



# Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Ireland: Trends to the end of 2023

March 2024





# Acknowledgements

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  - Microbiology laboratories
  - National Virus Reference laboratory
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  - Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP)
  - Consultants in Infectious Disease/Genitourinary Medicine
  - GPs
  - Health Advisors
  - All other clinical staff involved.

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# Key Points, STIs in Ireland 2023

- The STI notification rate in 2023 increased by 30.7% compared to 2022 (from 346 to 452 per 100,000 population)
- Ireland like other [European countries](#) is experiencing an increase in STIs and is not on target to meet the WHO 20% reduction in STIs in 15-49 year olds by 2025.
- Overall STI rate in young people aged 15-24 years increased by 38% compared to 2022 (from 1167 to 1607 per 100,000 population)
  - Gonorrhoea notification rates in females aged 15-24 years increased by 152%
  - Gonorrhoea notification rates in males aged 15-24 years increased by 58%
  - Chlamydia notification rates in females aged 15-24 years increased by 28%
  - Chlamydia notification rates in males aged 15-24 years increased by 37%
- Among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM), the rate of gonorrhoea notifications increased by 36% from 2022 to 2023. The rate of early infectious syphilis (EIS) notifications in males increased by 6%. Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) rates remained low and mpox notification rates reduced by 94%
- The HSE Free Home STI Testing service introduced nationwide in 2022 has increased capacity for STI testing and diagnosis in Ireland and has led to better case ascertainment



# Public health implications and key recommendations

- These trends show that STIs in Ireland are common and rates are increasing each year. Young people less than 25 years of age, and gbMSM are the two most affected populations
- STIs are readily treatable. If not treated, they can lead to serious health complications.
- Although Ireland has committed to the World Health Organization (WHO) goals of reducing STIs and ending STI epidemics as a public health concern by 2030, we are not on target to achieve them.
- Concerted efforts are needed to reverse these trends. They include:
  - Supporting the development of comprehensive sexual health services that are appropriately funded and resourced to meet sexual health needs
  - Raising awareness on how to maintain our sexual health
  - Reducing barriers and addressing any stigma that some may feel about addressing their sexual health needs
  - Ensuring availability at scale of prevention tools such as condoms, ready access to testing, and partner notification to limit spread of infection



# STIs in Ireland, 2023

- These slides present data on STIs notified to HPSC and trends to the end of 2023.
- **Annual Epidemiological Reports**, for [Gonorrhoea in Ireland provisional updated trends to the end of 2023](#) and [Early Infectious Syphilis](#) to the end of 2022 are available on the HPSC website. The early infectious syphilis annual report 2023 will be published in Quarter 3 2024.
- **Antimicrobial resistance** in [Neisseria gonorrhoeae](#) in Ireland, will be published in quarter 4 2024.
- Data on notified [HIV](#) cases and trends are reported separately.
- [Hepatitis B](#) and sexually transmitted enteric infections (STEI), such as [shigellosis](#), and are reported separately.
- [Weekly reports](#) on **HIV** and **STIs** in Ireland are available on the HPSC website.



# Summary of STIs in Ireland, 2023

- There were no notifications of chancroid or granuloma inguinale for 2023
- Total number of STIs are underestimated as data on ano-genital warts (AGW) and non-Specific Urethritis (NSU) were not available for 2023

STI	2022 N	2023 N	% change 2023 vs. 2022	Notification rate/100,000 population 2023	Highest age- specific rate, 2023
Chlamydia	10,934	13,711	25.4	266.3	20-24 years
Gonorrhoea	4,060	6,824	68.1	132.5	20-24 years
Herpes simplex (genital)	1,614	1,687	4.5	32.8	20-24 years
Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV)	28	37	32.1	0.7	35-39 years
Mpox	227	13	-94.3	0.3	35-39 years
Syphilis (early infectious)	870	930	6.9	18.1	30-34 years
Trichomoniasis	70	70	0.0	1.4	20-24 years
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,803</b>	<b>23,272</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>451.9</b>	<b>20-24 years</b>

Table 1. Number of STI notifications by disease and total for 2022 and 2023, the % change between 2022 and 2023, the rate of notification per 100,000 population in 2023 and the highest age specific rate, 2023.





# Gender Distribution, 2023

- LGV, Gonorrhoea, Mpox and Early Infectious Syphilis cases are more common in males
- Herpes simplex (genital) and Trichomoniasis cases are more common in females
- Chlamydia is evenly distributed between males and females

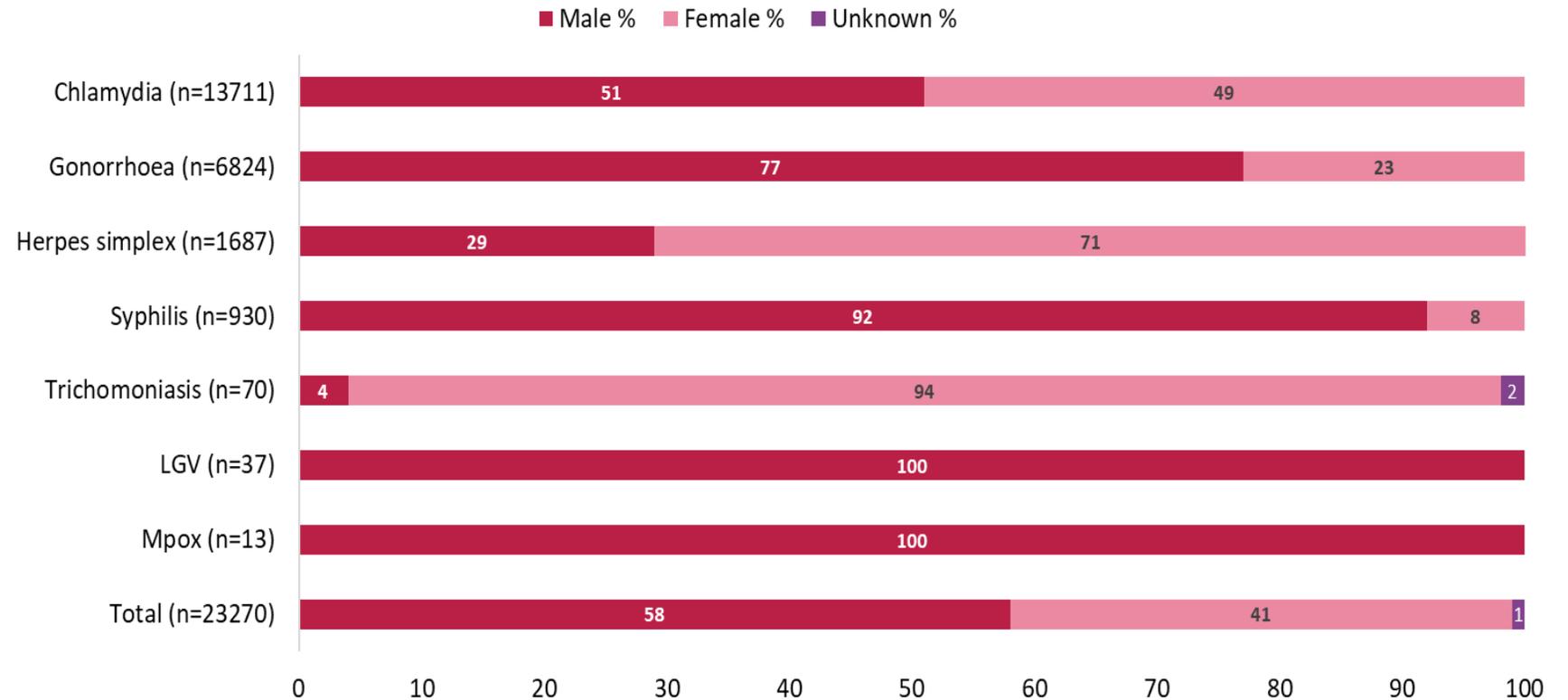


Figure 1. Notifications by gender for each STI, 2023





# Cases by age and gender for all notified STIs, 2023

- Younger people are more affected, notably females aged 20-24 years
- Male cases are spread over a wider age range

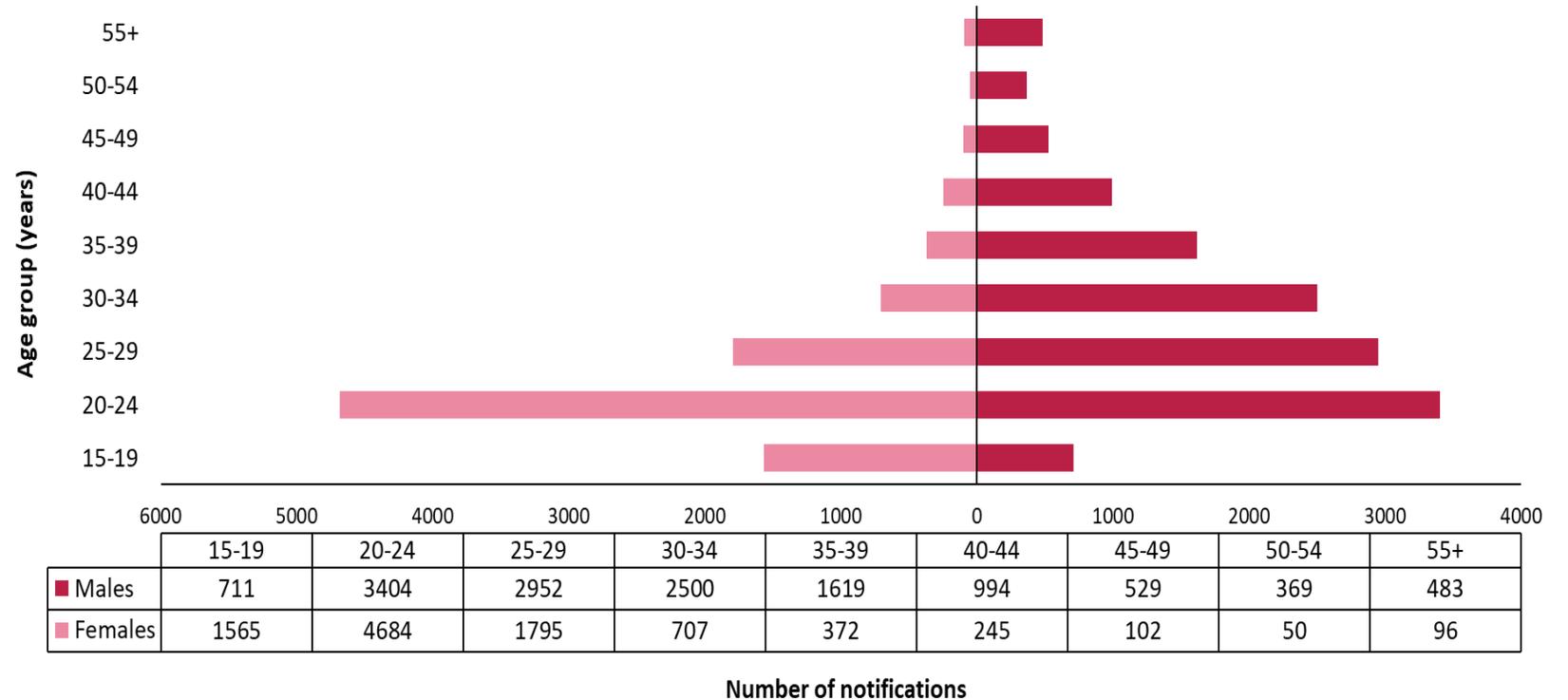


Figure 2. Age/gender breakdown for cases of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, herpes simplex (genital), LGV and trichomoniasis and mpox in 2023

This figure excludes individuals whose age was less than 15 years and cases where age/gender was unknown.





# STI notification rates by age and gender, 2023

- Notification rates are highest in males and females aged 20-24 years
- STI notification rates peak in females aged 20-24 years
- STI notification rates in males remain high in the following age groups;
  - 20-24 years
  - 25-29 years
  - 30-34 years

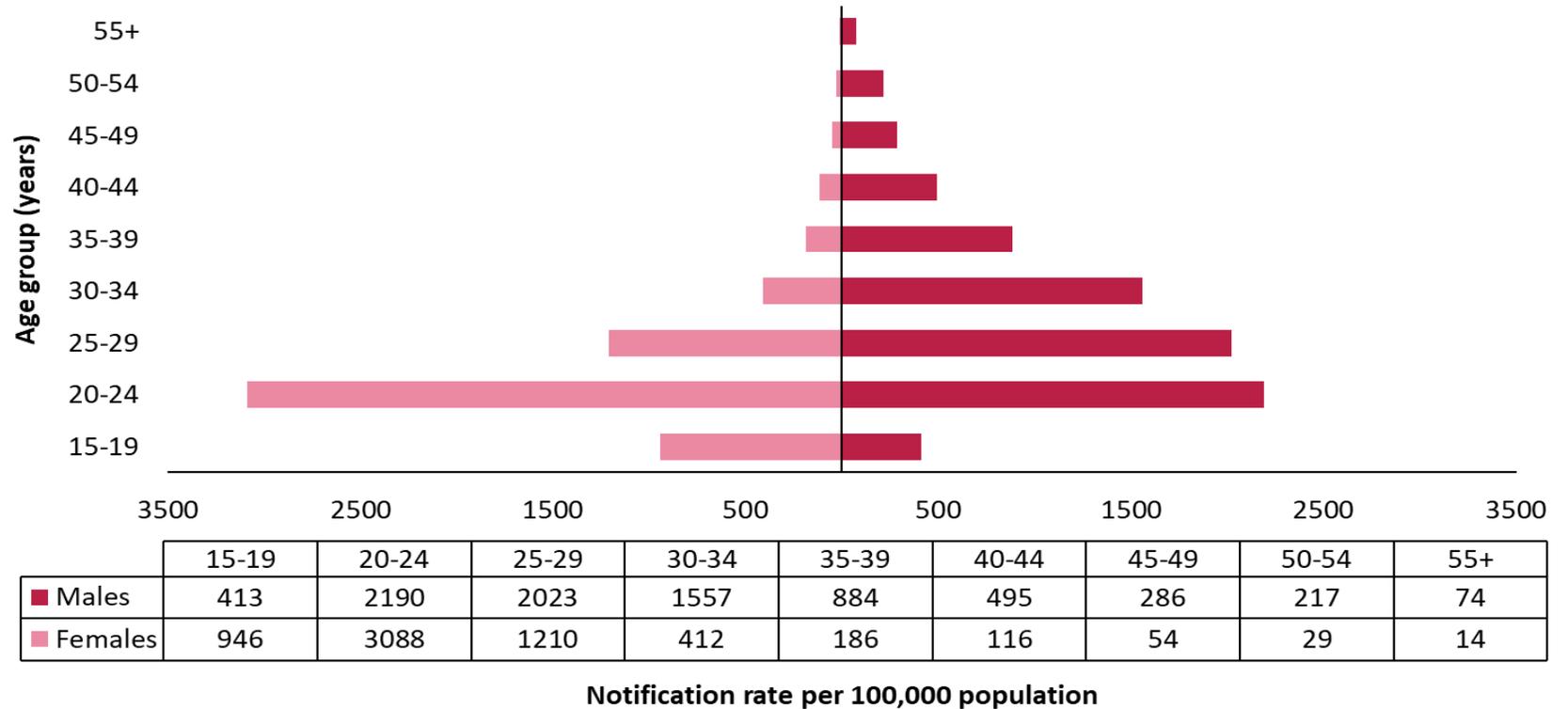


Figure 3. Age/gender breakdown for notification rates for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, herpes simplex (genital), LGV and trichomoniasis and Mpox in 2023.

This figure excludes individuals whose age was less than 15 years and cases where age/gender was unknown.





# WHO Indicators for reduction in STIs (Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis and Trichomoniasis) in Ireland

- WHO 2025 targets a 20% reduction in incidence for all 4 diseases in those aged 15-49 years (2019 baseline)
- WHO 2030 targets a 90% reduction in new cases of syphilis and gonorrhoea and a 50% reduction in new cases of chlamydia and trichomoniasis
- Ireland like other [European countries](#) is experiencing an increase in STIs and is not on target to meet the WHO 20% reduction in STIs in 15-49 year olds by 2025.

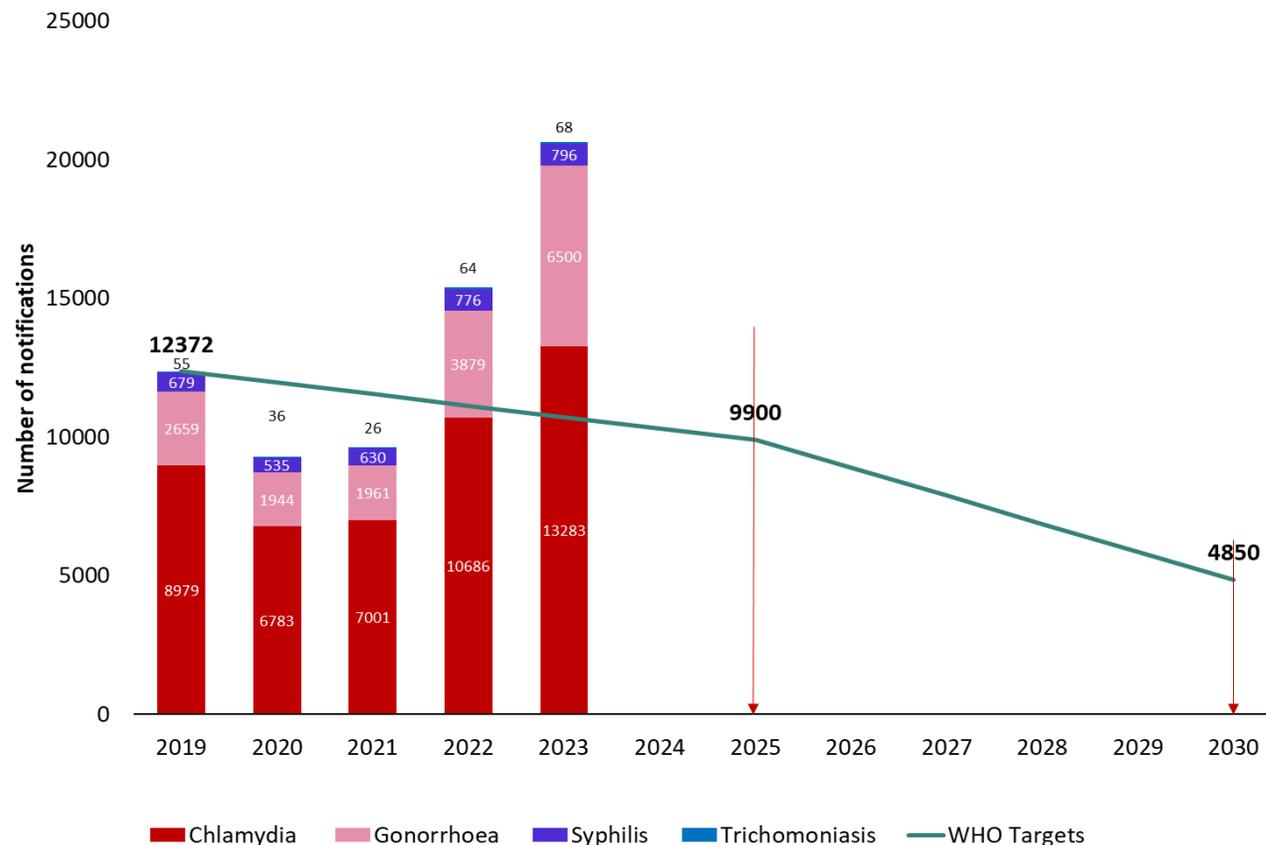


Figure 4. Number of notifications per year 2019-2023 for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and trichomoniasis in those aged 15-49 years and the WHO targets for 2025 and 2030





# Chlamydia: Trend in notification rate by gender, 2013-2023

- Chlamydia notification rates continue to rise in both males and females in 2023
- Between 2021 and 2022 HSE free home STI testing was introduced  
[www.sexualwellbeing.ie/home-testing](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/home-testing)

