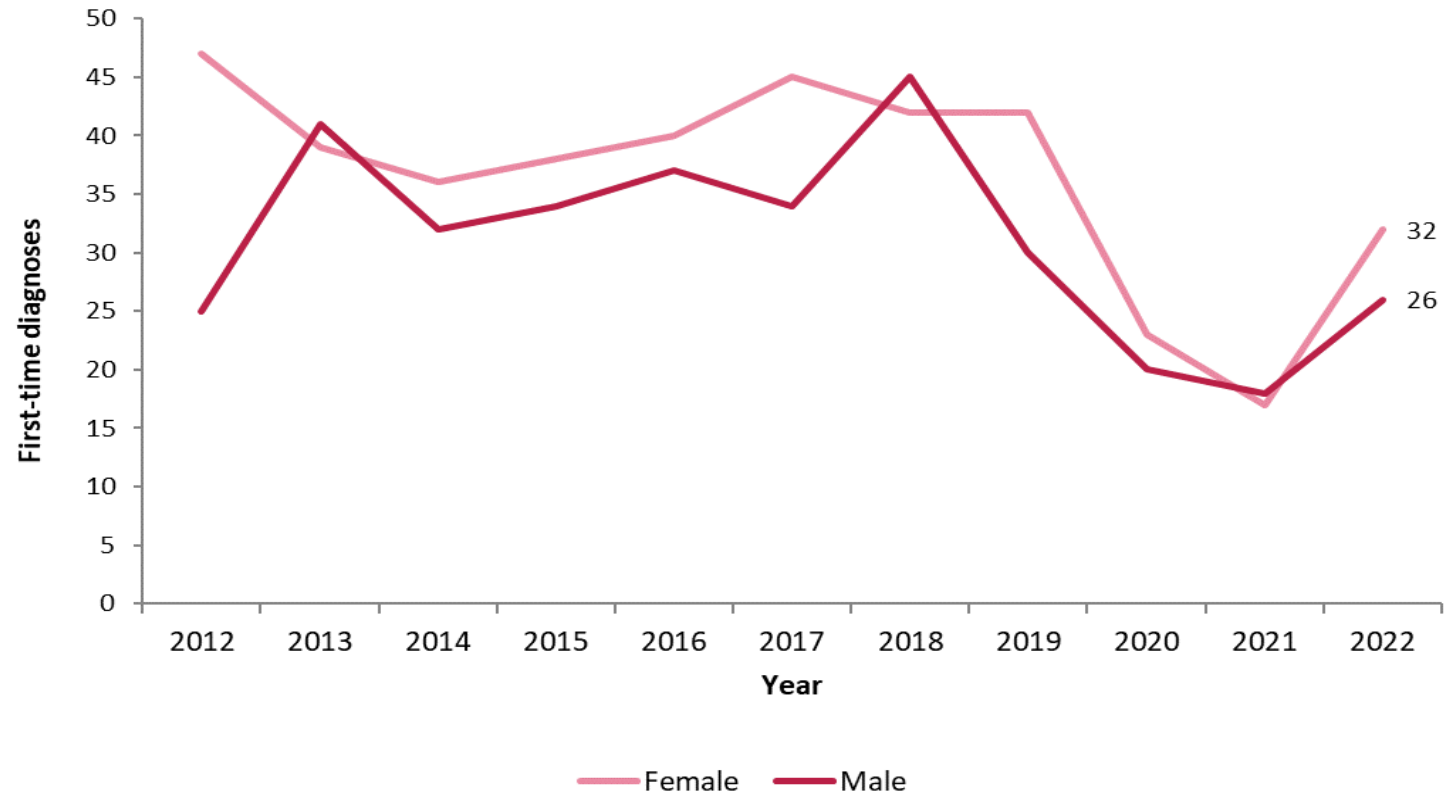


Figure 34: HIV diagnoses in heterosexuals by gender in Ireland, 2012 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

*First-time diagnosis: HIV diagnoses in Ireland excluding those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

HIV diagnoses by probable route of transmission and region of origin, 2022 (first-time diagnoses*)

