



Annual Epidemiological Report

September 2019

Trichomoniasis in Ireland, 2018

Key Facts

- There were 64 cases of trichomoniasis notified in 2018, similar to the number of cases in 2017 (n=67)
- The notification rate was 1.3 per 100,000 population, and has remained fairly steady since the early 2000s
- Sixty three cases (98%) were reported in females, and one male case was reported (2%)
- The median age was 34 years (range: 20-62 years)
- The highest age and sex-specific notification rate was among females aged 25-29 years

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Introduction

Trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the protozoan parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis*, and can infect the vagina, urethra and para urethral glands.

Infection is more common in females than in males. Up to half of those with trichomoniasis do not develop symptoms but can still pass the infection on to others. When trichomoniasis does cause symptoms, they can range from mild irritation to severe inflammation. Trichomoniasis can increase the risk of getting or spreading other STIs. Furthermore, babies born to pregnant women with trichomoniasis are at increased risk of preterm delivery and low birth weight [1].

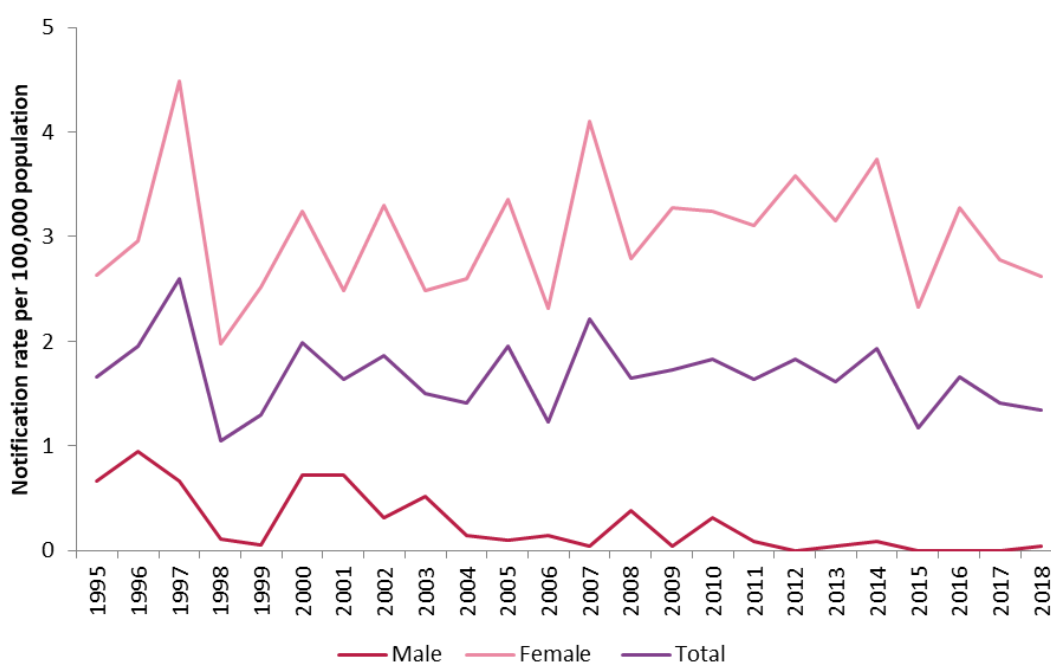
Trichomoniasis is a notifiable disease under the Infectious Disease Regulations in Ireland, all cases are reported via the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system [2]. The case definition for trichomoniasis is available on the HPSC website at <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/trichomoniasis/casedefinitions/>.

Epidemiology

Cases and notification rates

There were 64 cases of trichomoniasis notified in Ireland in 2018, similar to the number of cases notified in 2017 (n=67). The notification rate (NR) was 1.3 per 100,000 population, and has remained fairly steady since the early 2000s (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Notification rate of trichomoniasis by sex, 1995-2018, Ireland