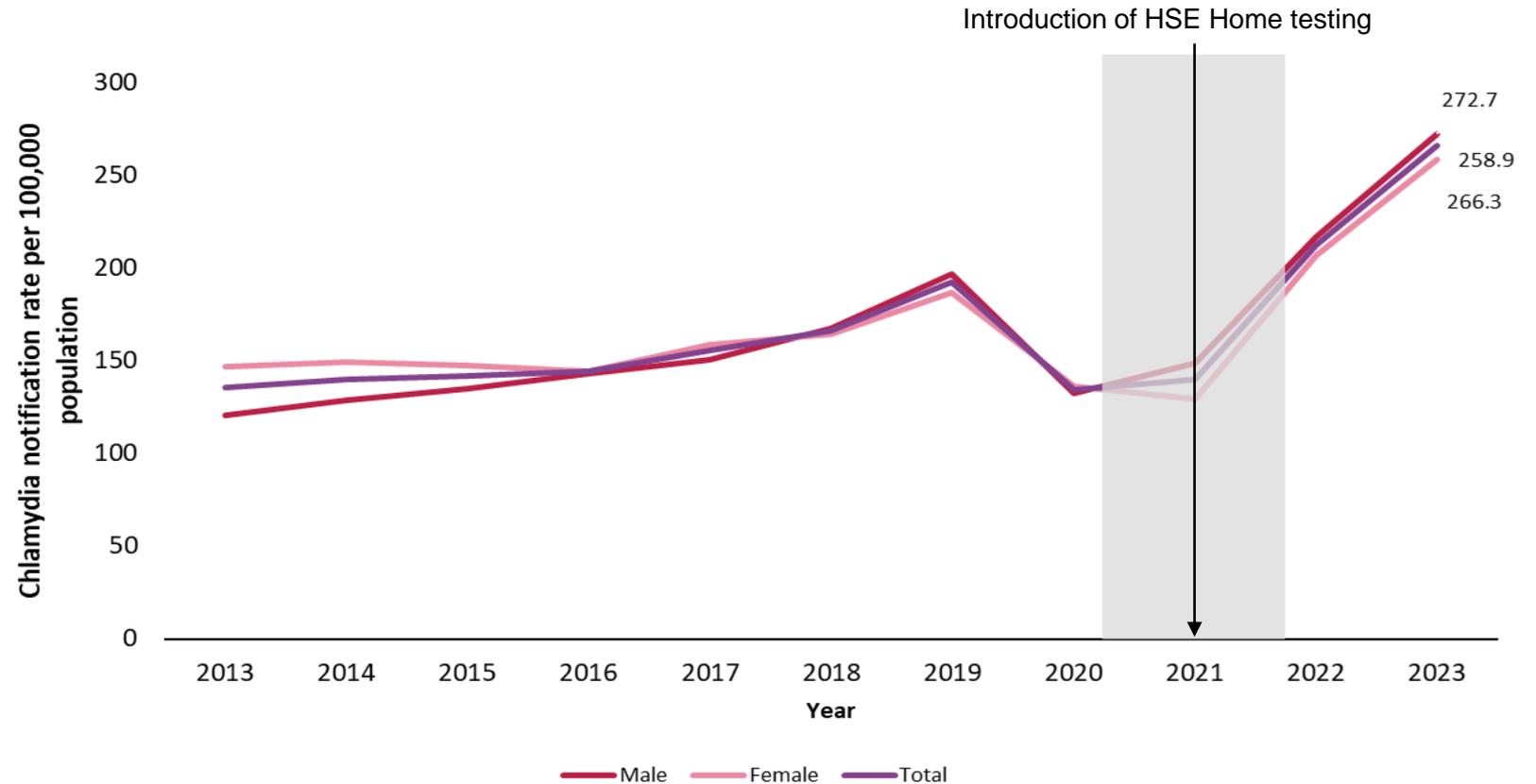


Figure 5. Chlamydia notification rate by gender, 2013 to 2023

The grey area highlights the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021) when STI surveillance data have been likely impacted by reductions in transmission, under ascertainment and underreporting.





# Chlamydia: Trend in number and percentage of notifications by testing venue, 2022-2023

- HSE free home testing service accounts for 42% of chlamydia notifications in 2023 (48% of female and 37% of male notifications)
- Prior to 2022 data on testing venue were not collected for the majority of chlamydia notifications. During 2022 a system was introduced where testing venue data were collected. A large proportion of 2022 data remain unknown.
- Further details on the HSE home STI testing programme are available on <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/>

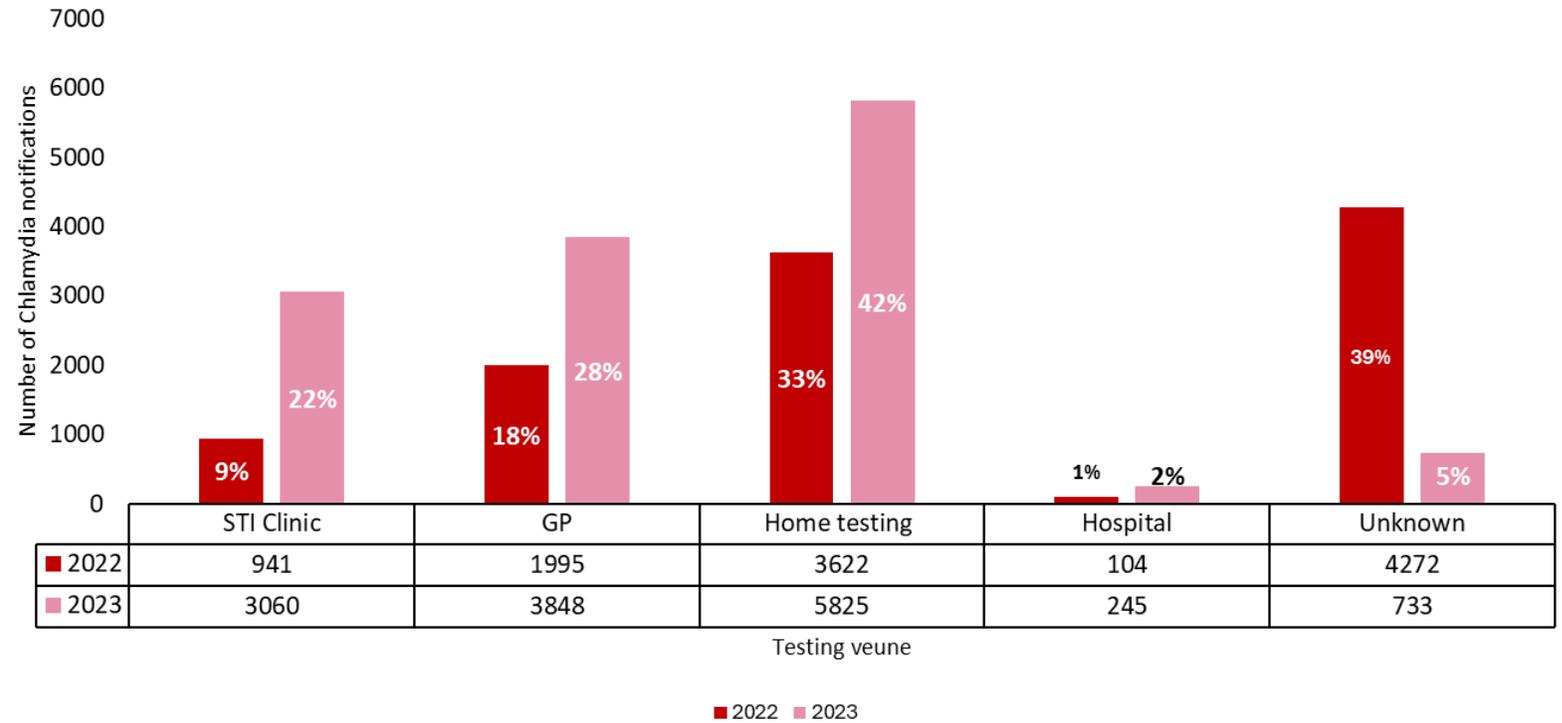


Figure 6. Number and percentage of chlamydia notifications by testing venue, 2022-2023





# Chlamydia: Notification rates by age and gender, 2023

- In 2023 the chlamydia notification rate in females aged 20-24 years was over 2%.

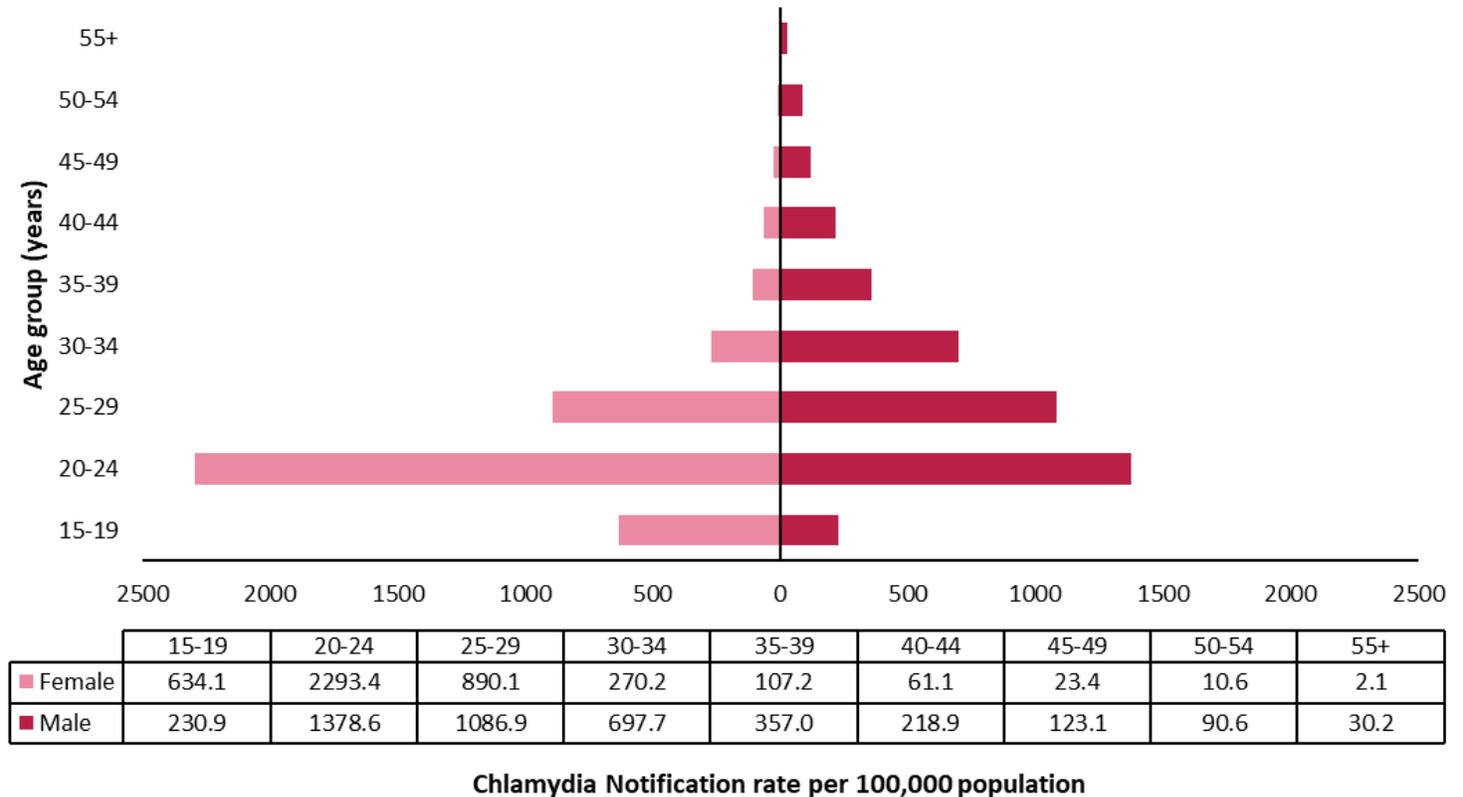


Figure 7. Notification rates by Age and Gender for Chlamydia, 2023

This figure excludes individuals whose age was less than 15 years and cases where age or gender was unknown.





# Chlamydia: Trend in notification rates in males, 2019-2023

- In 2023, the highest age specific rate in males was in those aged 20-24 years
- In 2023 notification rates in males increased compared to 2022 by:
  - 33% in those aged 20-24 years
  - 63% in those aged 15-19 years
- 18 and 19-year-olds account for 91% of notifications in the 15-19 year age group

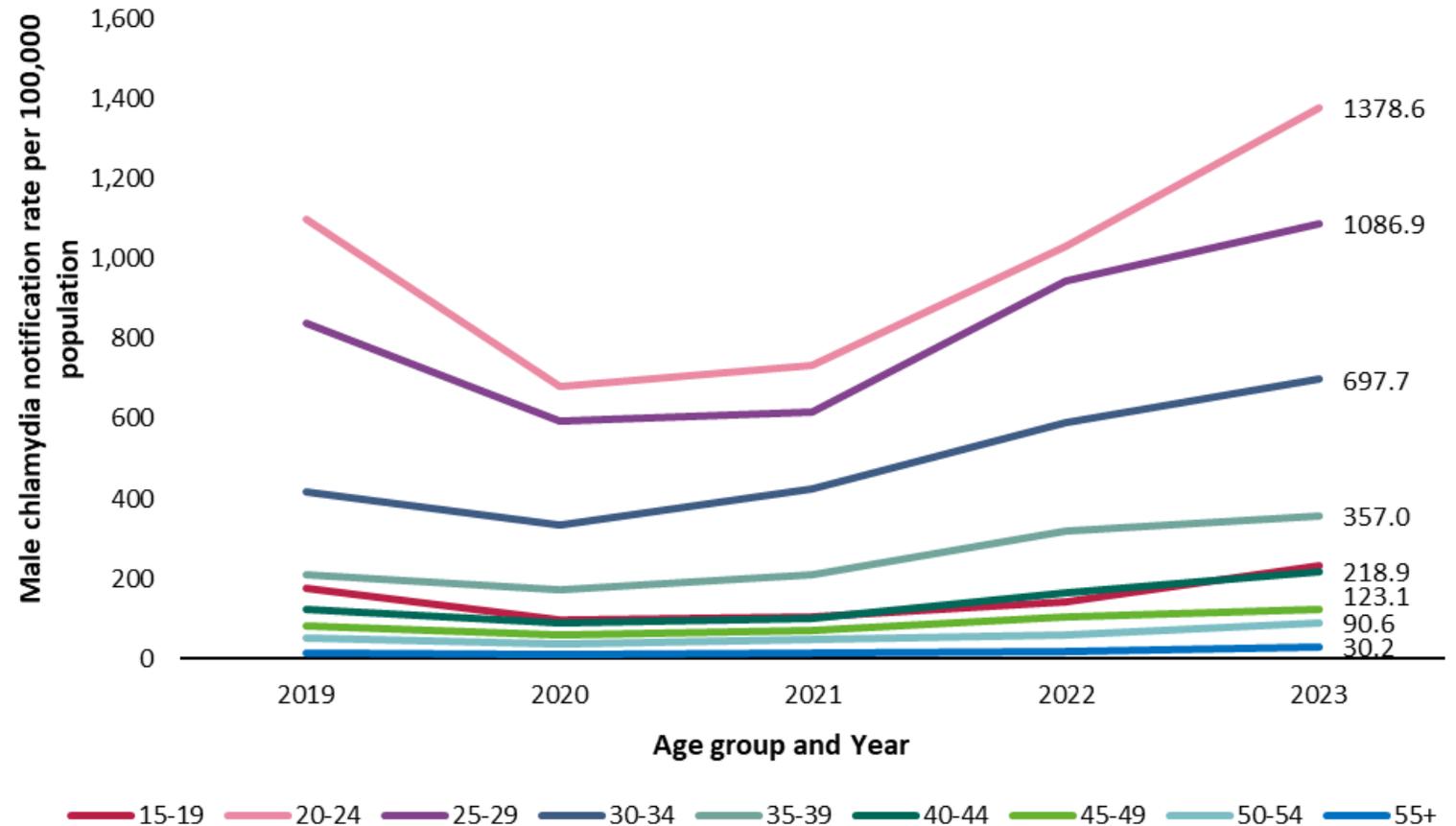


Figure 8. Chlamydia notification rates in males by age group, 2019-2023





# Chlamydia: Trend in notification rates in females, 2019-2023

- In 2023, the highest age specific rate in females was in those aged 20-24 years
- In 2023 notification rates in females increased compared to 2022 by:
  - 22% in those aged 20-24 years
  - 53% in those aged 15-19 years
- 18 and 19-year-olds account for 85% of notifications in the 15-19 year age group

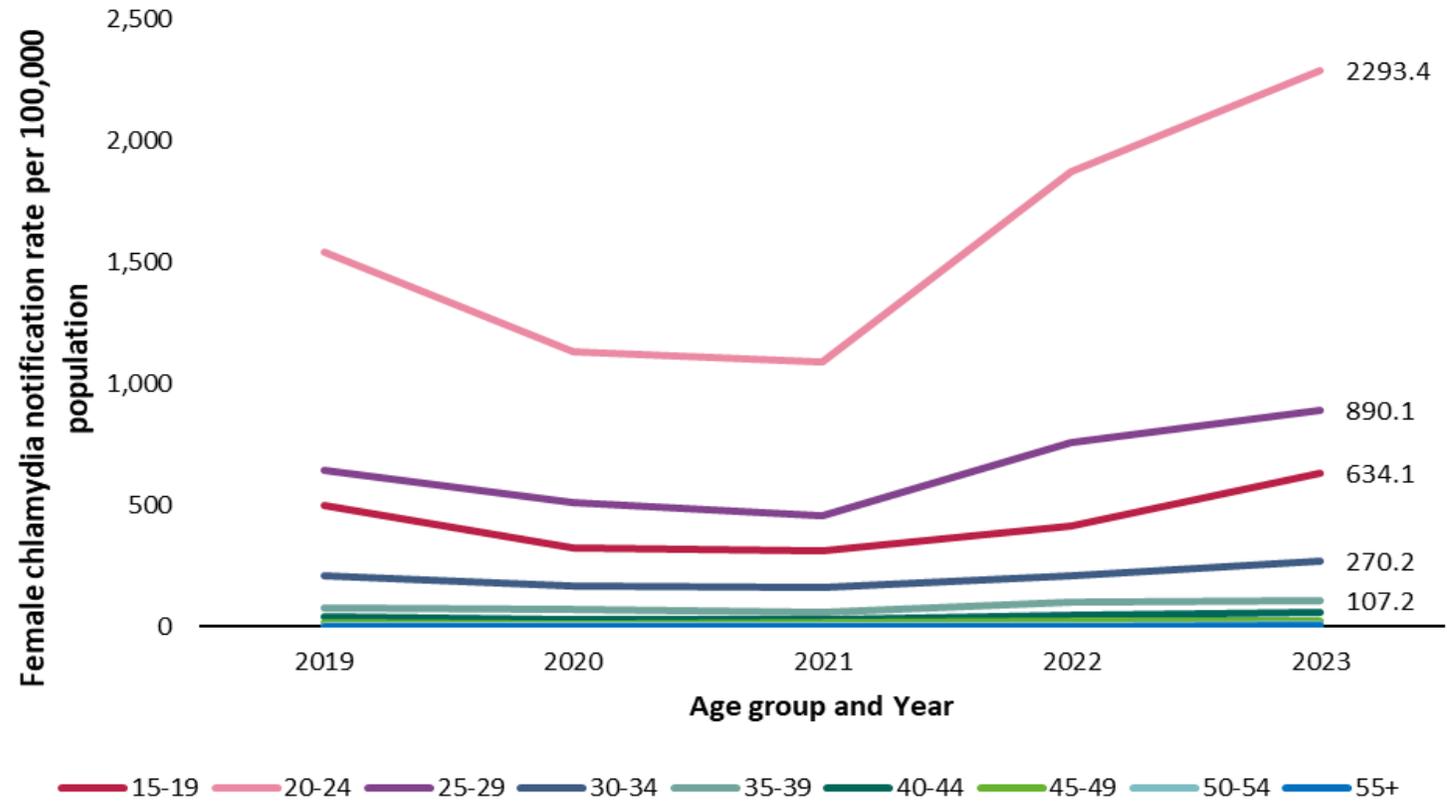


Figure 9. Chlamydia notification rates in females by age group, 2019-2023





# Chlamydia: Trend in notifications by HSE health region, 2020-2023

- Highest notification rate for Chlamydia in 2023 in HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands) (367 per 100,000 population)