- Majority of diagnoses in people born in either Ireland (38%), Latin America and the Caribbean (24%) or sub-Saharan Africa (20%)
- gbMSM: 80% born in Ireland (41%) or Latin America and the Caribbean (39%)
- Heterosexual females: 69% born in sub-Saharan Africa
- Heterosexual males: 77% born in Ireland (50%) or sub-Saharan Africa (27%)

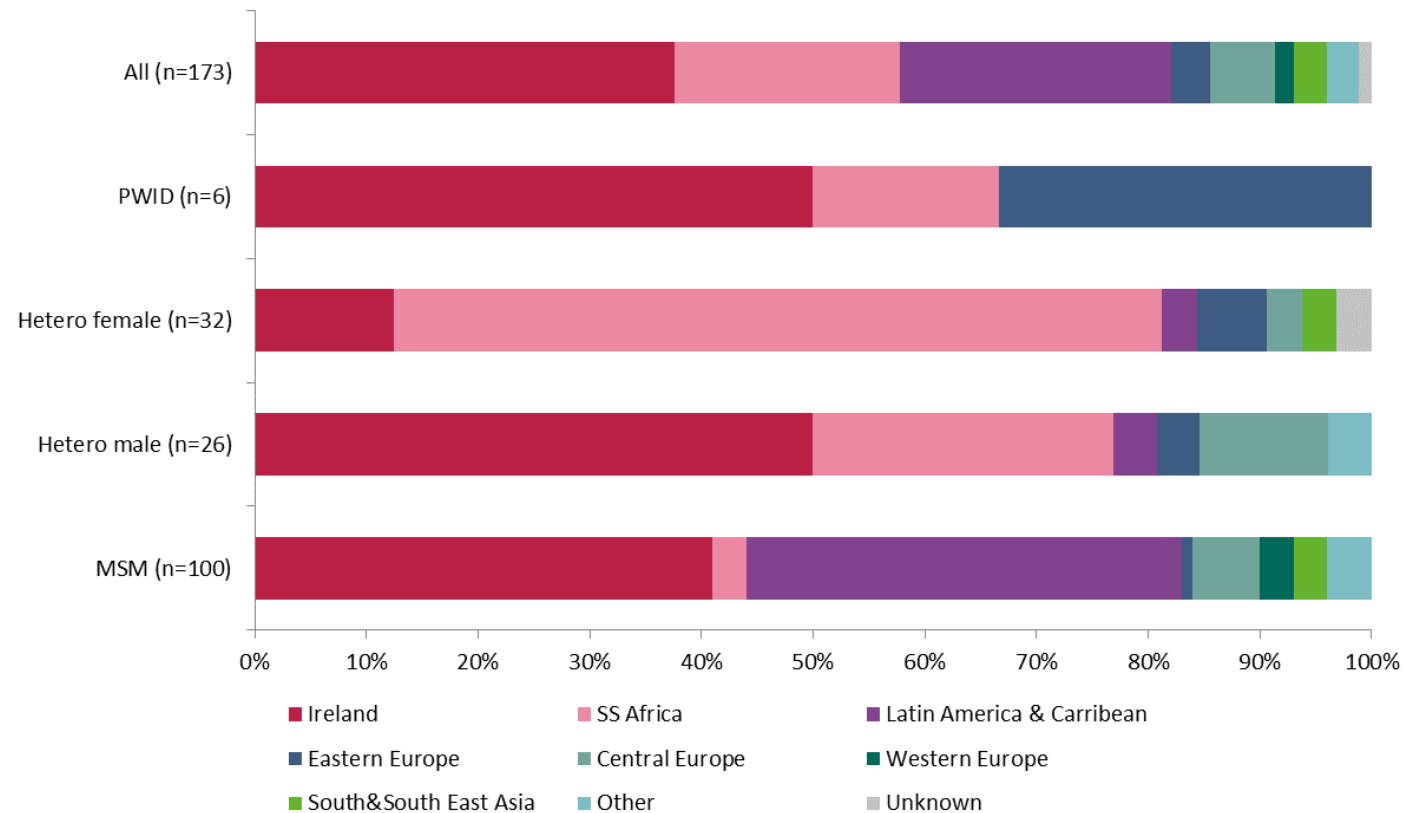


Figure 35: HIV diagnoses by probable route of transmission and geographic origin, 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

