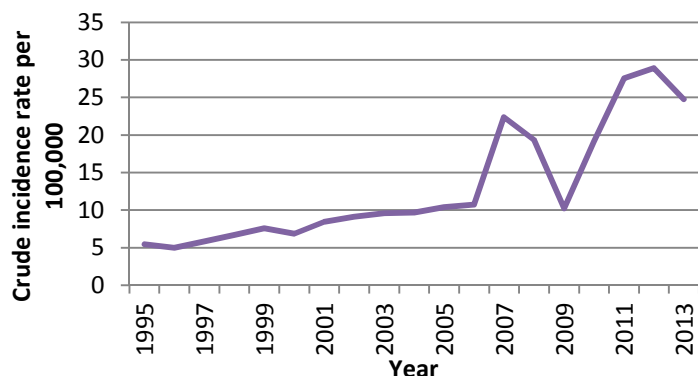


In 2103, all laboratories reported herpes simplex (genital) data via the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system. All cases of herpes simplex (genital) reported by clinicians were also entered into CIDR. This is the first year for which national case-based data are available for herpes simplex (genital) in Ireland.

Figure 1 Trend in CIR of herpes simplex (genital) in Ireland, 1995-2013

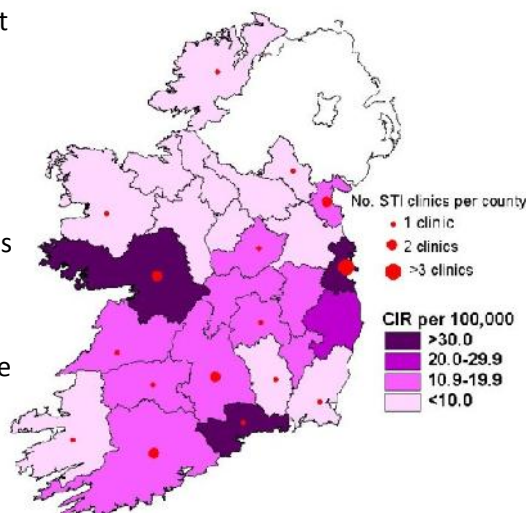


As of 9th July, 2014, there were 1,136 cases of herpes simplex (genital) notified in Ireland during 2013 corresponding to a crude incidence rate (CIR) of 24.8 per 100,000 population, a small decrease from 2012 (28.9/100,000) (see figure 1). The CIR among men in 2013 was 13.4/100,000 and 35.5/100,000 among women.

Ninety-three percent of cases were laboratory confirmed while 7% were probable (clinically compatible) cases. Most cases were reported as Herpes simplex virus (HSV) type 1 (45%) and 29% as HSV type 2; subtype was not reported for 26% of cases.

Cases were reported from all HSE areas with the majority (61%) reported in HSE East. The highest crude incidence rate was in HSE East (42.8/100,000) followed by HSE West (23.1/100,000) and HSE Southeast (21.1/100,000). Counties with the highest CIR (>30.0/100,000) included Waterford (57.1/100,000), Dublin (49.1/100,000) and Galway (37.1/100,000) (figure 2).

Figure 2 CIR of herpes simplex (genital) cases by county, 2013



It is important to note that patient's area of residence was not provided for all cases reported through CIDR. For laboratory notifications uploaded to CIDR, the location of the laboratory was used to assign area of residence where patient's details had not been provided. As a result, the rates and numbers of cases by county may reflect the location of STI services, including laboratories, as well as differences in reporting practices by clinics and clinicians from one area to another.

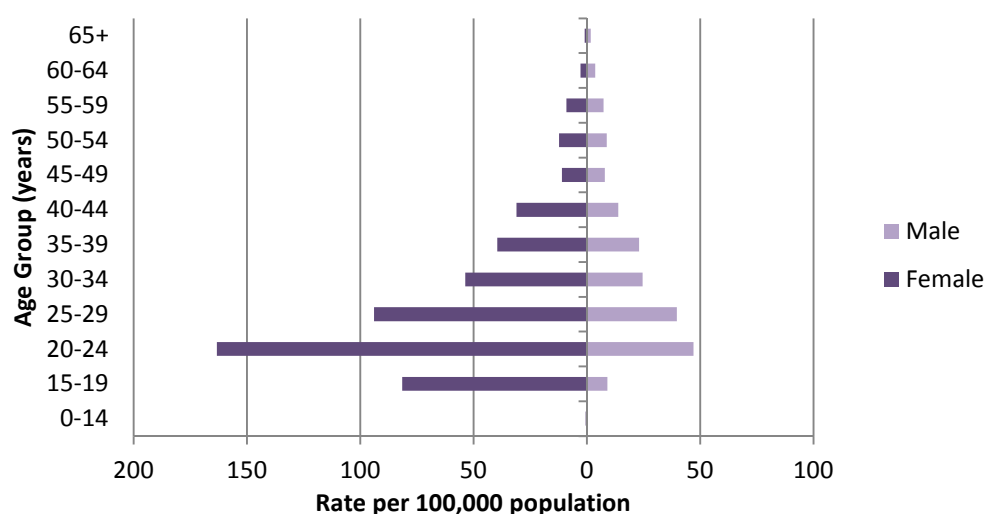
A list of STI clinics is available at www.yoursexualhealth.ie.

The median age was 29 years (age range 14-75 years). The median age among women (28 years; age range 14-73 years) was lower than men (32 years; age range 17-75 years). The highest age-specific rate is among those aged 20-24 years (106.0/100,000). The rate among women (163.4/100,000) in this age group is 3.5 times greater than among men (47.1/100,000) in the same age-group (figure 3).

Table 1 Number and percentage of herpes simplex (genital) cases by age group and gender, 2013

Age group (years)	Male		Female		Unknown		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-14	0	0.0	3	0.4	0	0.0	3	0.3
15-19	13	4.3	113	13.8	0	0.0	126	11.1
20-24	69	22.6	246	30.0	3	30.0	318	28.0
25-29	69	22.6	176	21.4	1	10.0	246	21.7
30-34	48	15.7	107	13.0	1	10.0	156	13.7
35-39	42	13.8	72	8.8	2	20.0	116	10.2
40-44	23	7.5	51	6.2	1	10.0	75	6.6
45-49	12	3.9	17	2.1	0	0.0	29	2.6
50-54	12	3.9	17	2.1	1	10.0	30	2.6
55-59	9	3.0	11	1.3	0	0.0	20	1.8
60+	8	2.6	6	0.7	1	10.0	15	1.3
Unknown	0	0.0	2	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.2
Total	305	100.0	821	100.0	10	100	1136	100.0

Figure 3 Age and gender-specific rates of herpes simplex (genital), 2013



Patient type (reflecting the service at which the patient was diagnosed) was recorded for 53% (n=598) of herpes simplex (genital) cases in 2013. Where patient type was reported, 53% were diagnosed in general practice (n=319) and 43% in STI clinics (hospital out-patients). Four percent of cases were diagnosed in emergency departments or other hospital settings. Some patients diagnosed with herpes simplex (genital) were diagnosed with other STIs during 2013: chlamydia (n=34), gonorrhoea (n=8), Hepatitis C (n=1), HIV (n=3), syphilis (n=4) and trichomoniasis (n=1).

Technical Note

1. Data are analysed by date of notification in CIDR.
2. Data for this report were extracted from CIDR on 9th July, 2014, and were correct at the time of publication.
3. Percentages are rounded up in the text and provided to one decimal place in the tables.