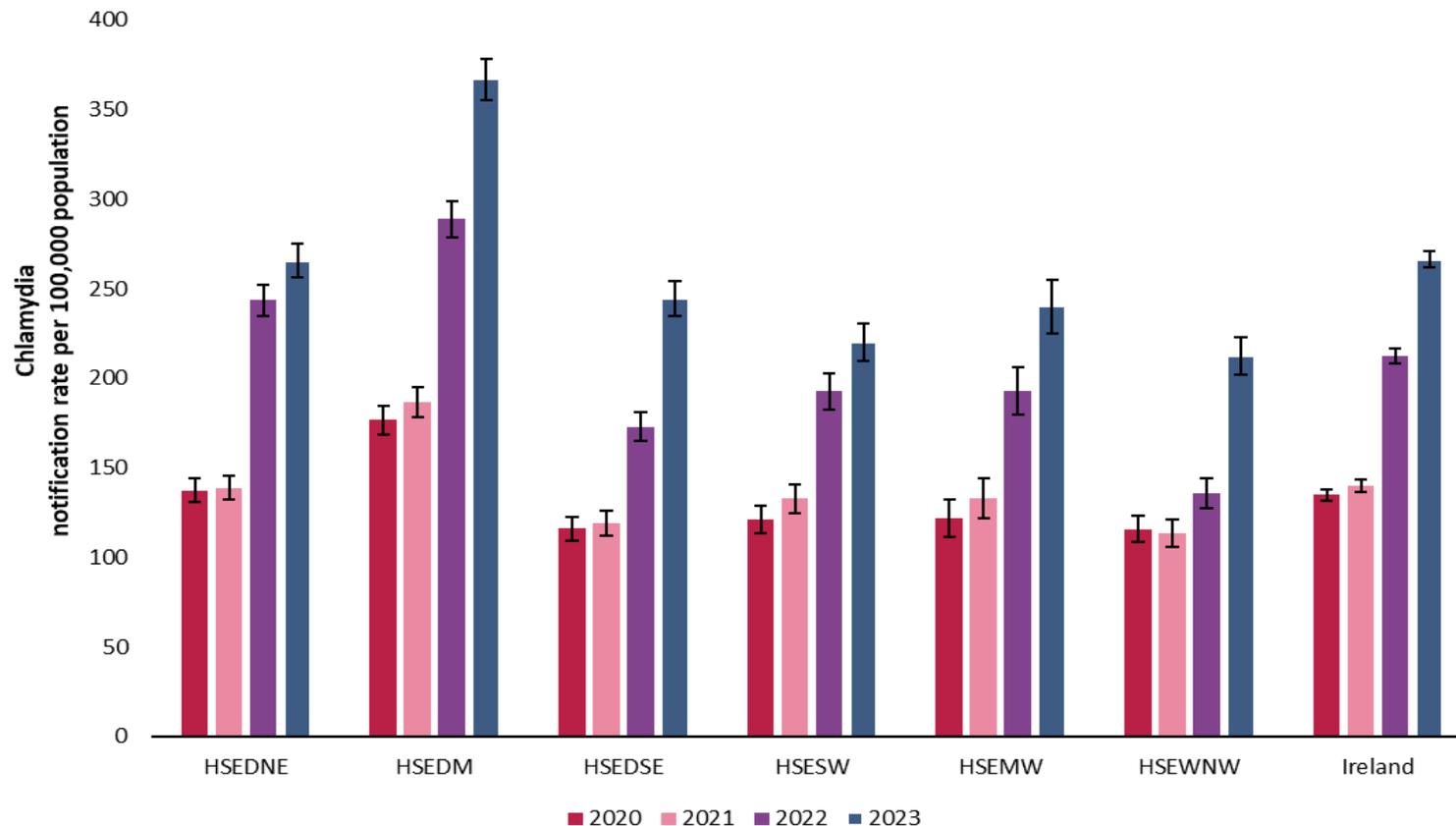


Figure 10. Chlamydia notification rate by HSE health region, 2020-2023





# Chlamydia in Ireland, 2023: Summary

- 13,711 cases notified
- Rate increased by 25% in 2023 compared to 2022
- HSE Home Testing: Accounted for 42% of chlamydia notifications in 2023
- Notification rate was 7% higher in males than females
- 52% of cases were in young people aged 15-24 years
- Median age: 24 years
- Highest rates in both males and females were in those aged 20-24 years
  - In this age group, the rate in females was 66% higher than the rate in males
- Highest notification rates in HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands)



# Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV): Trend in notification rate by gender, 2013-2023\*

- LGV notification rates remain low at 0.7 per 100,000 population in 2023
- All notifications were in males

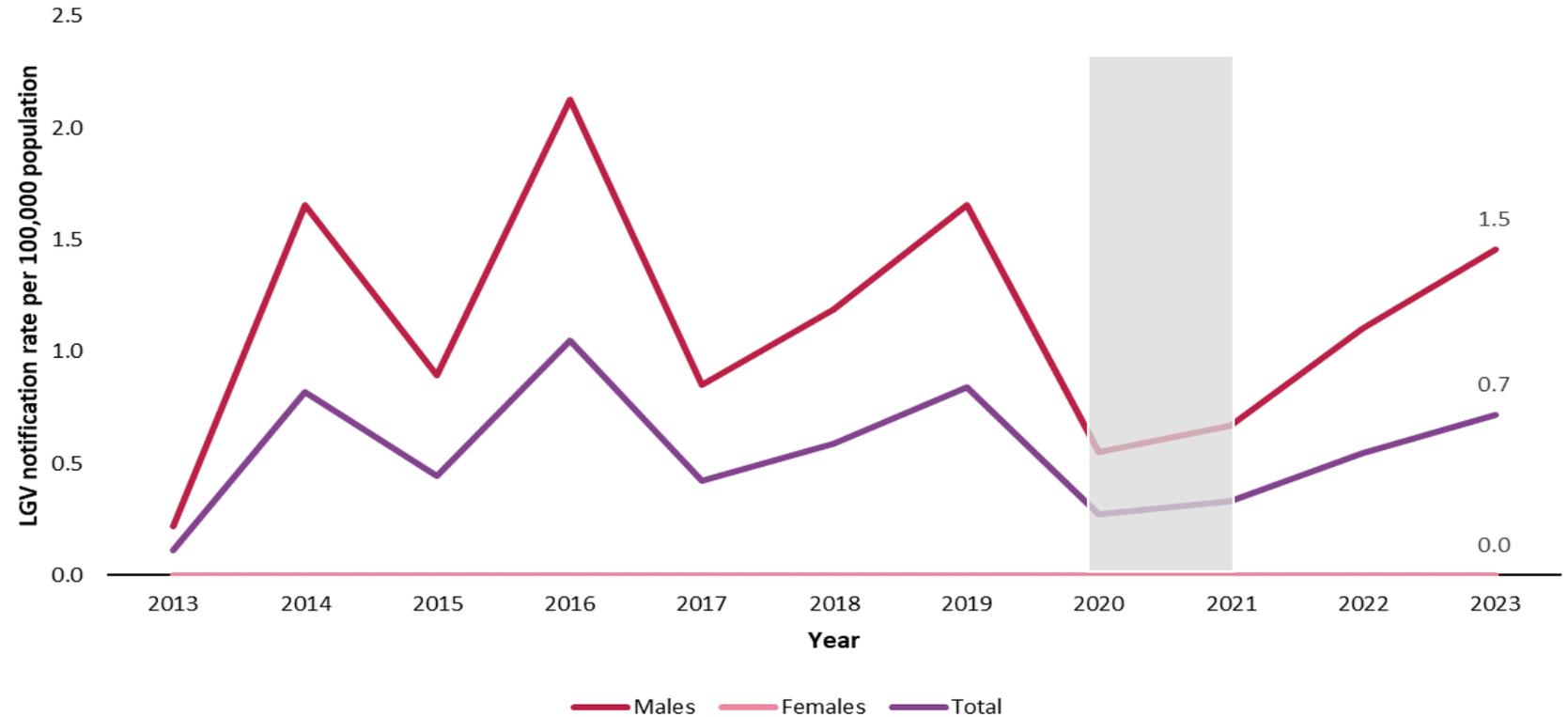


Figure 11. LGV notification rate by gender, 2013 to 2023

The grey area highlights the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021) when STI surveillance data have been likely impacted by reductions in transmission, under ascertainment and underreporting.

\*See technical note 9.





# Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV): Trend in notifications by HSE health region, 2020-2023

- Highest notification rate for LGV in 2023 in HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands) (1.4 per 100,000 population)

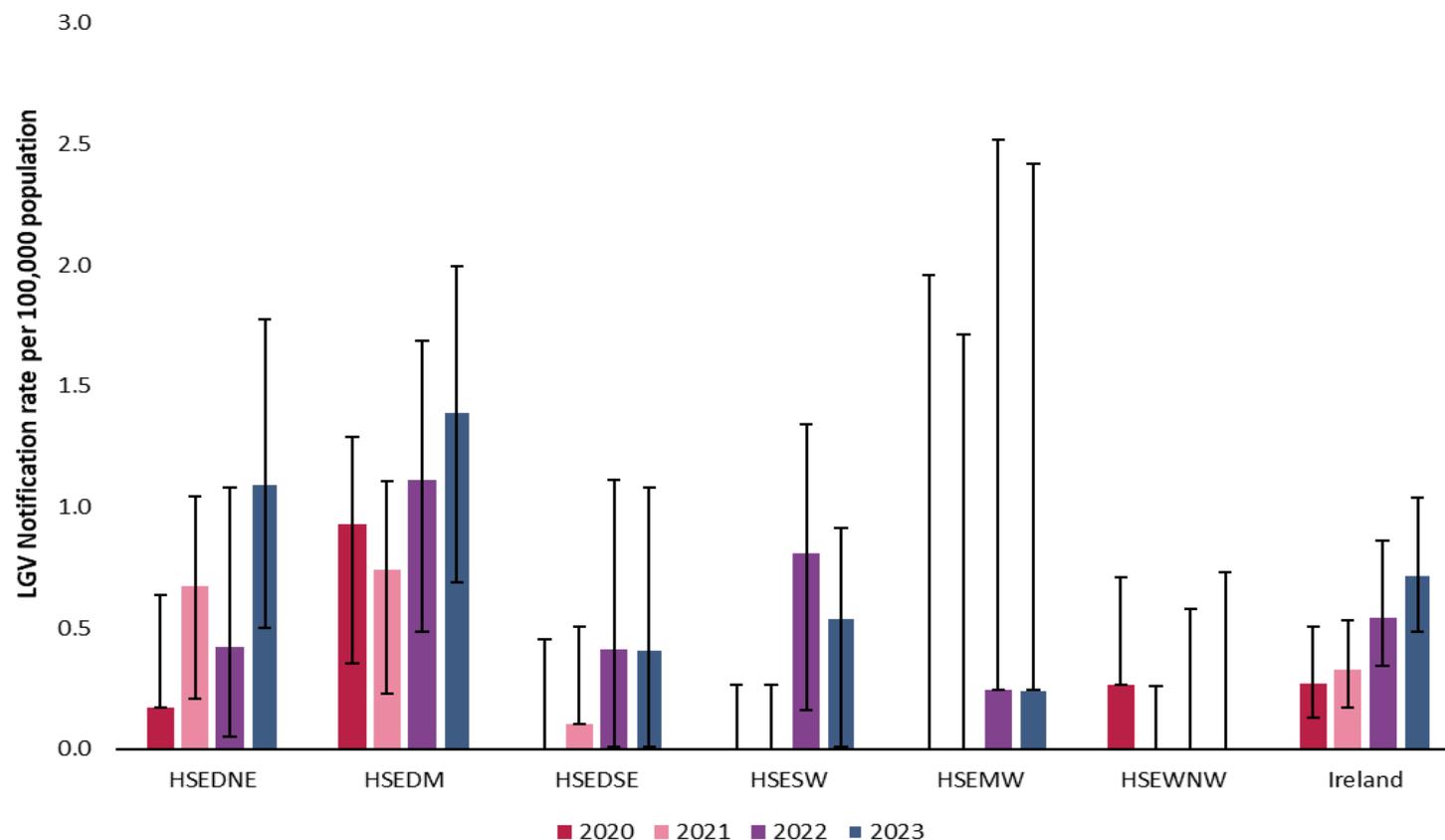


Figure 12. LGV notification rate by HSE health region, 2020-2023





# LGV in Ireland, 2023: Summary

- 37 cases notified
- Rate increased by 32% in 2023 compared to 2022
- 43% cases were aged 25-34 years
- Median age: 35 years
- 100% of cases among males
- Where mode of transmission was known (62%)
  - all gbMSM (gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men)
- Where HIV status was known (49%)
  - 59% of LGV cases were people living with HIV (PLHIV)
- Highest notification rates in HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands)



# Gonorrhoea: Trend in notification rates by gender, 2013-2023

- Gonorrhoea notification rates increased in both males and females in 2022 and 2023
- Between 2021 and 2022 HSE free home STI testing was introduced [www.sexualwellbeing.ie/hometesting](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/hometesting)

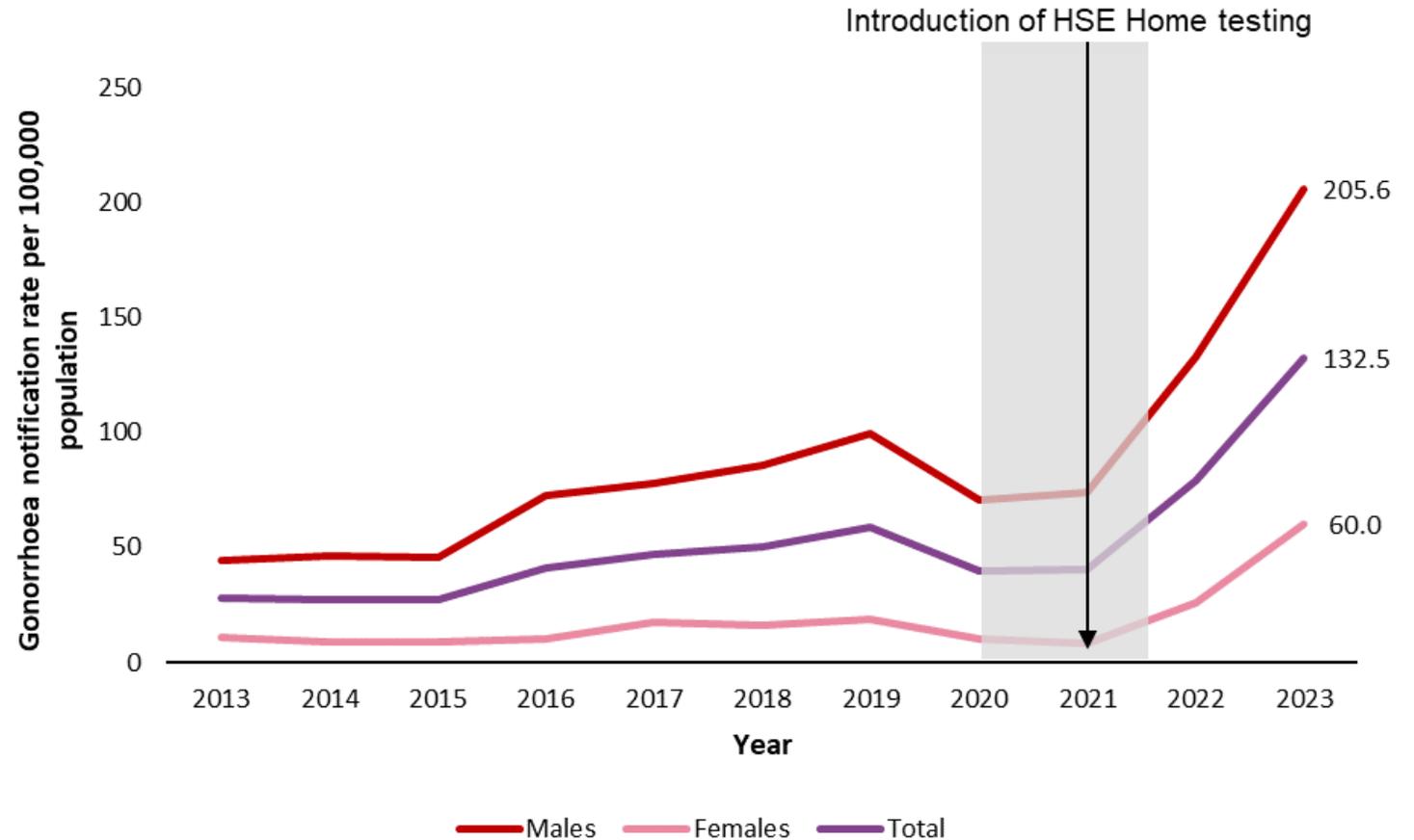


Figure 13. Gonorrhoea notification rates by gender, 2013 – 2023

The grey area highlights the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021) when STI surveillance data have been likely impacted by reductions in transmission, under ascertainment and underreporting.





# Gonorrhoea: Trend in notifications by gender, 2019-2023

- Notifications in males peaked in March 2023
- Notifications in females peaked in February 2023 and have stabilised at a higher rate

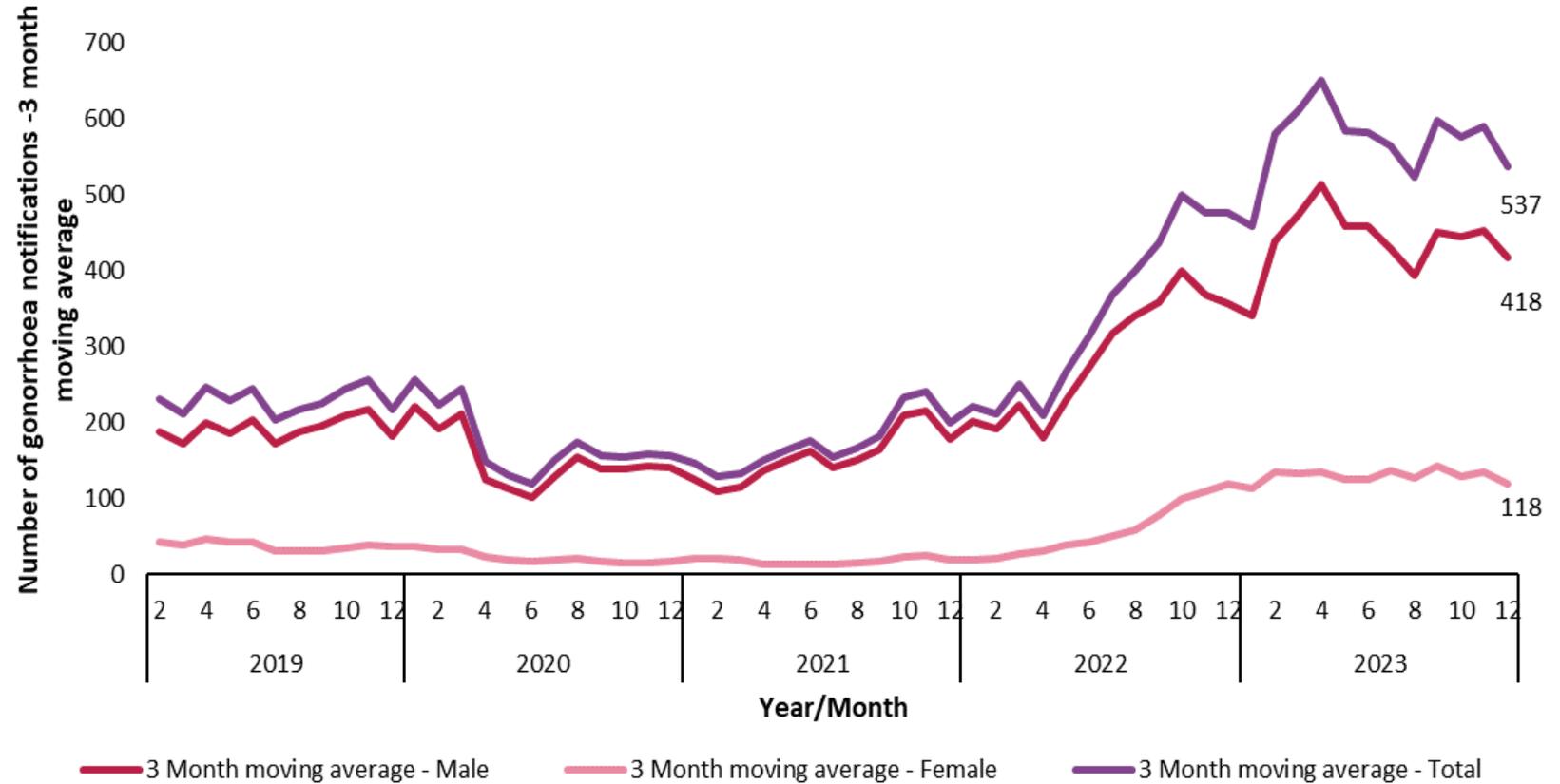


Figure 14. 3 month moving average of gonorrhoea notifications by gender, 2019-2023





# Gonorrhoea: Trend in number and percentage of notifications by testing venue, 2022-2023

- HSE free home testing service accounts for 25% of gonorrhoea notifications in 2023 (34% of female and 22% of male notifications)
- During 2022 a system was introduced where additional testing venue data were collected. A proportion of 2022 data remain unknown.