*First-time diagnosis: HIV diagnoses in Ireland excluding those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

HIV diagnoses and co-infections, 2022 (first-time diagnoses*)

- 17% of people diagnosed in 2022 were co-infected with an acute bacterial STI: chlamydia, gonorrhoea and/or early infectious syphilis
- The proportion co-infected with a bacterial STI was higher (26%) among gbMSM

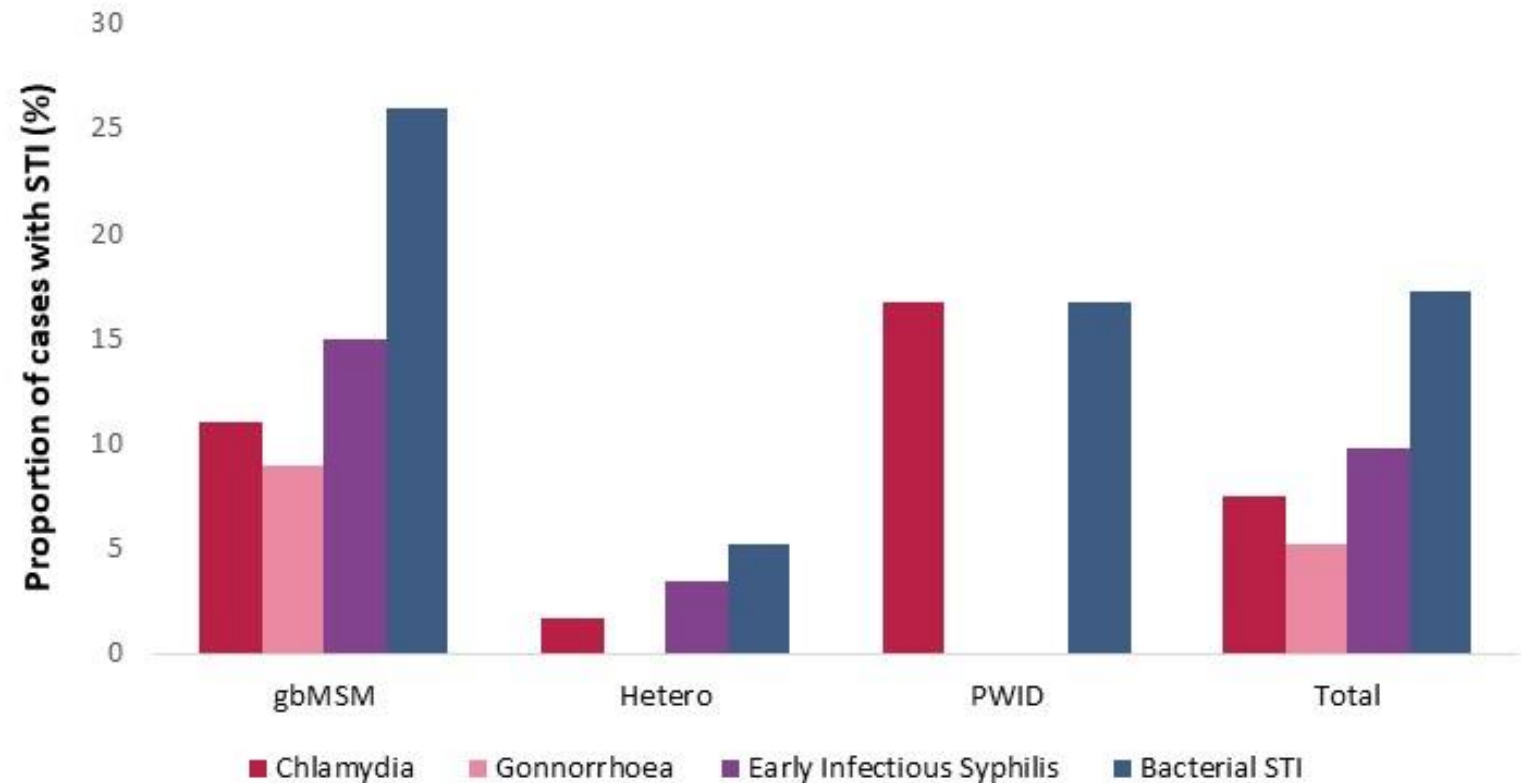


Figure 36: HIV diagnosis by coinfection with an STI, 2022
(first-time diagnoses)