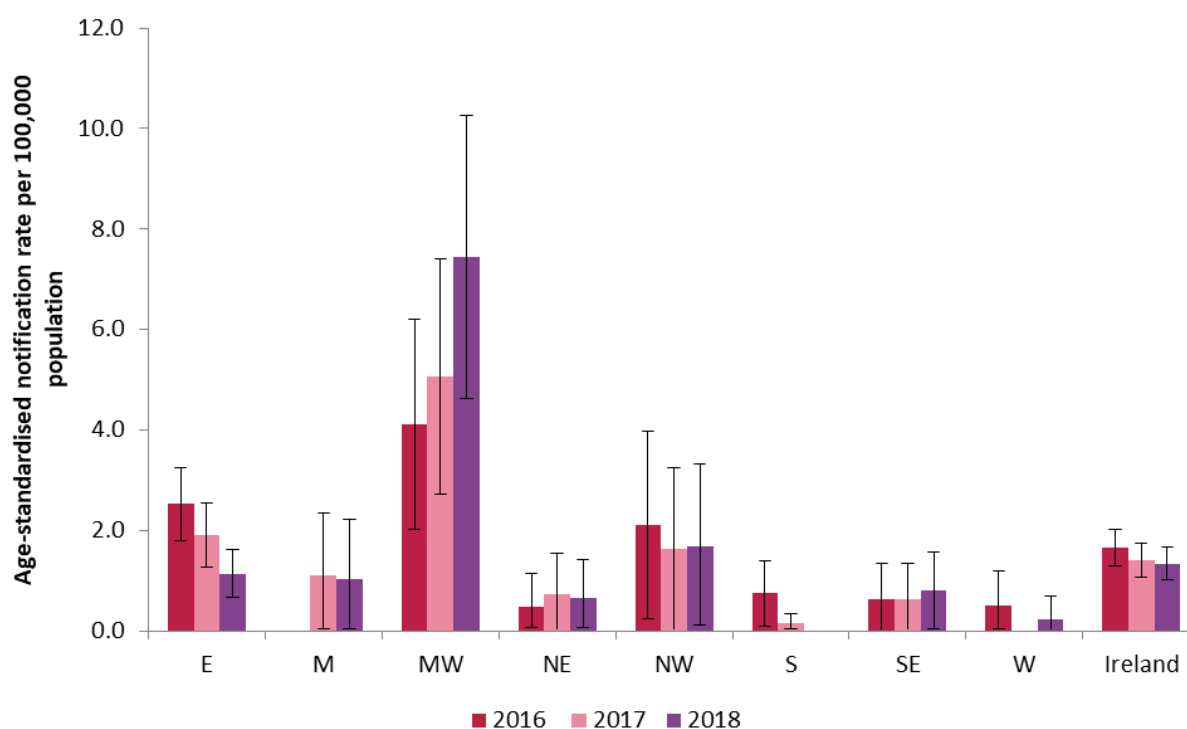
HSE area

In 2018, cases of trichomoniasis were notified by all HSE areas except HSE South (S). The highest proportion of cases were notified by HSE Midwest (MW) (42%; n=27), followed by HSE East (E) (34%; n=22).

The age-standardised notification rate (ASNR) per 100,000 population was significantly higher for HSE Midwest (MW) (7.4/100,000) compared to the national rate (1.3/100,000), and significantly lower for HSE West (W) (0.2/100,000) compared to the national rate. All other HSE areas were not significantly different to the national rate (Figure 2).

Numbers and rates by HSE area should be interpreted with caution as some laboratories use new molecular testing methods that are not currently included in the laboratory criteria for notification, therefore cases may be underreported in some HSE areas.

Figure 2 Age-standardised notification rate (with 95% confidence intervals) of trichomoniasis by HSE area, 2016-2018, Ireland[†]



[†]See Technical Note 3 and 4 for details on the counties covered by each HSE area, and details on ASNR calculation methodology.

Age and sex

Sixty-three (98%) cases of trichomoniasis in 2018 were reported in females; one male case was reported (2%). The median age was 34 years (range: 20-62 years), which is slightly older than the median age in 2017 (32 years; range: 18-89 years). The highest age-specific rate among females was in those aged 25-29 years (8.5/100,000) (Table 1).

Table 1: Number and notification rate of trichomoniasis among females by age group, 2018, Ireland

Age Group (years)	0-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55+	Total
Number of cases	0	0	7	13	13	12	10	4	0	4	63
Notification rate per 100,000	0.0	0.0	5.1	8.5	6.9	6.0	5.6	2.4	0.0	0.7	2.6

Patient type

Patient type (reflecting the service at which the patient was diagnosed) was recorded for all cases. Forty-four percent of cases were diagnosed in general practice, 33% in hospital settings including emergency departments, and 23% in STI or family planning clinics.

Technical notes

1. Data for this report were extracted from CIDR on 29 July 2019, and were correct at the time of publication. Information from previous years is updated on an ongoing basis in CIDR, therefore data may be updated in future reports.
2. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. The counties covered by each HSE area are as follows: HSE East (E): Dublin, Kildare & Wicklow; HSE Midlands (M): Laois, Longford, Offaly & Westmeath; HSE Midwest (MW): Clare, Limerick & N. Tipperary; HSE Northeast (NE): Cavan, Louth, Meath & Monaghan; HSE Northwest (NW): Donegal, Leitrim & Sligo; HSE South (S): Kerry & Cork; HSE Southeast (SE): Carlow, Kilkenny, S. Tipperary, Waterford & Wexford; HSE West (W): Galway, Mayo & Roscommon.
4. Age-standardised notification rates were calculated using the direct method in which the national population was taken as the standard population. Population data were taken from Census 2016. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis: 0-4 years, 5-9 years, 10-14 years, 15-19 years, 20-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years and ≥65 years.
5. Data on HSE area should be interpreted with caution. HSE area is based on the clinic and not the patient's address for the vast majority of cases. Consequently, rates and numbers of cases by HSE area reflect the location of STI services as well as differences in reporting practices by clinics and clinicians from one area to another. A list of STI clinics is available at <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/>.

Further information

Previous years' reports are available at:

- <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/trichomoniasis/surveillancereports/>
- <https://www.hpsc.ie/abouthpsc/annualreports/>
- <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/>

Keep up to date with HIV and STIs in Ireland at <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/stiweeklyreports/>

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References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017). "Trichomoniasis - CDC Fact Sheet." Retrieved 30 July 2019, from <https://www.cdc.gov/std/trichomonas/stdfact-trichomoniasis.htm>.
2. Government of Ireland. Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (S.I. No. 567 of 2018).