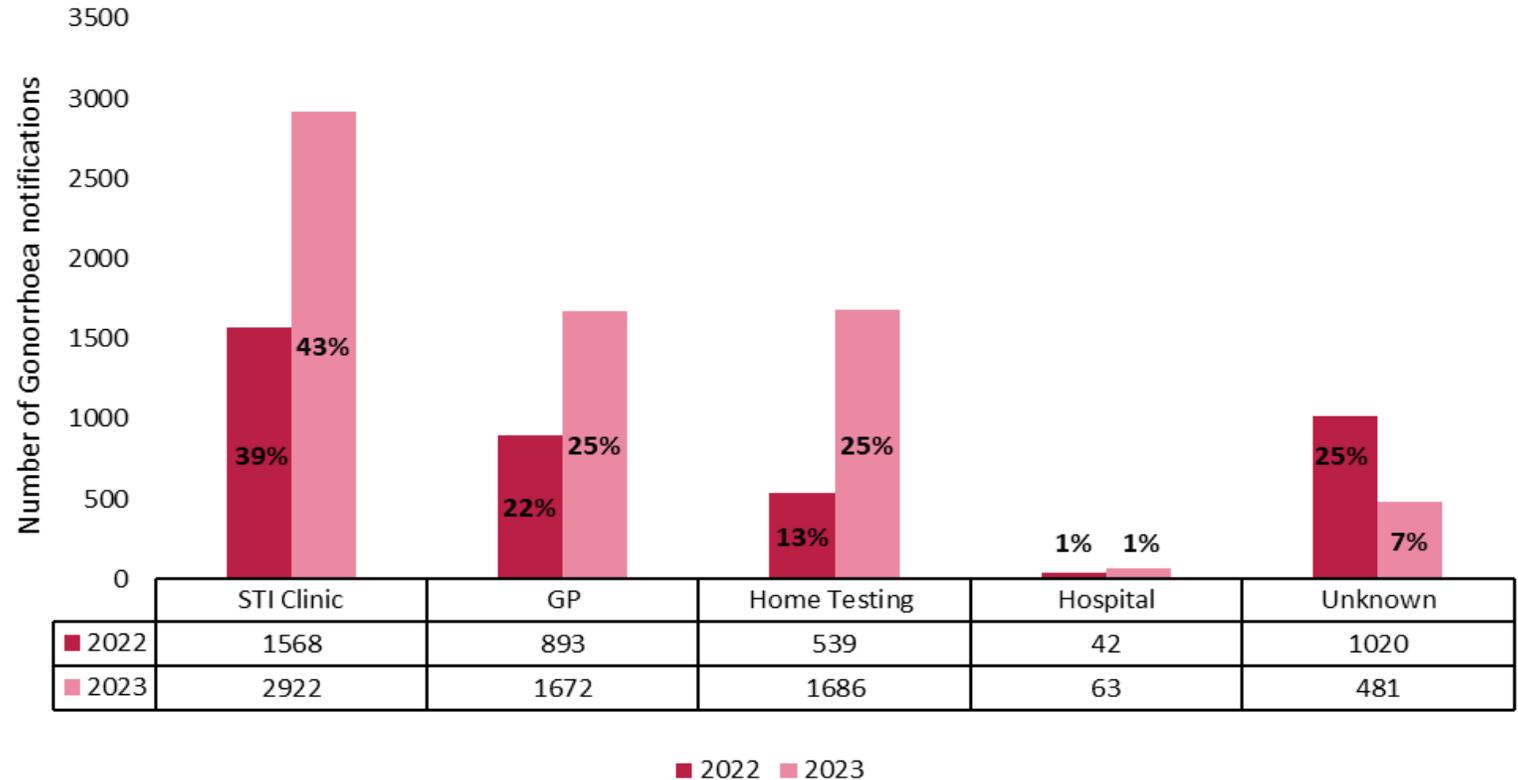


Figure 15. Number and percentage of gonorrhoea notifications by testing venue, 2022-2023





# Gonorrhoea: Notification rate by gender and age group, 2023

Notification rates are highest in:

- Females aged 20-24 years
- Males aged 25-29 years
- Notification rates in males remain high in those aged;
  - 20-24 years
  - 25-29 years
  - 30-34 years

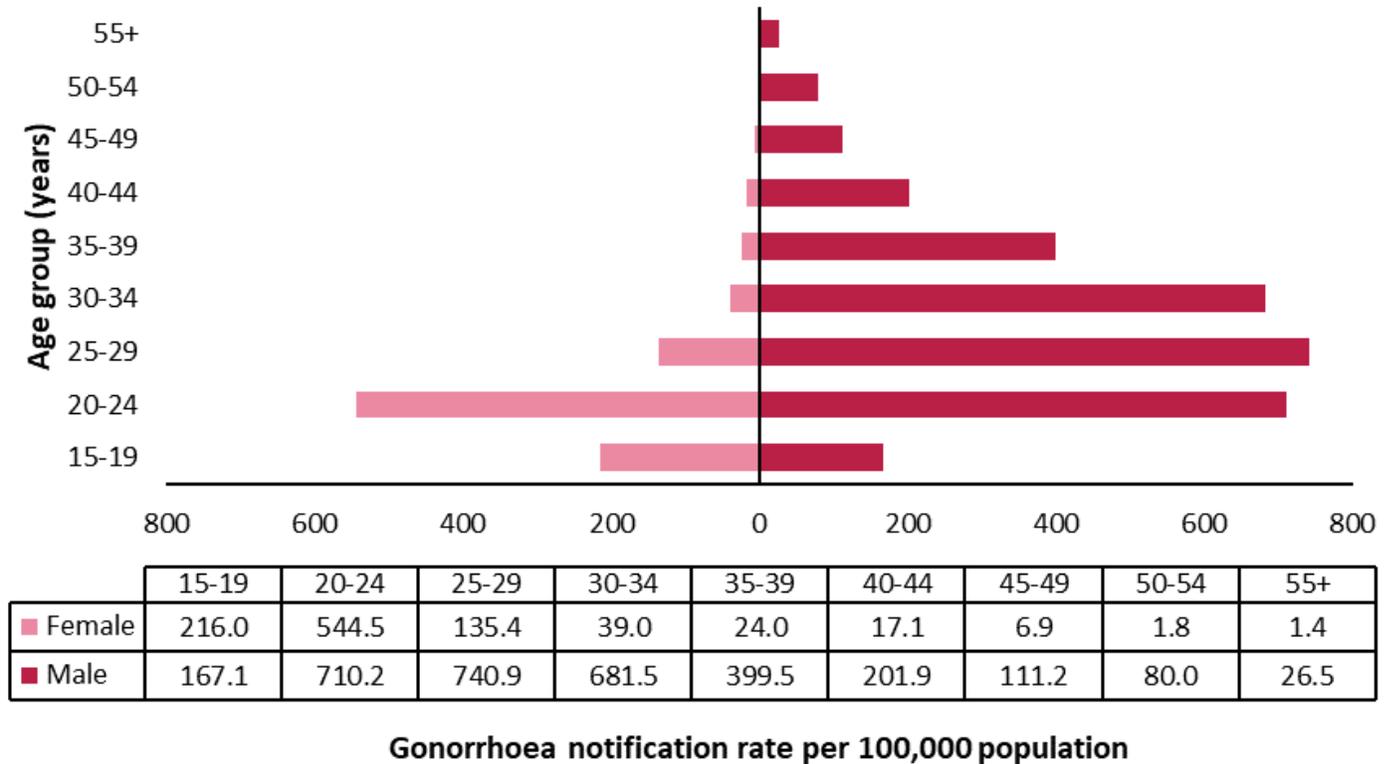


Figure 16. Notification rates by Age and Gender for gonorrhoea, 2023

This figure excludes individuals whose age was less than 15 years and cases where age or gender was unknown.





# Gonorrhoea: Trend in notification rates in males, 2019-2023

- In 2023, the highest age specific rate in males was in those aged 25-29 years
- In 2023 notification rates in males increased compared to 2022 by:
  - 57% in those aged 20-24 years
  - 65% in those aged 15-19 years
- 18 and 19-year-olds account for 90% of notifications in the 15-19 year age group

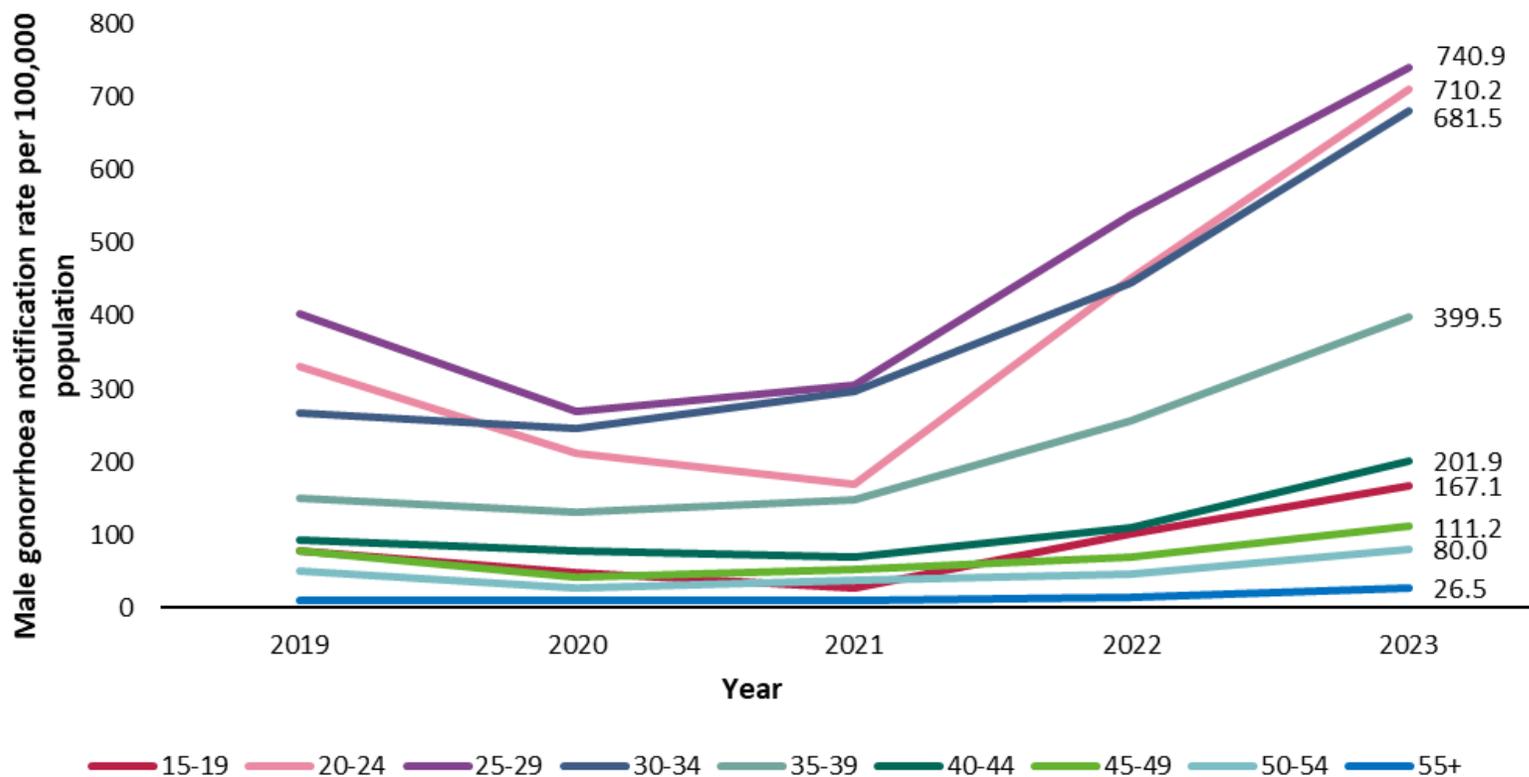


Figure 17. Gonorrhoea notification rates in males by age group, 2019-2023





# Gonorrhoea: Trend in notification rates in females, 2019-2023

- In 2023, the highest age specific rate in females was in those aged 20-24 years
- In 2023 notification rates in females increased compared to 2022 by:
  - 143% in those aged 20-24 years
  - 175% in those aged 15-19 years
- 18 and 19-year-olds account for 88% of notifications in the 15-19 year age group

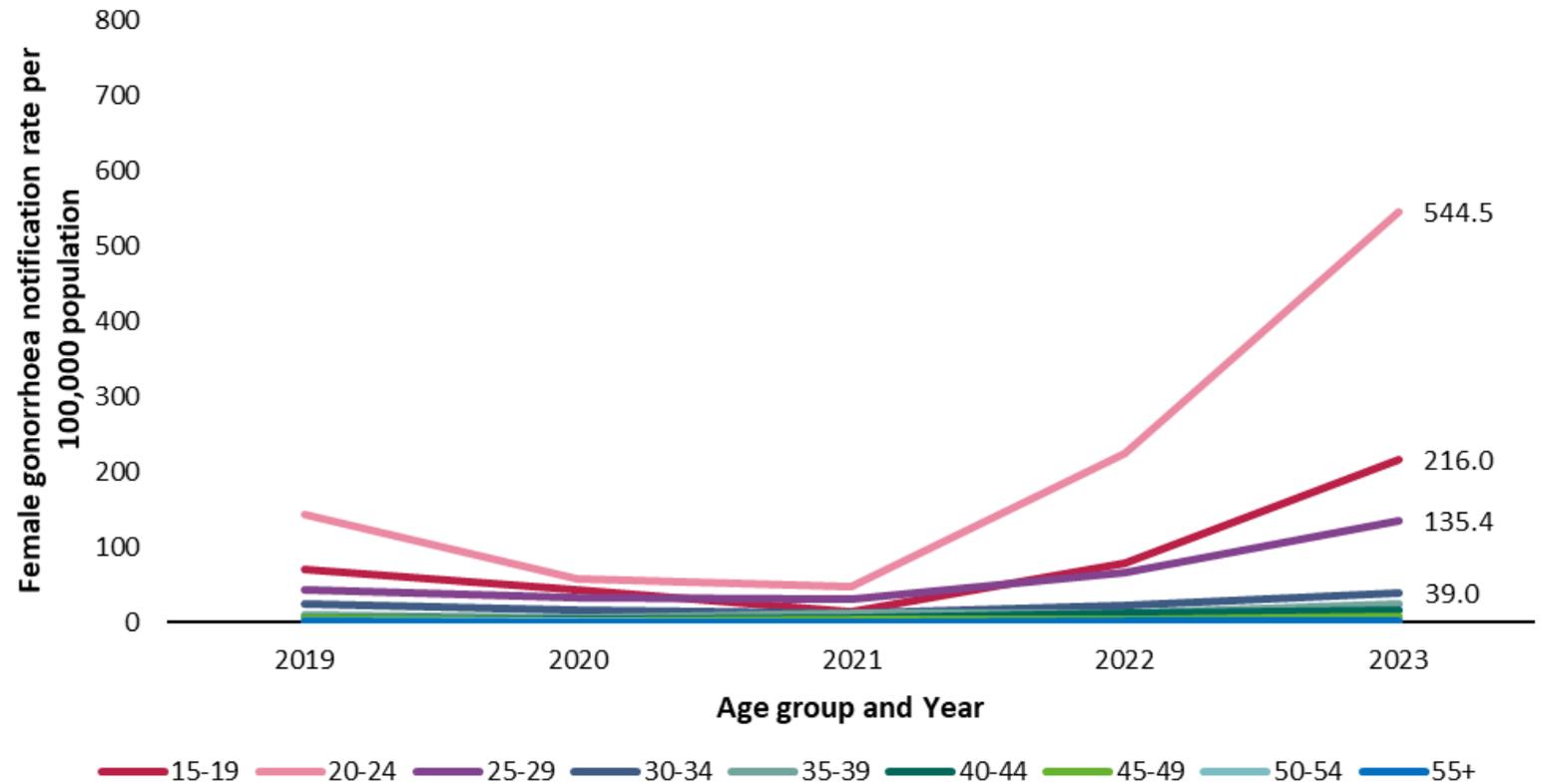


Figure 18. Female gonorrhoea notification rate by age group, 2019-2023





# Gonorrhoea: Notifications by age and gender, 2023

- Female median age: 22 years
- Male median age: 30 years

## 15-19-year-olds:

- Notifications are increasing in this age group, but number of diagnoses in those <18 years remain low
- Median age in this age group is 19 years for both males and females in 2023