Trend in proportion of diagnoses which are late (first-time diagnoses*)

- 45% of people with a first-time HIV diagnosis in 2022 were diagnosed late (CD4 count less than 350 cells/ μ l at diagnosis)
- Trend in proportion of diagnoses which are late is relatively stable in recent years
- The median CD4 count at diagnosis (cells/ μ l) in 2022 was 322 (compared to 397 in 2019, 273 in 2020, 307 in 2021)

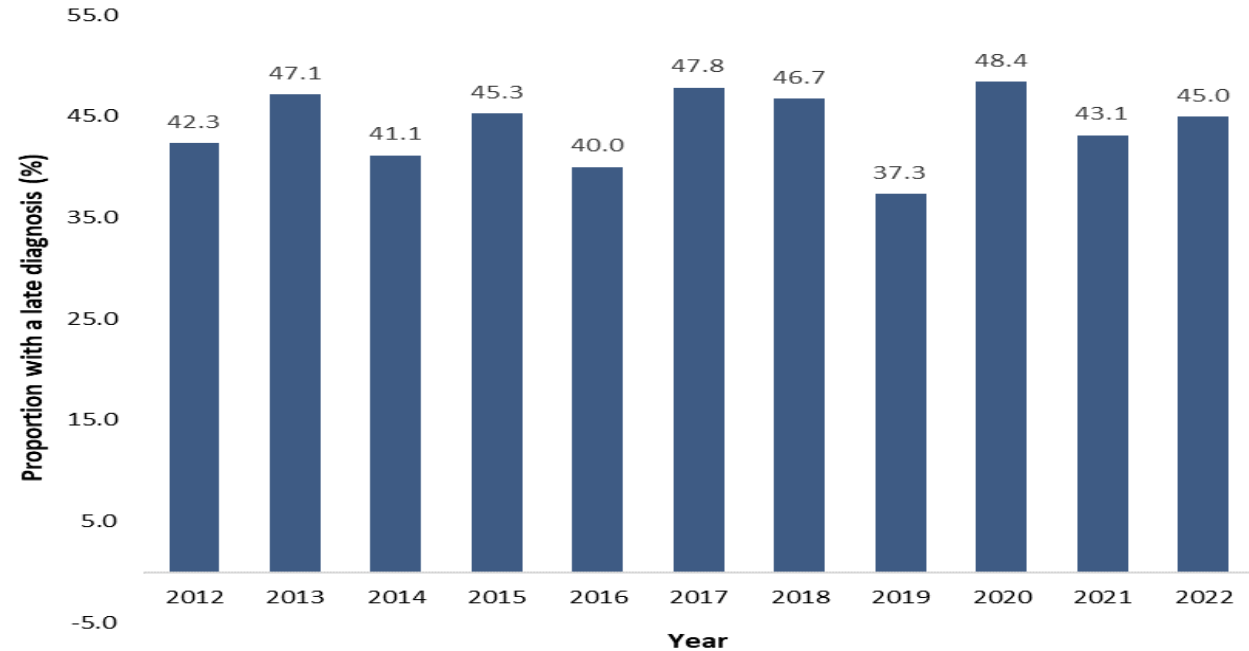


Figure 37: Proportion with late diagnosis, 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

Late HIV diagnoses, 2022 (first-time diagnoses*)

- Groups with the highest proportion diagnosed late in 2022 are
 - Females (59%)
 - People aged 50+years (56%)
 - People born in sub-Saharan Africa (67%)
 - People living outside HSE East (54%)
 - People who inject drugs (67%)
 - Heterosexual males (70%)