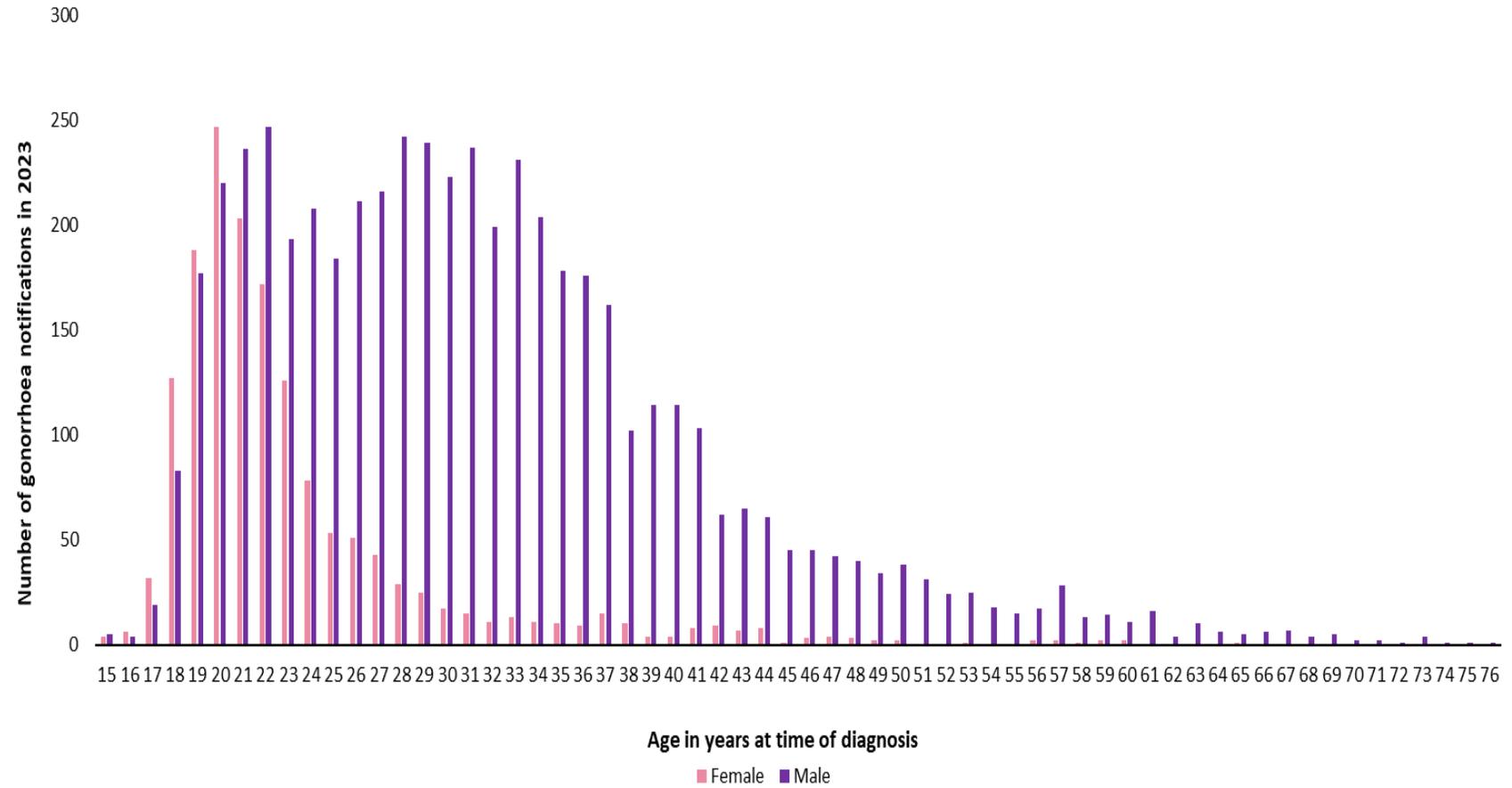


Figure 19. Number of gonorrhoea notifications by age at time of diagnosis and gender, 2023





# Gonorrhoea: Trend in notification rates by risk group 2019-2023

- Notification rate in those identified as gbMSM have increased 36% since 2022
- Notification rate in males increased 55% since 2022
- Notification rate in females increased 133% since 2022

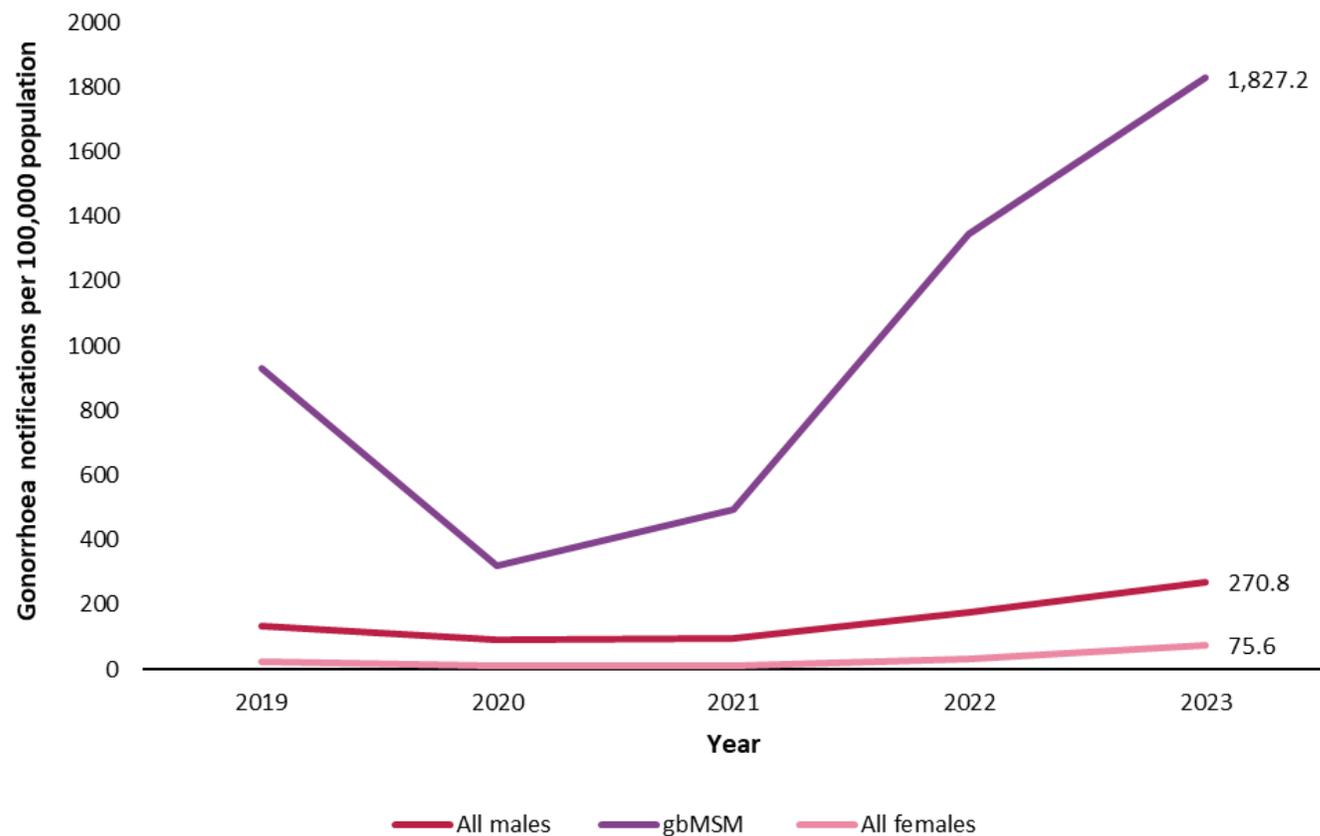


Figure 20: Trend in gonorrhoea rates in gbMSM, all males, and all females aged 18 years and over

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





# Gonorrhoea: Trend in notifications by risk group 2019-2023

- Mode of transmission (MoT) is known for 48% of male cases in 2023
- Where MoT is known, gbMSM account for 84% of male cases in 2023

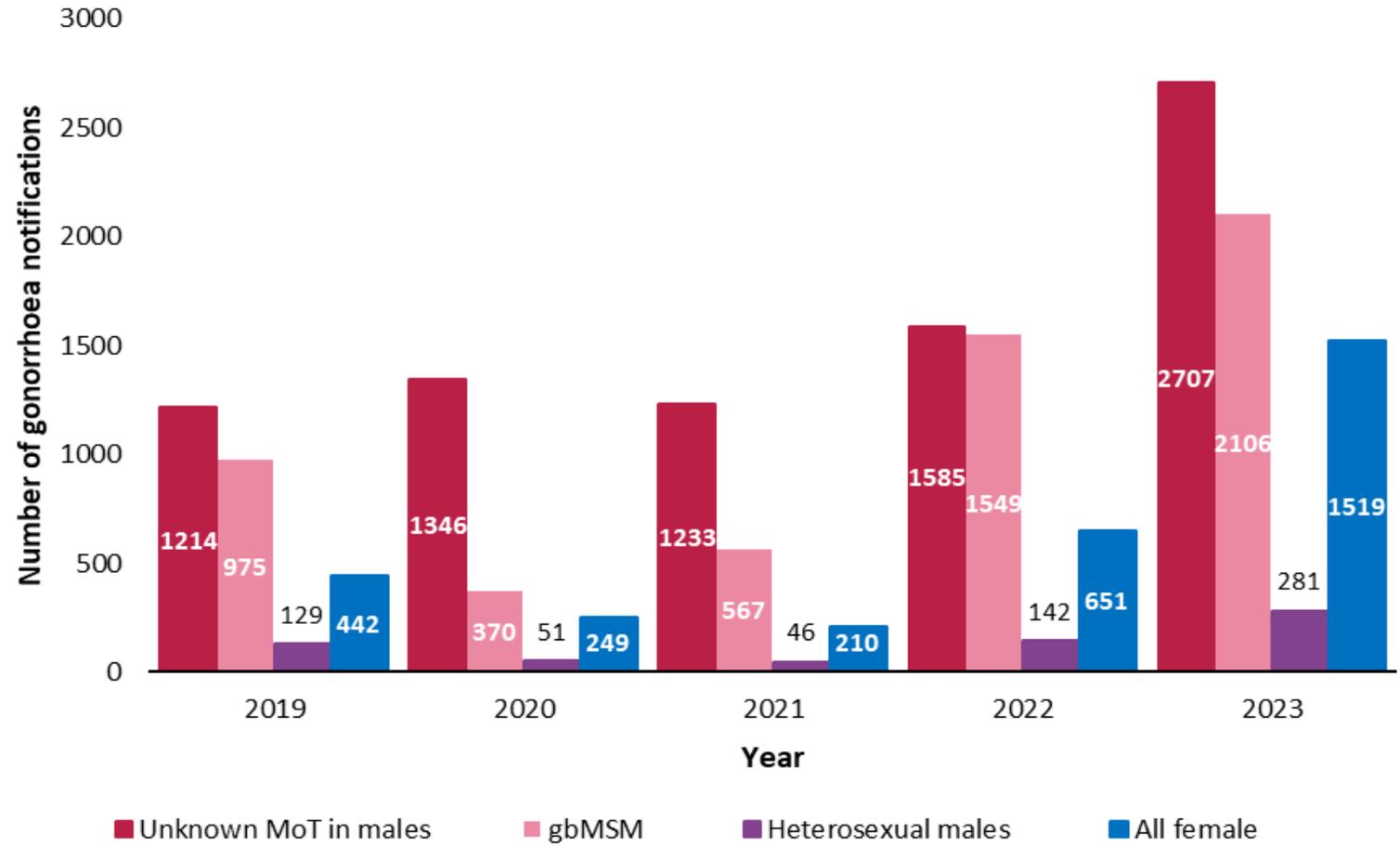


Figure 21: Number of gonorrhoea notifications in gbMSM, heterosexual males, unknown MoT in males and all females aged 18 years and over





# Gonorrhoea: Trend in notification rates by HSE health region, 2020-2023

- Gonorrhoea notification rates increased across all HSE health regions in 2023
- HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands) had the highest notification rate of 232 per 100,000 population

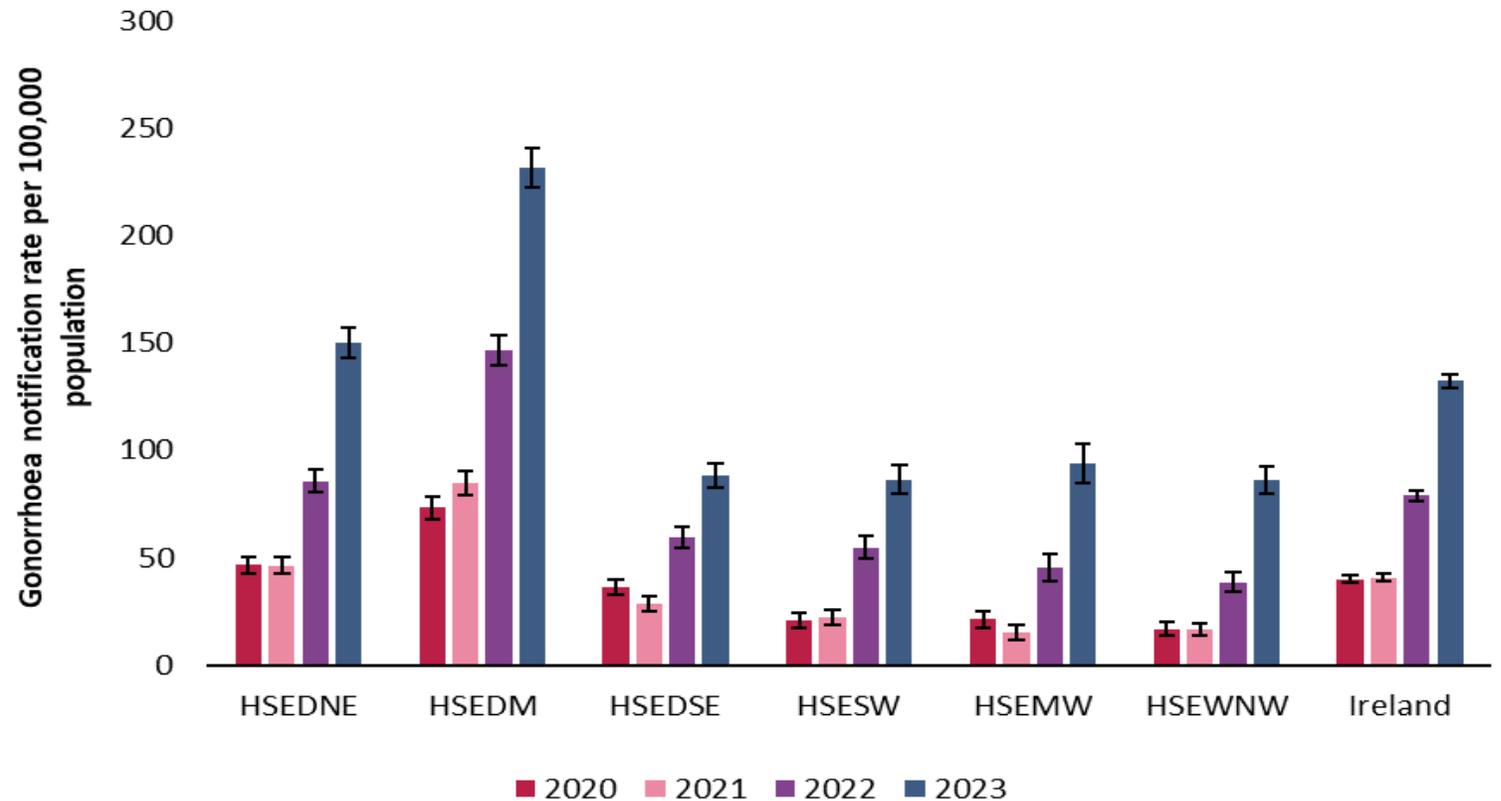


Figure 22. Gonorrhoea notification rate by HSE health region, 2020-2023





# Gonorrhoea in Ireland, 2023: Summary

- 6,824 cases notified
- Rate increased by 68% in 2023 compared to 2022
- HSE Home Testing: Accounted for 25% of gonorrhoea notifications in 2023
- Median age: 28 years
- 77% were males
- Males
  - Notification rates increased across all age groups
  - Highest rate was in 25-29 year age olds
  - Where mode of transmission was known (48%):
    - 84% gbMSM
      - 36% increase when compared to 2022
    - 11% heterosexuals
- Females:
  - 15-19 yrs: 175% increase compared with 2022
  - 20-24 yrs: 143% increase compared with 2022
  - 76% of cases are in young women (15-24 years), 17% in 25-34 year olds
- Highest notification rates in HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands)



# Herpes simplex (genital): Trend in notification rate by gender, 2013-2023

- Herpes simplex (genital) notification rate has increased by 5% when compared to 2022, but remains 8% lower than in 2019

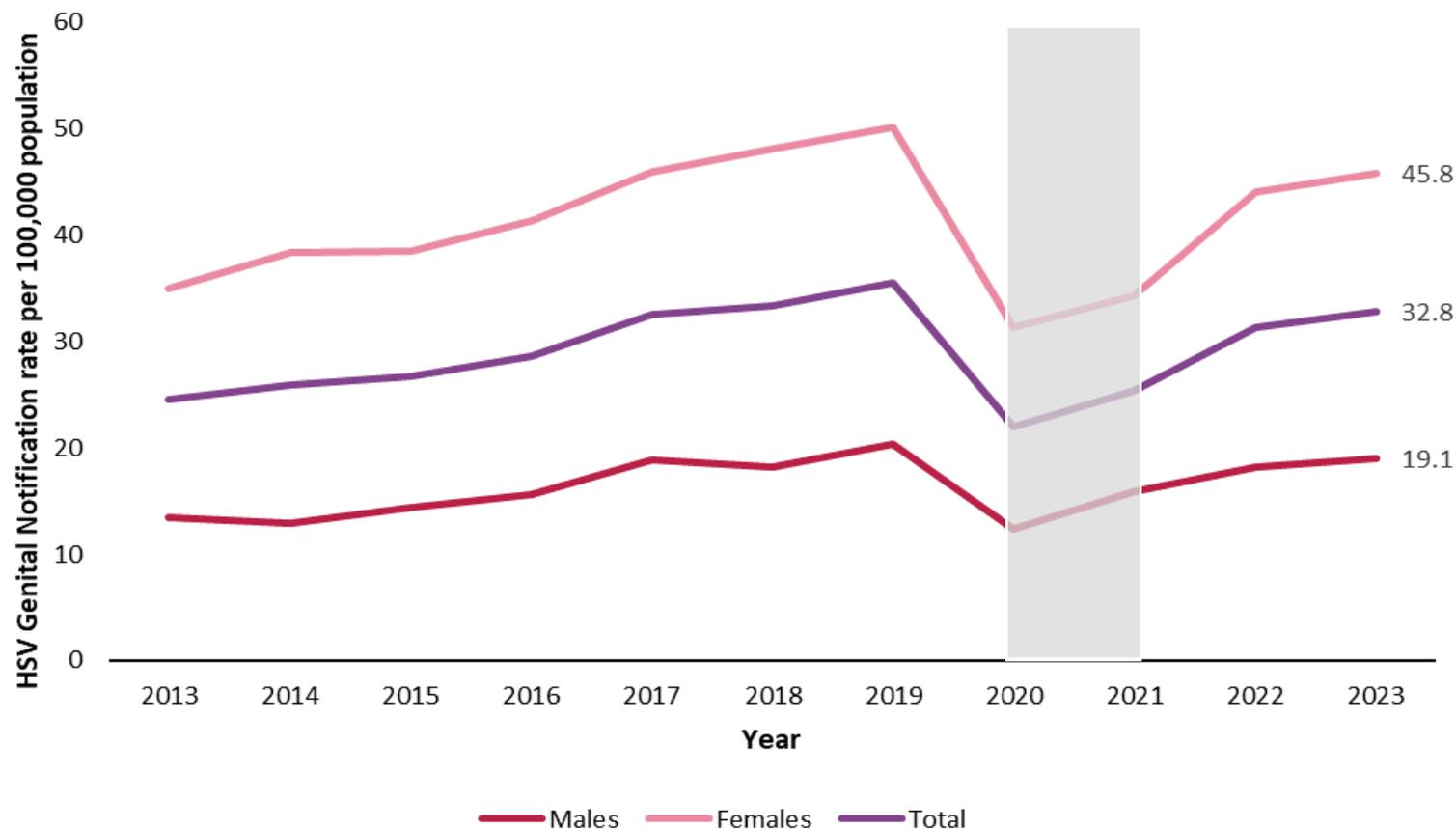


Figure 20. Herpes simplex (genital) notification rate by gender, 2013 to 2023

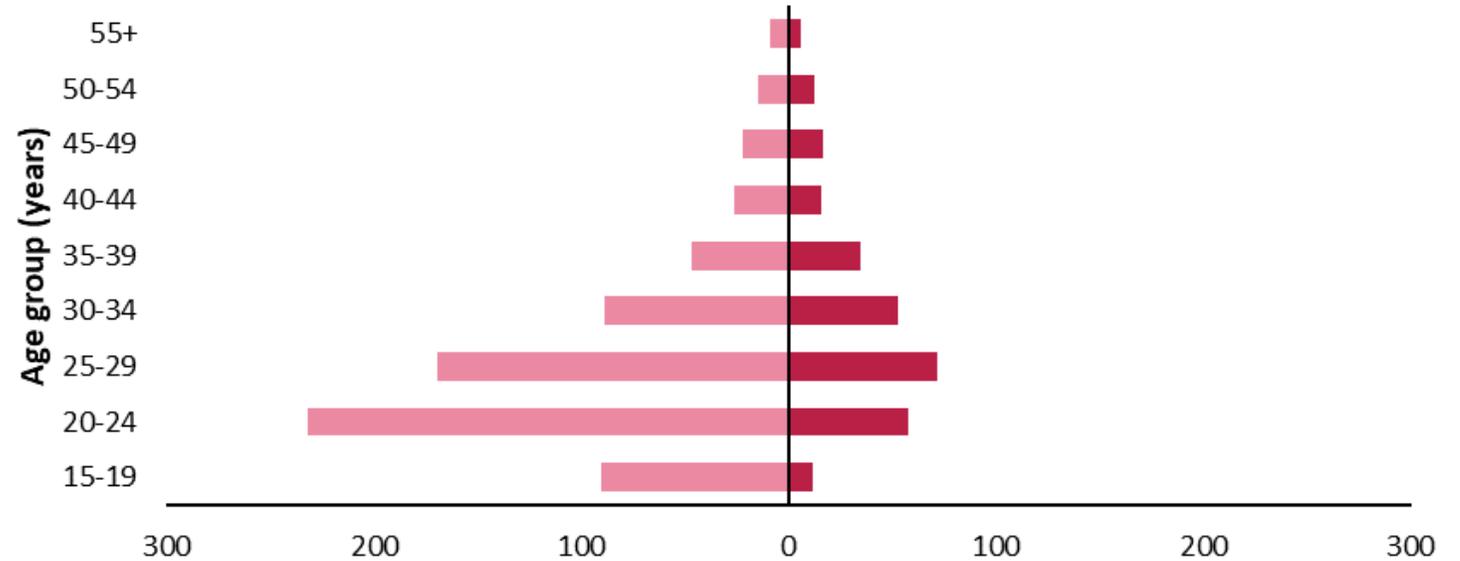
The grey area highlights the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021) when STI surveillance data have been likely impacted by reductions in transmission, under ascertainment and underreporting.





# Herpes simplex (genital): Notification rates by age and gender, 2023

- Females aged 20-24 years most affected by Herpes simplex (genital) infection in 2023



	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55+
Female	90.1	232.0	169.8	88.5	46.6	26.5	22.3	14.7	9.4
Male	11.6	57.3	71.2	52.3	34.9	15.5	16.7	12.4	6.1

HSV (genital) notification rate per 100,000 population

Figure 21. Notification rates by Age and Gender for Herpes simplex (genital), 2023

This figure excludes individuals whose age was less than 15 years and cases where age or gender was unknown.





# Herpes simplex (genital): Trend in notification rates in males, 2019-2023

- In 2023 the highest age specific rate in males was in those aged 25-29 years

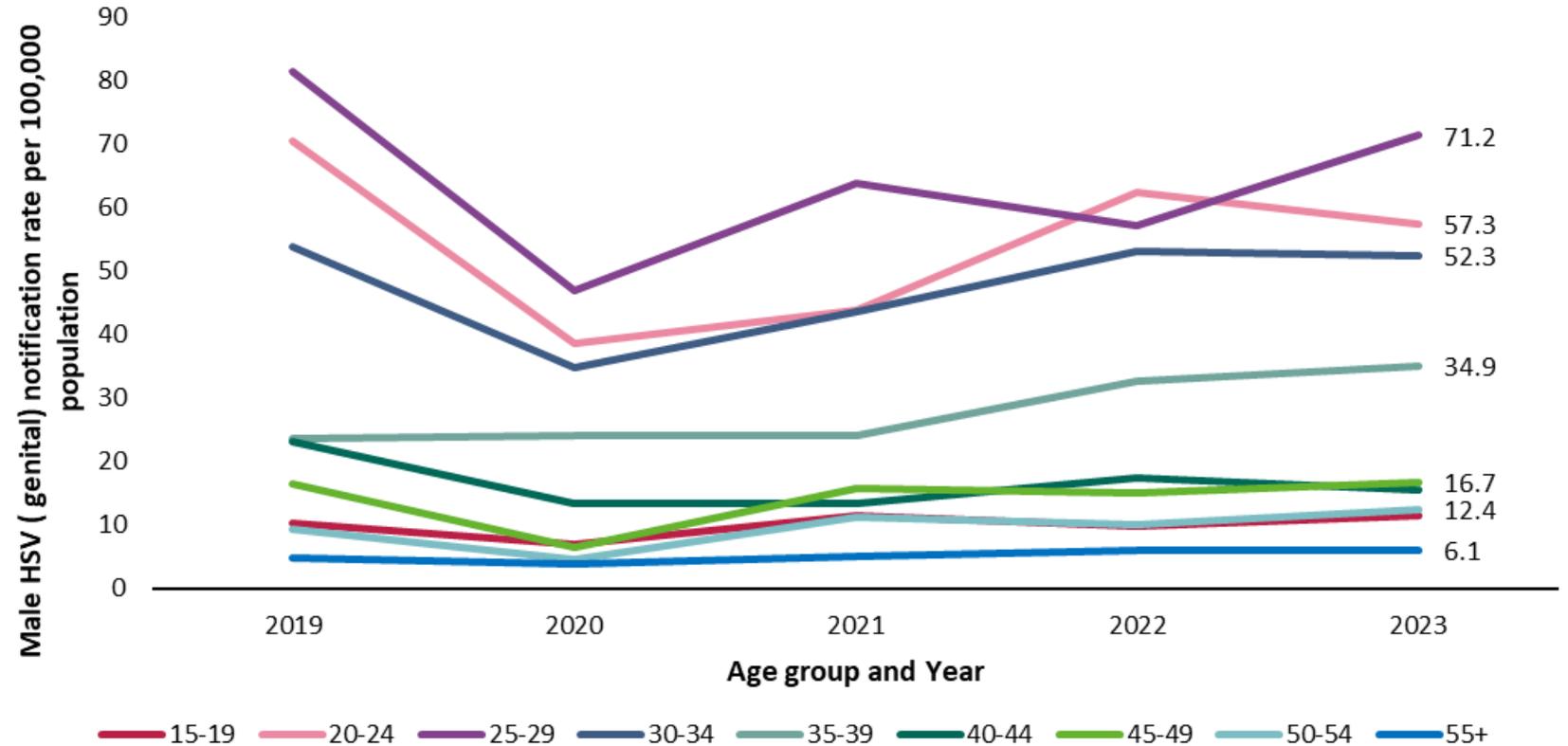


Figure 22. Herpes simplex (genital) notification rates in males by age group, 2019-2023





# Herpes simplex (genital): Trend in notification rates in females, 2019-2023

- In 2023 the highest age specific rate in females was in those aged 20-24 years

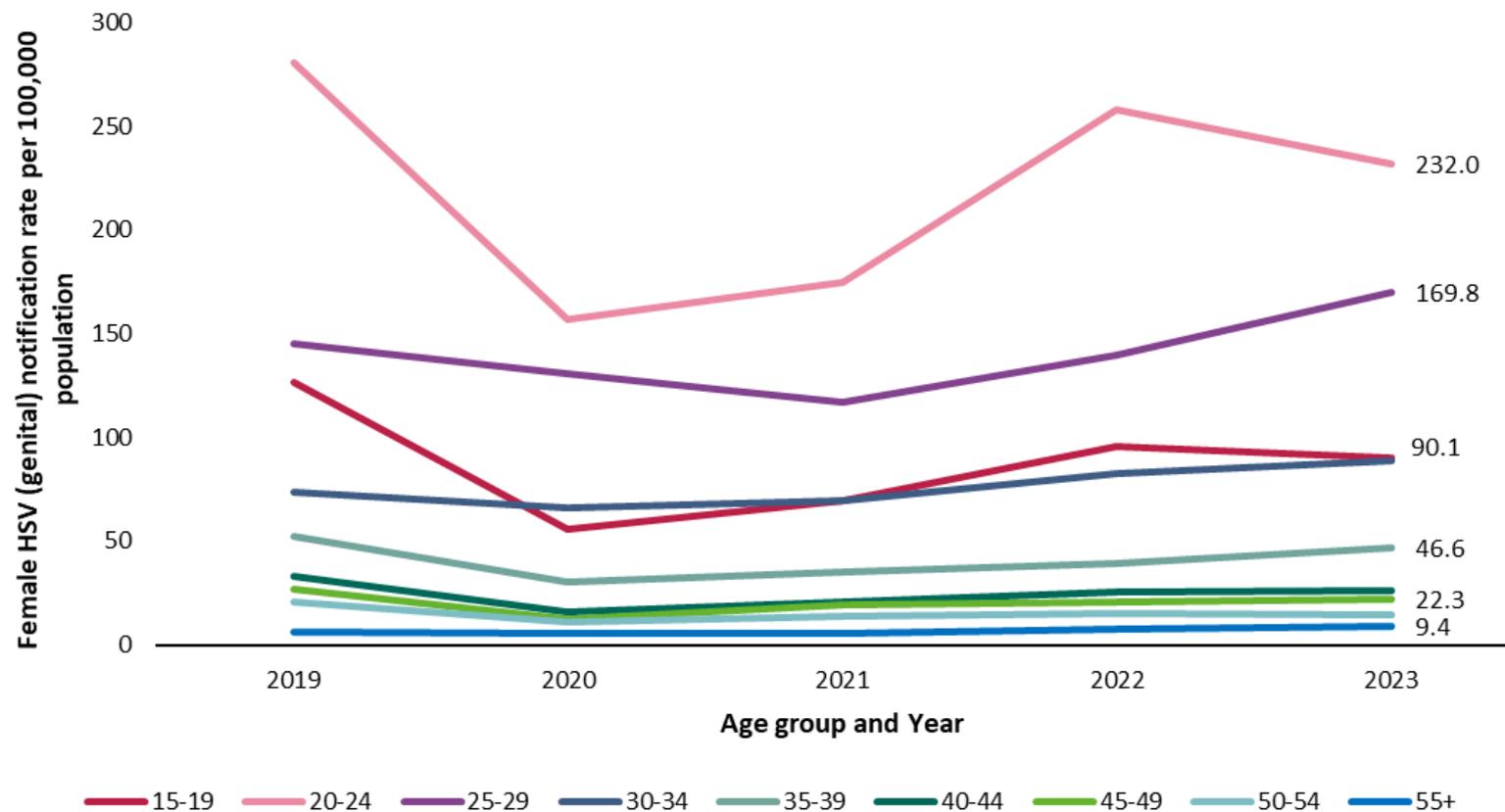


Figure 23. Herpes simplex (genital) notification rates in females by age group, 2019-2023





# Herpes simplex (genital): Trend in notifications by HSE health region, 2020-2023

- Highest notification rate for HSV (genital) in 2023 in HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands) (50 per 100,000 population)

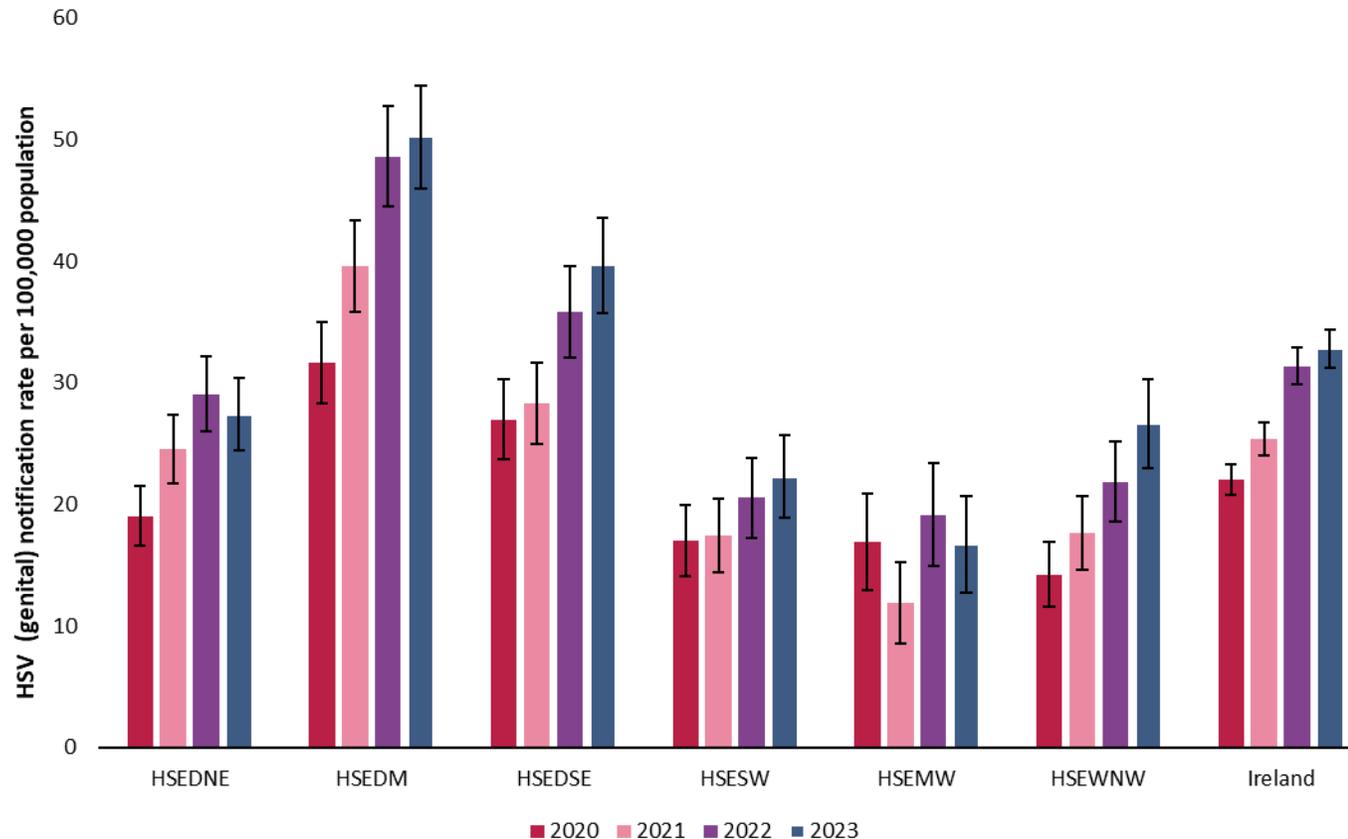


Figure 24. Herpes simplex (genital) notification rate by HSE health region, 2020-2023





# Herpes simplex (genital) in Ireland, 2023: Summary

- 1,687 cases notified
- Rate increased by 5% in 2023 compared to 2022
- 36% of cases were in young people aged 15-24 years.
- Median age: 33 years
- 71% of cases female
- The highest age-specific rate was in females aged 20-24 years (232 per 100,000 population)
- Notifications by subtype:
  - 55% HSV-1
  - 34% HSV-2
  - 11% Subtype unknown
- Highest notification rates in HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands)



# Mpox: Notifications, 2022-2023

- The first case of mpox in Ireland was notified on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022
- Mpox notification rate has decreased by 94% in 2023 when compared 2022 and the notification rate in males is low at 0.5/100,000
- Behaviour change, and immunity due to vaccination or infection have contributed to the decline in cases

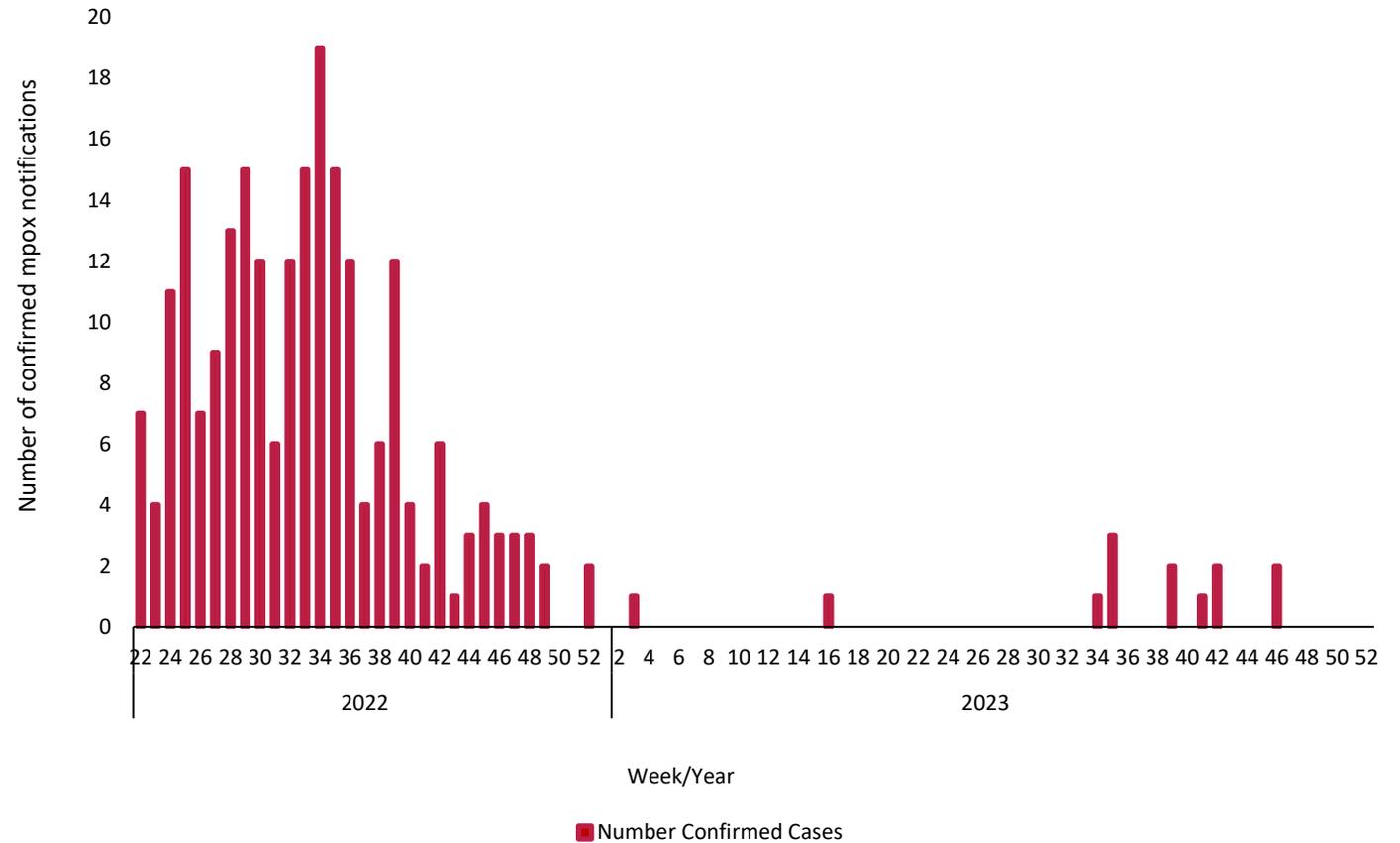


Figure 25. Number of confirmed mpox notifications, 2022-2023





# Mpox in Ireland, 2023: Summary

- 13 confirmed cases notified\*
- Rate decreased by 94% in 2023 compared to 2022
- Median age: 38 years
- 100% of cases among males
- Highest age-specific rate was among those aged 35-39 years
- Sexual orientation : 85% are gbMSM, 15% unknown
- Highest notification rates in HSEDNE (HSE Dublin and North-East) and HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands )
- Of the 13 cases in 2023
  - One person was admitted to hospital
  - 12 were unvaccinated for mpox
  - 15% are people living with HIV (PLHIV) and on antiretroviral therapy (ART)
  - Of the 9 people who were known to be HIV negative, three were reported to be using HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
  - 6 people travelled internationally in the 21 days prior to symptoms
- According to the [WHO](#), latest mpox risk assessment, the overall global risk for gbMSM and sex workers is assessed as **moderate**.