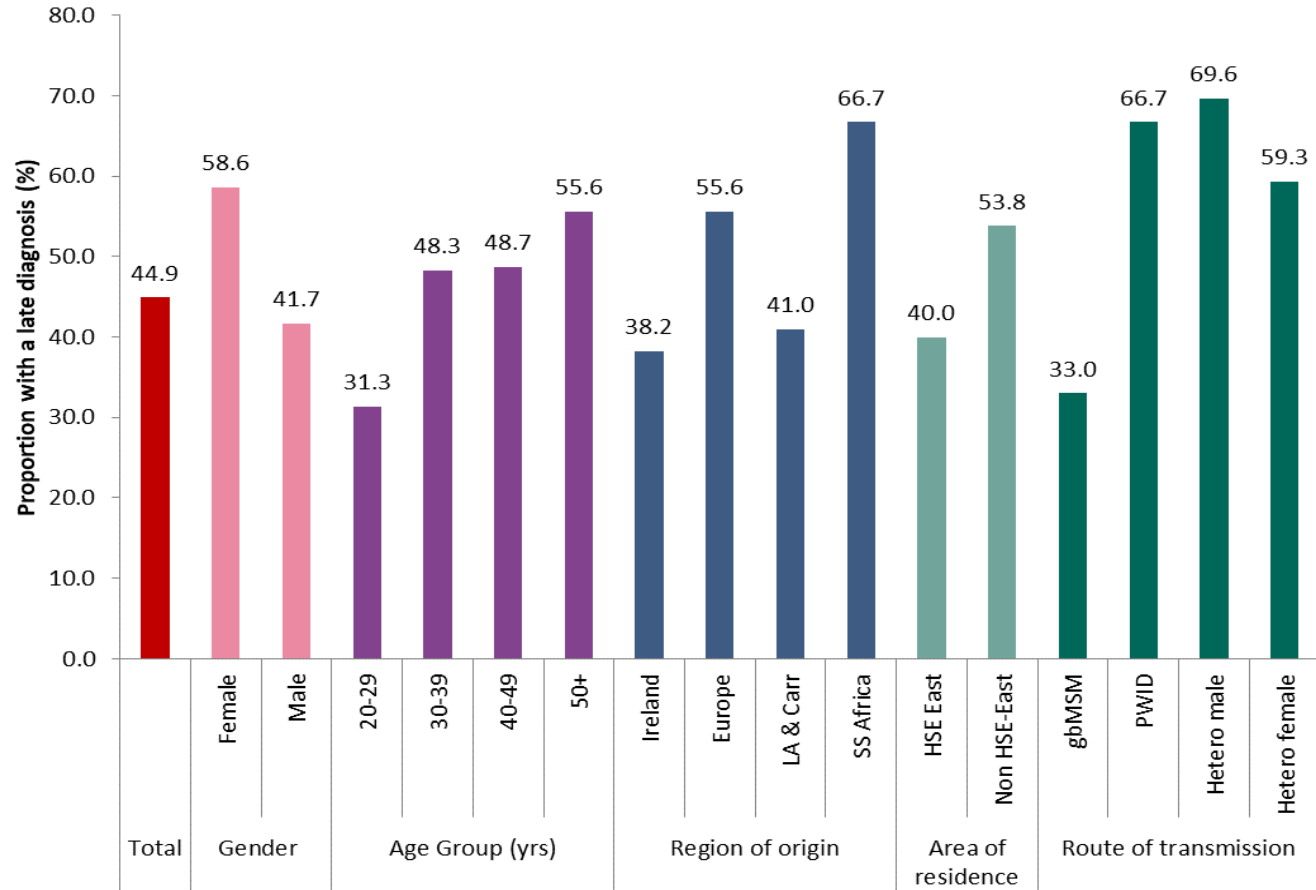


Figure 38: Proportion with late diagnosis 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

*First-time diagnosis: HIV diagnosis in Ireland **excluding** those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

Trend in HIV rates by HSE Area* (first-time diagnoses*)