\* 2 probable cases also notified in 2023



# Early Infectious Syphilis: Trend in notification rate by gender, 2013-2023

- Early infectious syphilis notification rates in the total population increased by 7% in 2023 when compared to 2022

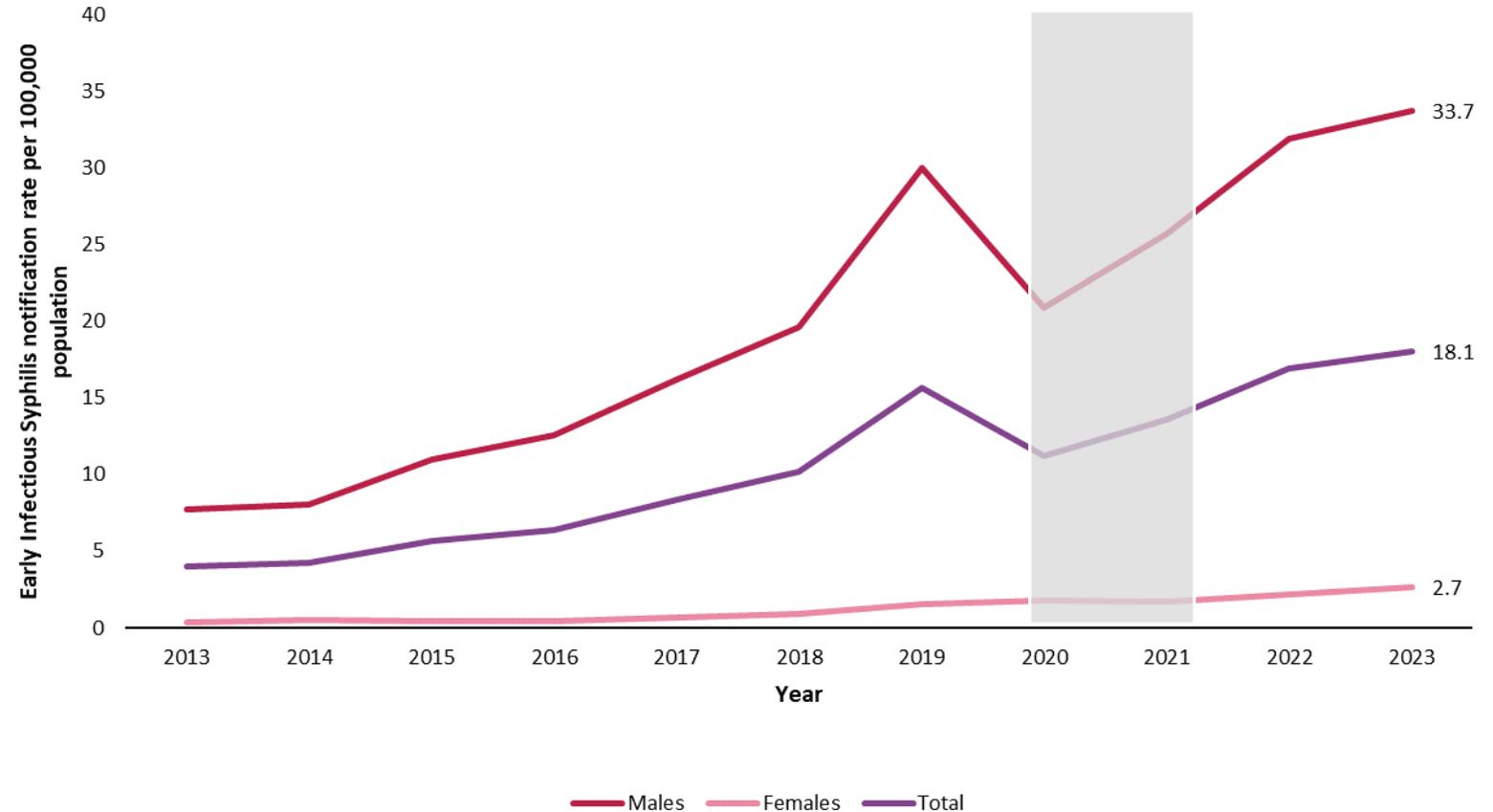


Figure 26. Early Infectious Syphilis notification rate by gender, 2013 to 2023

The grey area highlights the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021) when STI surveillance data have been likely impacted by reductions in transmission, under ascertainment and underreporting.





# Early Infectious Syphilis: Notification rates by age and gender, 2023

- Males aged 30-34 years most affected by early infectious syphilis infection in 2023

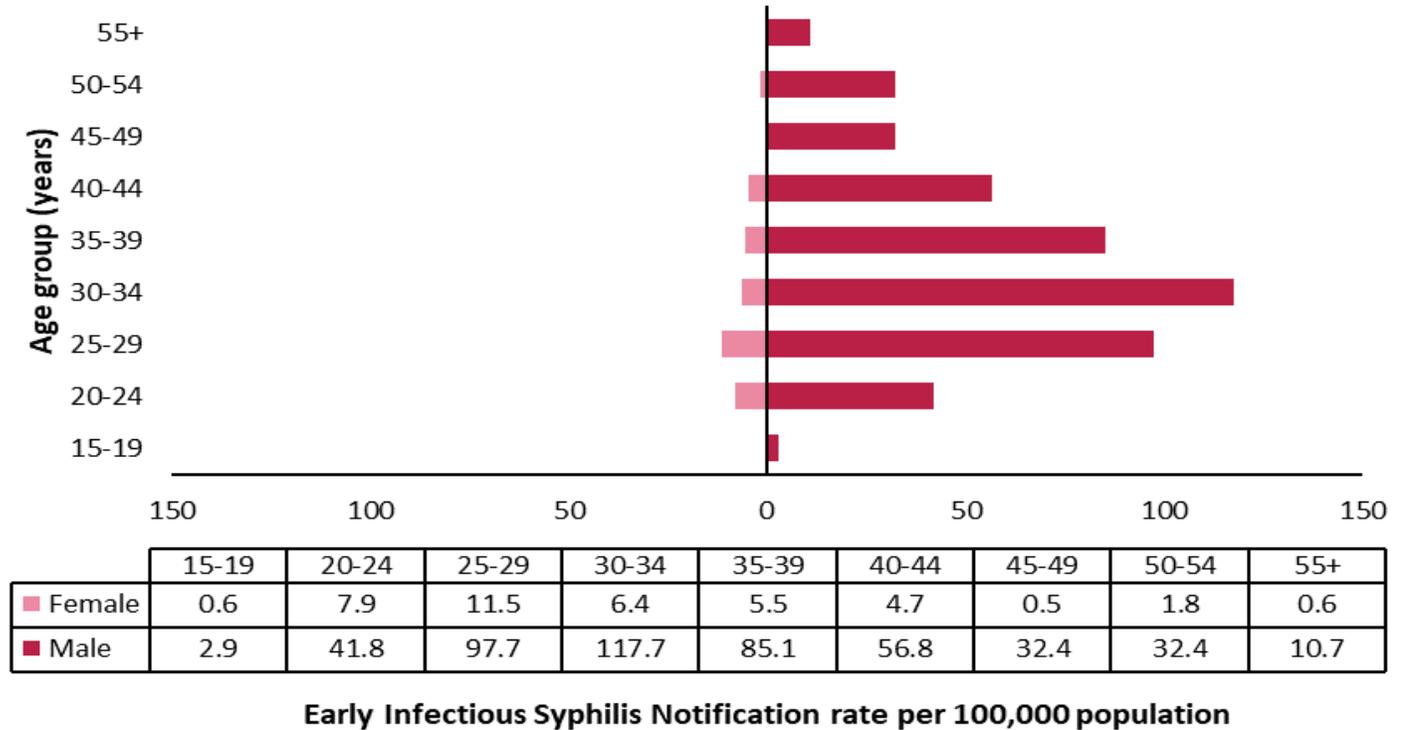


Figure 27. Notification rates by Age and Gender for Early Infectious Syphilis, 2023

This figure excludes individuals whose age was less than 15 years and cases where age or gender was unknown.





# Early Infectious Syphilis: Trend in notification rates in males, 2019-2023

- In 2023 the highest age specific rate in males was in those aged 30-34 years

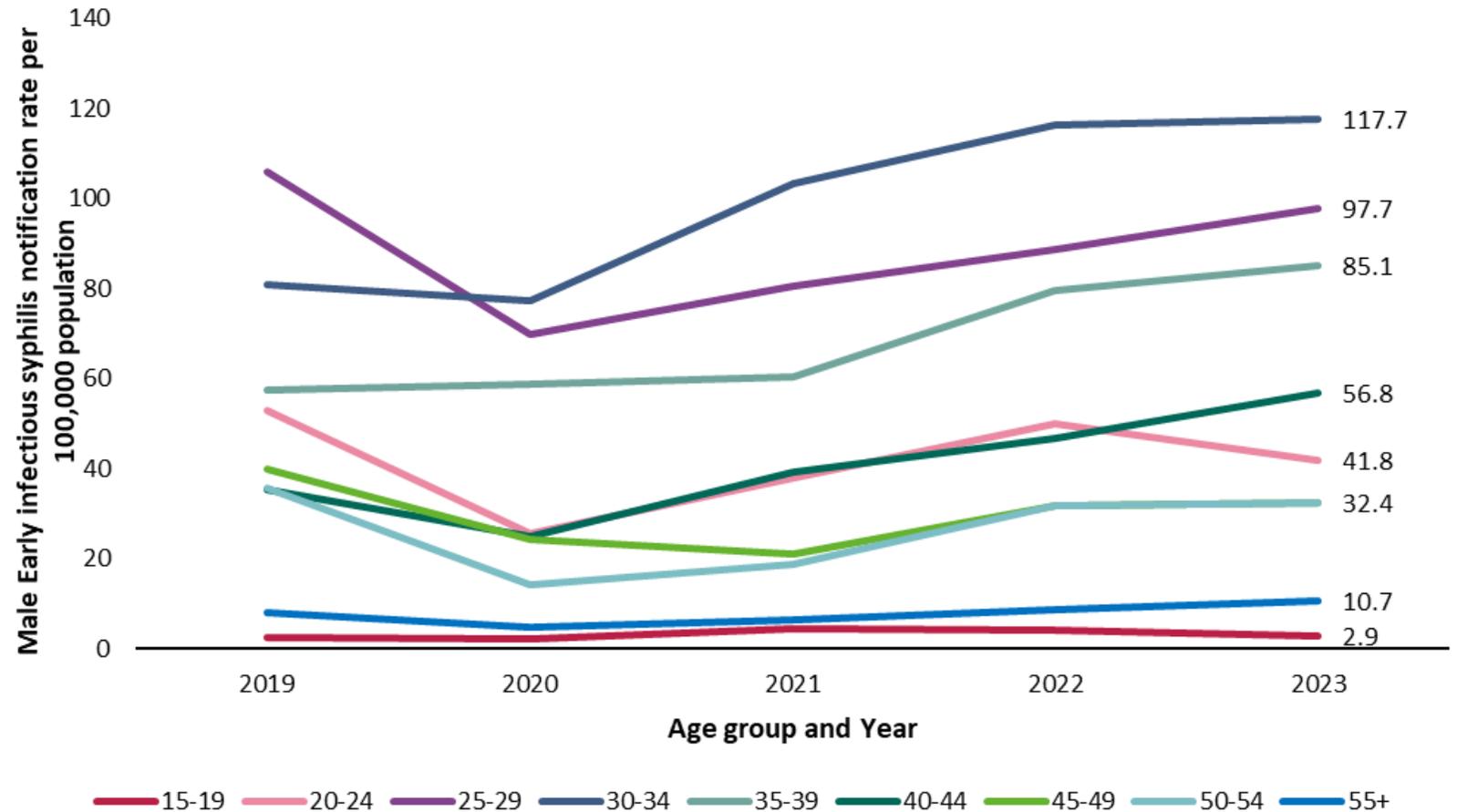


Figure 28. Early Infectious Syphilis notification rates in males by age group, 2019-2023





# Early Infectious Syphilis: Trend in notification rates in females, 2019-2023

- In 2023 the highest age specific rate in females was in those aged 25-29 years

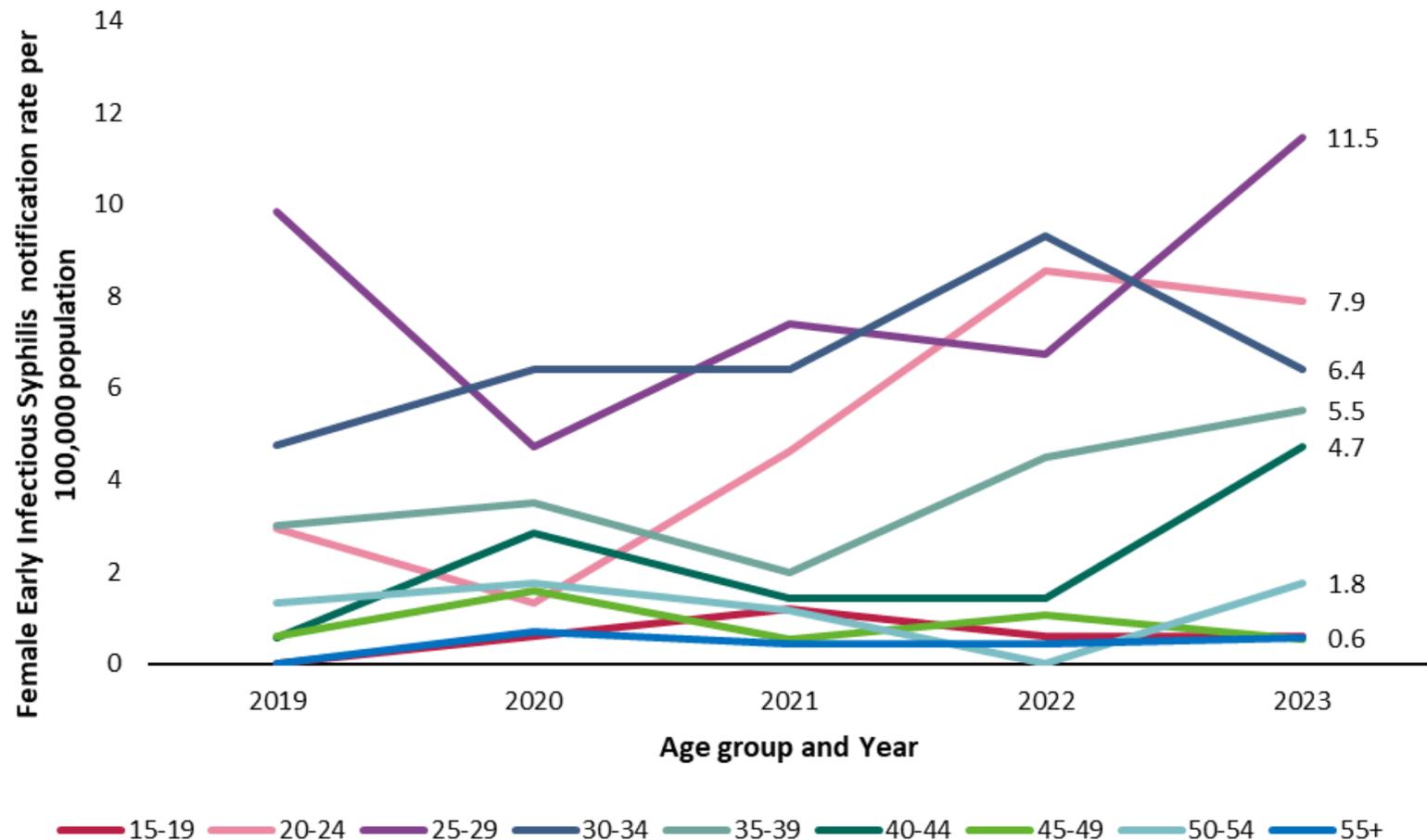


Figure 29. Early Infectious Syphilis notification rates in females by age group, 2019-2023





# Early Infectious Syphilis: Trend in notifications by risk group, 2019-2023

- Data presented for 2023 are preliminary. Further data will be available in the Early Infectious Syphilis 2023 Annual report due to be published in Quarter 3 2024.
- In 2023 Mode of transmission (MoT) was known for 50% of male cases, gbMSM account for 91% of male notifications where MoT is known
- In 2022 MoT was known for 62% of male cases, gbMSM account for 92% of male notifications where MoT is known

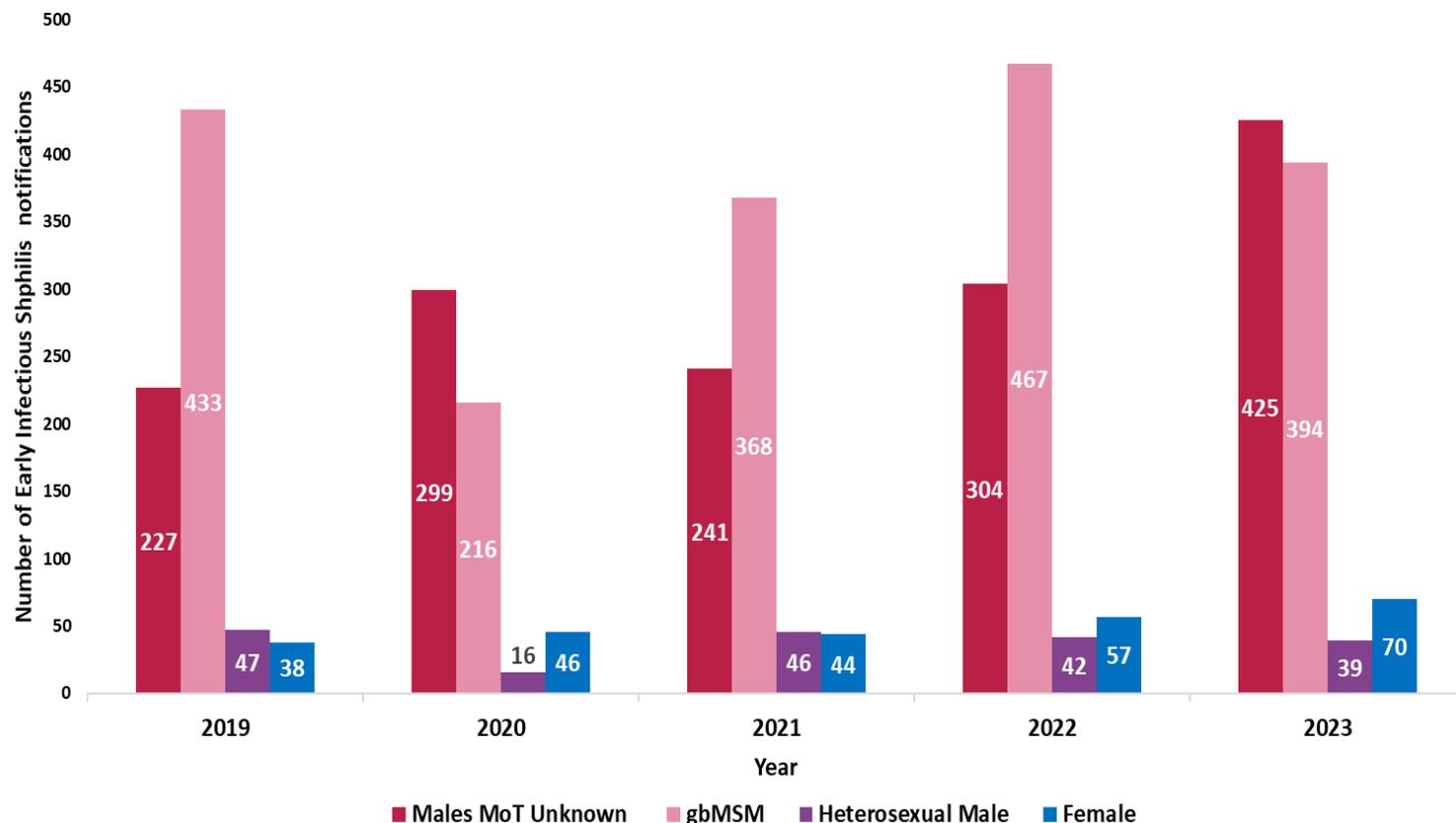


Figure 30. Number of Early Infectious Syphilis notifications in gbMSM, heterosexual males, unknown MoT in males and all females.