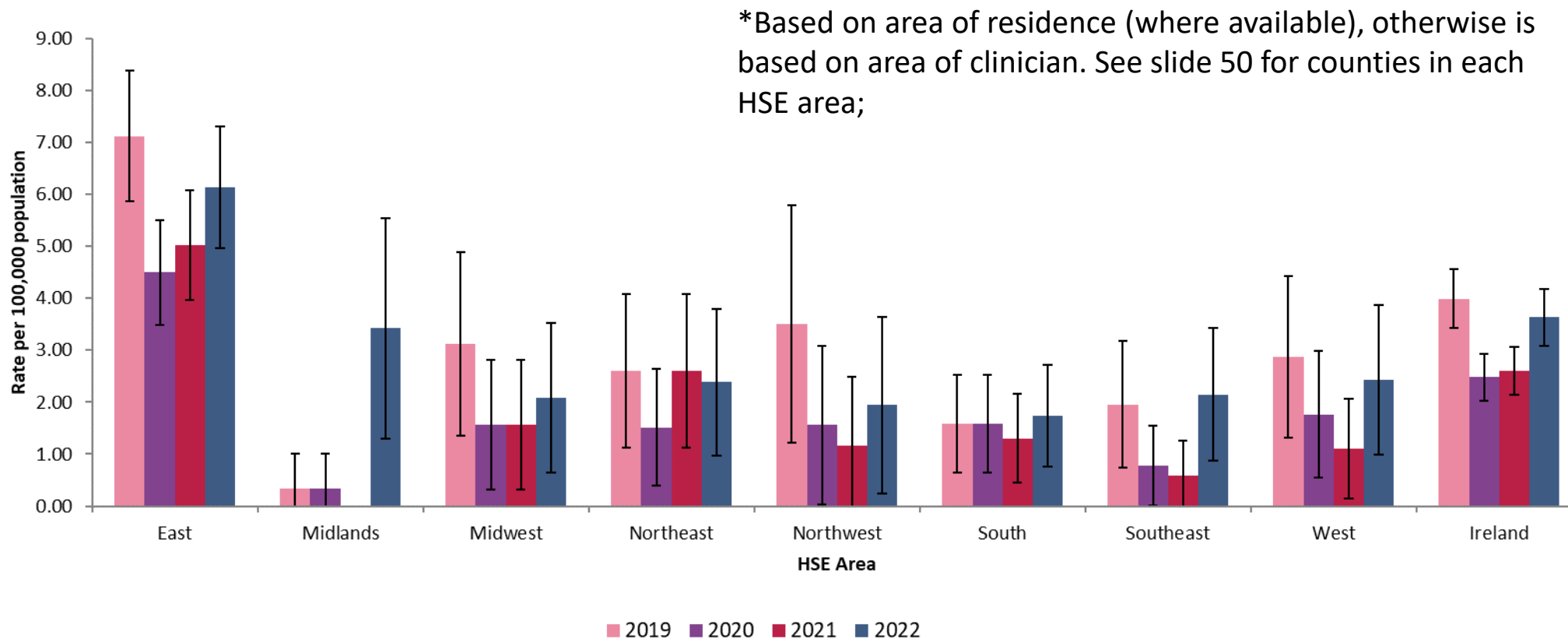


Figure 39: Rate of HIV by HSE area in Ireland, 2019 to 2022 (first-time diagnoses)

*First-time diagnosis: HIV diagnoses in Ireland **excluding** those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

2016 census data were used to calculate notification rates in HSE areas.

Key Points – First-time HIV diagnoses



Diagnoses and Rates

- 173 first-time HIV diagnoses in Ireland in 2022, giving a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 population
- Rate decreased by 16% compared to pre-pandemic year 2019

Gender and Age

- Majority of first-time HIV diagnoses continue to be among males, with the rate in males in 2022 nearly four times the rate in females
- Almost four fifths of the first-time diagnoses occurred in the 25–49 year age group. Most commonly affected age group for males and females was 30-34 years

Probable route of transmission

- Key population affected by HIV is gbMSM – the rate of first-time diagnoses among gbMSM in 2022 (88 per 100,000 population) is 36% lower than the highest rate in 2015 (137 per 100,00 population).
- Heterosexuals accounted for 34% of first-time diagnoses in 2022 - 33% lower than the peak in 2018
- People who inject drugs (PWID) accounted for 3.5% of first-time diagnoses in 2022

Key Points – First-time HIV diagnoses (2)



Region of Origin

- Majority of people with a first-time diagnosis born in either Ireland (38%), Latin America and Caribbean (24%) or sub-Saharan Africa (20%)
 - 80% of diagnoses in gbMSM born in Ireland (41%) or Latin America and Caribbean (39%)
 - 69% of diagnoses in heterosexual females born in sub-Saharan Africa
 - 77% of diagnoses in heterosexual males born in Ireland (50%) or sub-Saharan Africa (27%)
 - 86% of diagnoses in PWID born in Ireland (50%) or Central & Eastern Europe (33%)

Co-infections

- 17% of people diagnosed in 2022 were co-infected with an acute bacterial STI (26% among gbMSM)

Late diagnosis

- Among first-time diagnoses, 45% were diagnosed late. Relatively stable trend in proportion diagnosed late in recent years
- Groups with highest proportion presenting late: females; those aged 50+years; those born in sub-Saharan Africa; those living outside HSE East; PWID; heterosexual males

HIV testing, 2022



Laboratory testing

- In 2022, there were 216,518 HIV tests* carried out in 11 laboratories in Ireland, giving a testing rate of 42.0 per 1,000 population**
 - 118,179 among females (45.4 per 1,000 population)
 - 95,069 among males (37.4 per 1,000 population)
 - 3,270 sex unknown
- Higher rate of testing in females reflects the HIV antenatal screening programme

HSE Home STI testing service (www.sexualwellbeing.ie/hometesting)

- In 2022, 44,179 home HIV tests were completed (*personal communication: SHCPP*)
 - 26,036 among females
 - 18,143 among males

Community testing

- For more information on HIV community testing, see <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/hivandaids/hivtesting/>

*Excludes testing of blood donations

**It is important to note that the calculated testing rates are likely to over-estimate the true rate of testing in the population as the numbers reported are not of individuals who have been tested but of tests performed and can include repeat tests on the same individual.

Deaths reported in 2022



Data on deaths are obtained from two sources

- Clinician reports via the enhanced surveillance form at time of HIV diagnosis. Among HIV notifications in 2022, five deaths (one female, four male) were reported at the time of HIV diagnosis.
- Data from CSO Vital Statistics report: There were nine deaths reported to the CSO in 2022 where the cause of death was AIDS or HIV, seven males and two females.

Source: Vital Statistics Reports, CSO available at

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-vsyst/vitalstatisticsyearlysummary2022>

Technical Notes (1)



HIV notifications

- Non-identifiable HIV data were extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 20.09.2023 and were correct at the time of publication.
- The HIV surveillance system captures new diagnoses of HIV which have been reported to Public Health on CIDR and therefore does not capture new infections (cannot measure incidence)
- Data in this slide set are analysed by date of notification on CIDR
- Unless otherwise stated, data are presented by gender. Gender is based on gender identity where it is provided, otherwise sex at birth is used. Gender identity refers to a person's internal sense of themselves (how they feel inside) as being male, female, transgender, non-binary or something else. This may be different or the same as a person's assigned sex at birth. All data presented by the gender male includes cis male and trans male and data presented by the gender female includes cis female and trans female

Population data and rates

- Unless otherwise stated, population data were taken from Census 2011 for 2012-2013, Census 2016 for 2014-2019 and Census 2022 for 2020 to 2022 (www.cso.ie)
- Population data on migration taken from Census from [here](#)
- To calculate rates among gbMSM, data from [Healthy Ireland survey 2015](#) (for males, gender of last sexual partner male for 6%) was applied to the male population (aged 18 and over) from census data
- When rates by gender are reported, the numerator is gender identity as recorded on CIDR and the denominator is population data from the Census by sex (at birth)

Technical Notes (2)



- **Enhanced data**

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, rates of HIV dropped in 2020 and 2021. This reduction in notifications was likely attributed to a number of factors including long periods of national lockdown, social and physical distancing measures, reduced sexual health and GP services and reduced testing opportunities. The pandemic also impacted the collection and reporting of enhanced data variables, such as probable route of transmission, country of birth, and previous testing history, for HIV notifications during 2020 and 2021.
- The collection and review of enhanced data is an ongoing process and the receipt of new information could impact the data at some point in the future. Previous testing history remains unknown for a number of people and some of these people could be first-time diagnoses and so this number could change in future reports.
- For surveillance purposes, late HIV diagnosis is defined as CD4 cell count less than 350 cells/ μ l or an AIDS defining illness at diagnosis, excluding those with evidence of recent infection (P24 antigen positive; negative test in same year or preceding year; evidence of seroconversion illness)

- **Abbreviations**

- 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.