# Early Infectious Syphilis: Trend in notifications by HSE health region, 2020-2023

- Highest notification rate for Early Infectious Syphilis (EIS) in 2023 in HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands) (38 per 100,000 population)

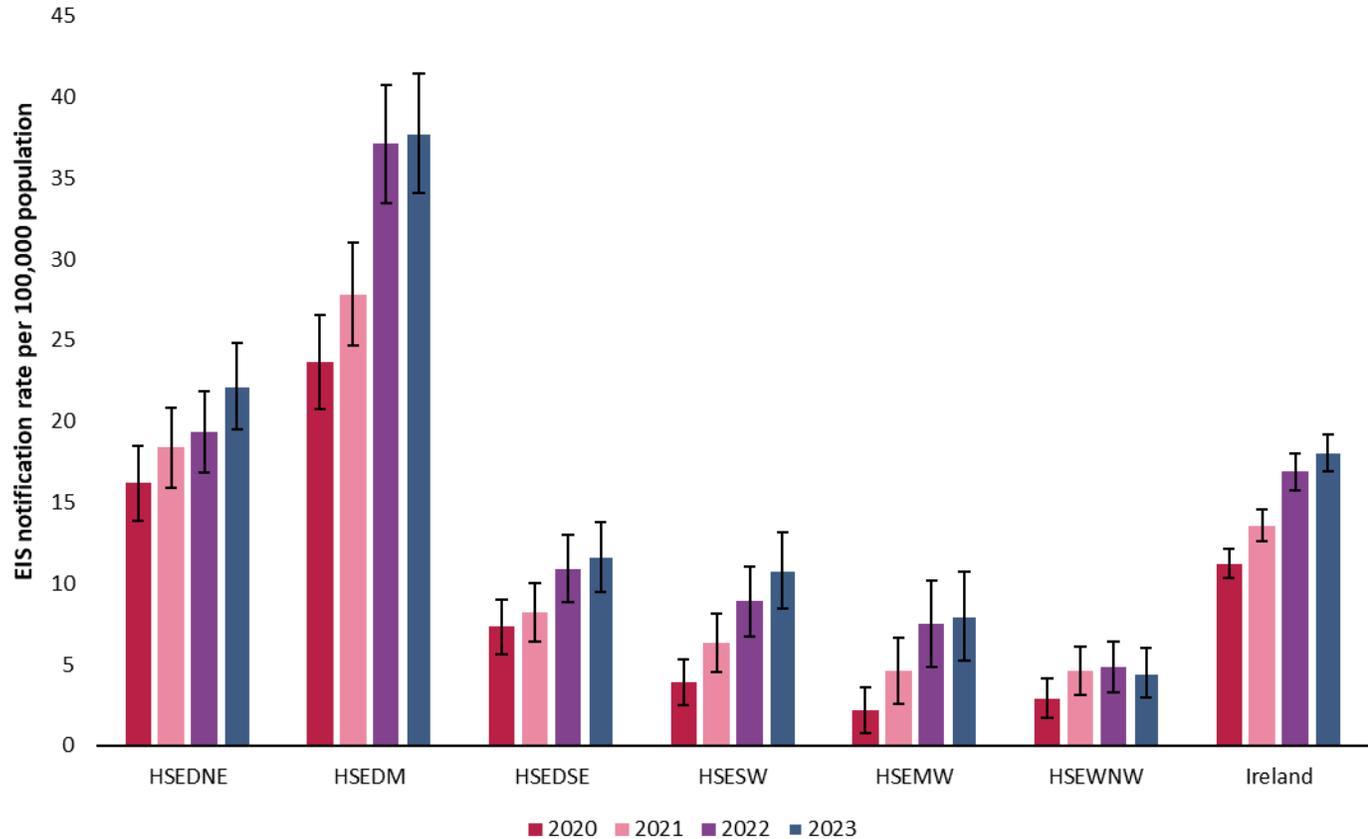


Figure 31. Early Infectious Syphilis notification rate by HSE health region, 2020-2023





# Early Infectious Syphilis in Ireland, 2023: Summary

Data presented for 2023 are preliminary. Further data will be available in the Early Infectious Syphilis 2023 Annual report due to be published in Quarter 3 2024.

- 930 confirmed cases notified
- Notification rate increased by 7% in 2023 compared to 2022
- Median age: 35 years
- 23% consistent with syphilis reinfection
- 92.3% male
- Males:
  - Highest rates among 30–34-year-olds
  - Where mode of transmission known (50%)
    - 91% gbMSM
  - Where HIV status was recorded (49%)
    - 29% in people living with HIV
    - 59% of those PLHIV had evidence of reinfection
  - In HIV negative males
    - 39% on HIV PrEP
    - 41% had evidence of reinfection
- Females:
  - Highest rate among 25-29 year olds
- Highest rates in HSEDM (HSE Dublin and Midlands)





# Trichomoniasis: Trend in notification rate by gender, 2013 - 2023

- Trichomoniasis notification rate in 2023 remains unchanged at when compared to 2022
- See technical note 10

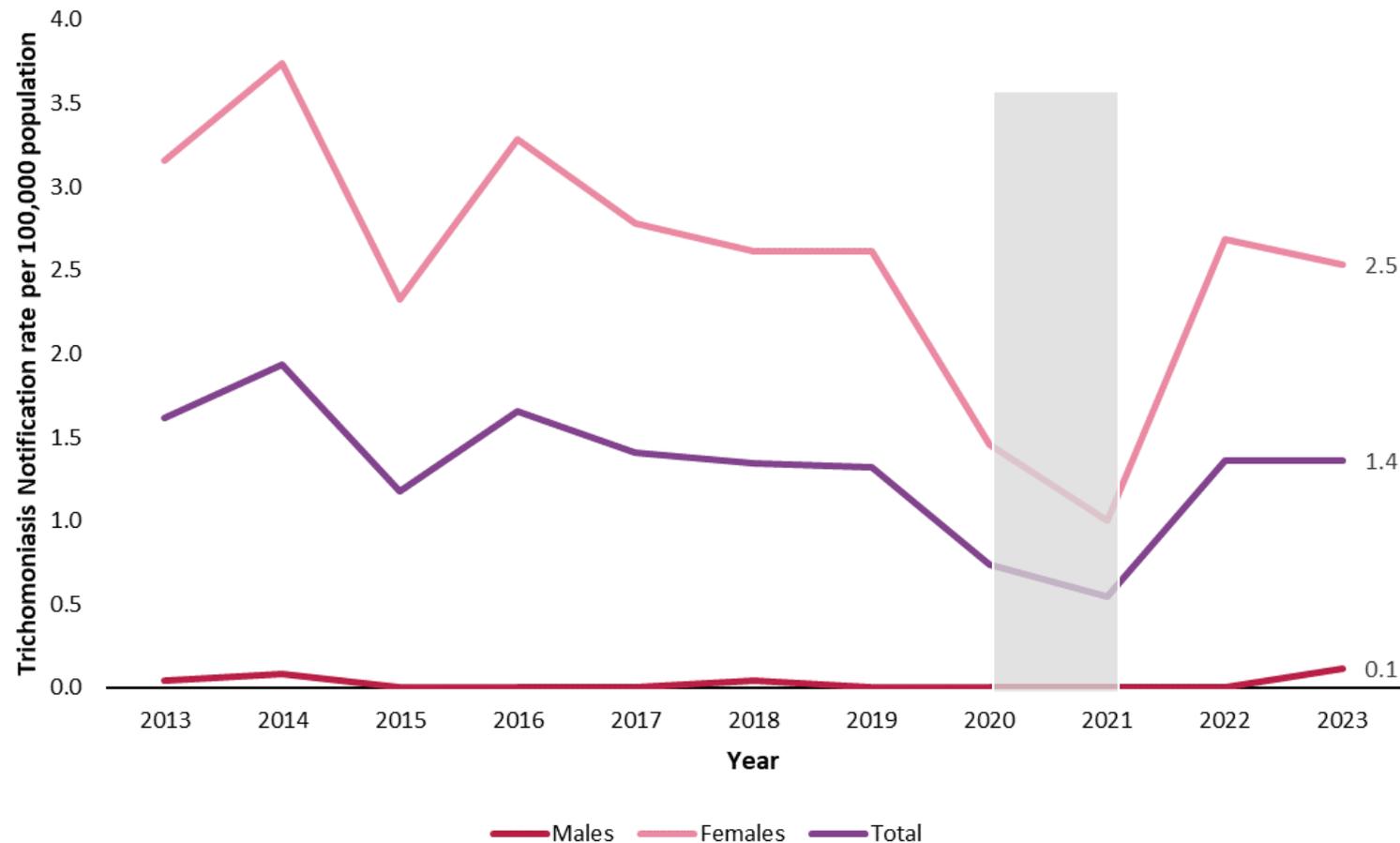


Figure 32. Trichomoniasis notification rate by gender, 2013 to 2023

The grey area highlights the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021) when STI surveillance data have been likely impacted by reductions in transmission, under ascertainment and underreporting.





# Trichomoniasis: Trend in notifications by HSE health region, 2020-2023

- Highest notification rate for Trichomoniasis in 2023 in HSEMW (HSE Mid-West) (5.1 per 100,000 population)
- Numbers and rates by HSE health region should be interpreted with caution. See technical note 10

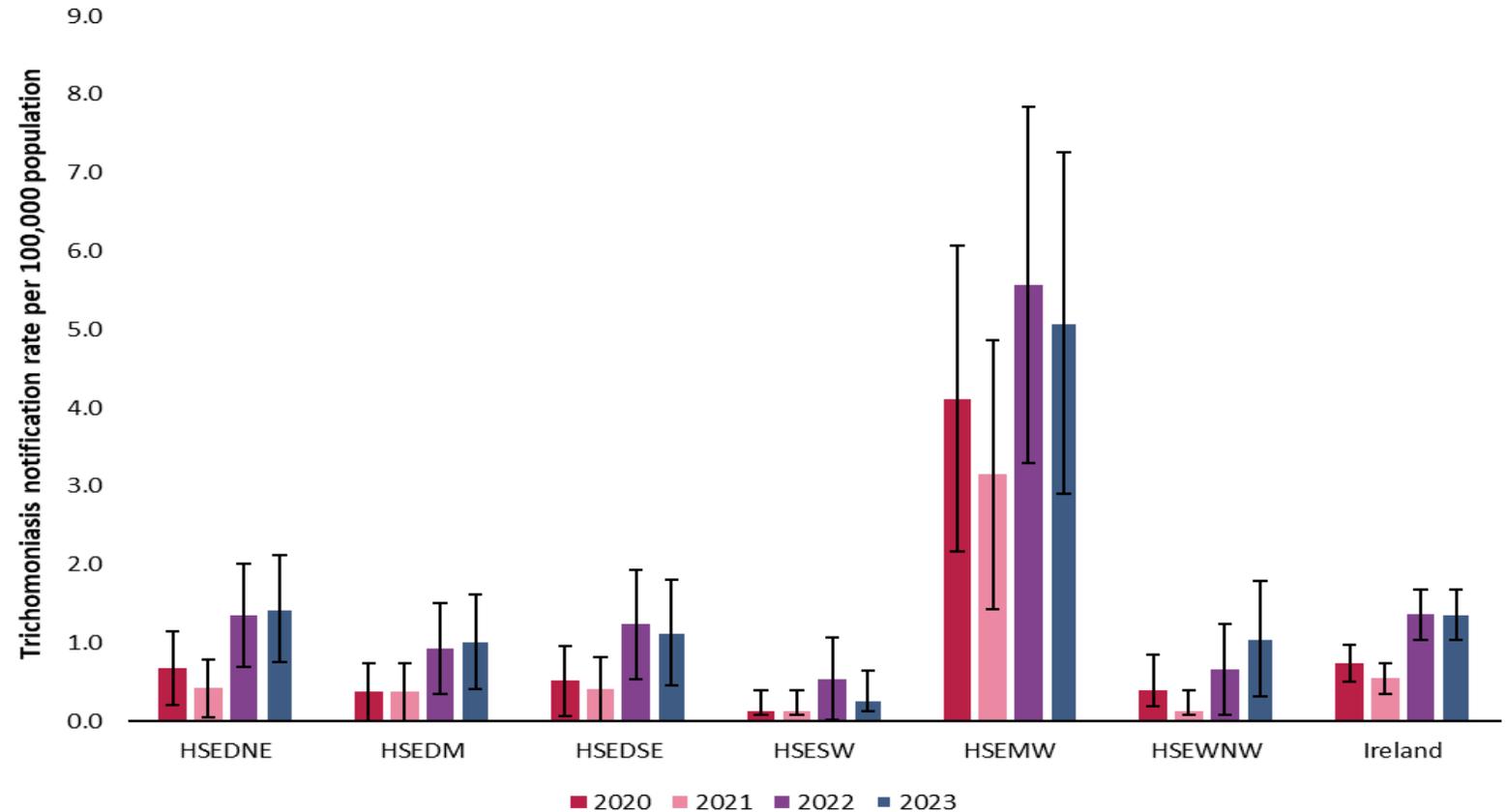


Figure 33. Trichomoniasis notification rate by HSE health region, 2020-2023





# Trichomoniasis in Ireland, 2023: Summary

- 70 cases notified
- Notification rate unchanged compared to 2022
- 96% cases female
- Median age: 33 years
- 36% of cases in young people aged 15-24 years



## Other notifiable STIs in Ireland, 2023

- **Summary: chancroid, granuloma inguinale, anogenital warts and non-specific urethritis**
- There were no notifications of chancroid or granuloma inguinale reported in Ireland since 2019.
- Notifications of anogenital warts and non-specific urethritis from STI clinics and primary care were collated by Departments of Public Health and notified to HPSC in aggregate format on a bi-annual basis prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This surveillance system has not yet been reestablished and data were not collated during 2023.



# Summary STIs in young people aged 15-24 years

**Overall STIs in young people aged 15-24 years increased by 38% in 2023 compared to 2022  
(from 1,167 to 1,607 per 100,000 population)**

**97% of STI's in young people aged 15-24 years are among those aged 18-24 years.**

## Females

The **overall STI** notification rate (per 100,000 population)

- Aged 15-19 years **increased** by **61%** (from 589.3 to 946.8)
- Aged 20-24 years **increased** by **30%** (from 2,373.3 to 3,087.7)

**Chlamydia** notification rate in females (per 100,000 population):

- Aged 15-19 years **increased** by **53%** (from 414.4 to 634.0)
- Aged 20-24 years **increased** by **22%** (from 1,673.4 to 2,293.3)

**Gonorrhoea** notification rate in females (per 100,000 population)

- Aged 15-19 years **increased** by **175%** (from 78.7 to 216.0)
- Aged 20-24 years **increased** by **143%** (from 224.1 to 544.5)

## Males

The **overall STI** notification rate in males (per 100,000 population)

- Aged 15-19 years **increased** by **60%** (from 257.6 to 412.6)
- Aged 20-24 years **increased** by **36%** (from 1610.8 to 2189.8)

**Chlamydia** notification rate in males (per 100,000 population)

- Aged 15-19 years **increased** by **63%** (from 141.5 to 230.9)
- Aged 20-24 years **increased** by **33%** (from 1033.2 to 1378.6)

**Gonorrhoea** notification rates in males (per 100,000 population)

- Aged 15-19 years **increased** by **65%** (from 101.5 to 167.1)
- Aged 20-24 years **increased** by **57%** (from 452.8 to 710.2)



# Summary STIs in gbMSM in Ireland, 2023

**Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) remain a key population impacted by STI's in 2023**

- Where mode of transmission\* is known, in 2023, gbMSM accounted for
  - 100% of LGV cases
  - 100% of mpox cases
  - 91% of early infectious syphilis (EIS) cases
  - 84% of gonorrhoea cases
- **Gonorrhoea** notification rate among gbMSM **increased** by **36%** in 2023 compared to 2022 (from 1,344 to 1,827 per 100,000 population)
- **Early Infectious Syphilis** notification rate in males **increased** by **6%** in 2023 compared to 2022 (from 32.0 to 33.7 per 100,000 population)
- **LGV** notification rate in males **remains low** in 2023 at 1.5 per 100,000 population
- **Mpox** notification rate has **decreased by 94%** in 2023 when compared to 2022 and the notification rate is low at 0.5 per 100,000 population



\*Mode of transmission data are not collected for Chlamydia or Herpes simplex (genital)

# Preventing STIs

The HSE has a range of free supports, promoted through the Sexual Wellbeing and Man2Man campaigns, such as:

- **Free condoms:** Condoms are the most effective method of preventing most STIs. Condoms and lubricant are available free and can be accessed by anyone from the age of 17 years through postal services or community venues. Further information on how to access free condoms is available [here](#).
- **National HSE free home STI testing services:** The HSE free home STI testing service is available to anyone aged 17 or older. To use the service, order a test kit here, [www.sexualwellbeing.ie/hometesting](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/hometesting), return your samples to the laboratory by post, and you will receive your test results by text message or phone call.
- **Public STI clinics:** All STI testing and treatment in public sexual health or GUM clinics is provided free of charge. A list of public STI clinics is available [here](#).
- **Learn about prevention:** Information on how to prevent STIs can be found [here](#). This includes advice on condom use, testing and vaccinations
- **Resources for gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM)** are available at [www.man2man.ie](http://www.man2man.ie).



# Technical notes

1. Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.
2. Only laboratory confirmed cases notified to CIDR are presented in these slides unless otherwise indicated.
3. Where gender is reported, male includes cis-male and trans-male(where reported) and female includes cis-female and trans-female.
4. STI data are presented based on date of notification to the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) unless otherwise stated.
5. Population data were taken from Census 2022 and 2016 from the Central Statistics Office (CSO)
6. Data from 2019 were analysed using CSO population data from Census 2016. Data from 2020 onwards were analysed using 2022 census data.
7. When incidence rates by gender are reported the numerator is gender identity as recorded on CIDR and the denominator is population data from Census 2016 or Census 2022 by sex (at birth).

# Technical notes

8. The COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021) likely impacted STI surveillance data through reductions in transmission, under ascertainment and underreporting.
9. In 2023 HPSC was notified of 28 cases of LGV that occurred between 2013 and 2023 that were not reported to CIDR. Retrospective notifications on CIDR were possible for 26 cases, it was not possible to notify two cases, one from 2013 and one from 2016. The system error has since been rectified. LGV rates have been updated for each year, but trends have not been impacted.
10. Trichomoniasis numbers and rates by HSE health region should be interpreted with caution as some laboratories used new molecular testing methods that were not included in the laboratory criteria for notification until 2 January 2024. Prior to the updated case definition, cases may be underreported in some HSE health regions
11. The counties covered by each of the six HSE Health Regions are as follows:
  - HSEDNE : HSE Dublin and North-East - North Dublin, Meath, Louth, Cavan, and Monaghan
  - HSEDM: HSE Dublin and Midlands - Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois, Kildare, West Wicklow, parts of South Dublin
  - HSEDSE: HSE Dublin and South-East - Tipperary South, Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, East Wicklow, parts of South Dublin
  - HSEMW: HSE Mid-West - Limerick, Tipperary and Clare
  - HSESW: HSE South-West - Kerry and Cork
  - HSEWNW: HSE West and North-West - Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, West Cavan, Roscommon, Mayo, and Galway