

EMIS-2017 Ireland

Findings from the European Men who have sex with men Internet Survey (Ireland)

Claire Casey, on behalf of the EMIS-2017 Ireland steering group



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service



Sláinte Ghnéis &
Clár um Thoirchis Ghéarchéime
Sexual Health &
Crisis Pregnancy Programme



EMIS-2017

- Coordinated by Sigma Research at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
- Ran in 50 countries.

Aimed to:

- Generate data useful for planning of HIV and STI prevention and care programmes.
- Monitor progress in HIV and STI planning.

EMIS-2017 Ireland

- Online for 15 weeks, October 2017-January 2018
- Recruited primarily via Grindr, national websites and social media
- Choice of 33 languages to complete the survey:
 - 92% English
 - 2% Portuguese/Spanish
 - 6% other languages including Italian, Polish, French
- 2,083 men took part in the survey
 - Top 5 for response per 10,000 male population

Themes of EMIS-2017 Ireland

Sexual health and wellbeing

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graph TD; A[Sexual health and wellbeing] --> B[Risk and precautionary behaviours]; B --> C[Sexual health needs]; C --> D[Sexual health interventions];
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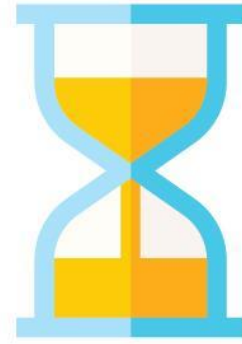
Risk and precautionary behaviours

Sexual health needs

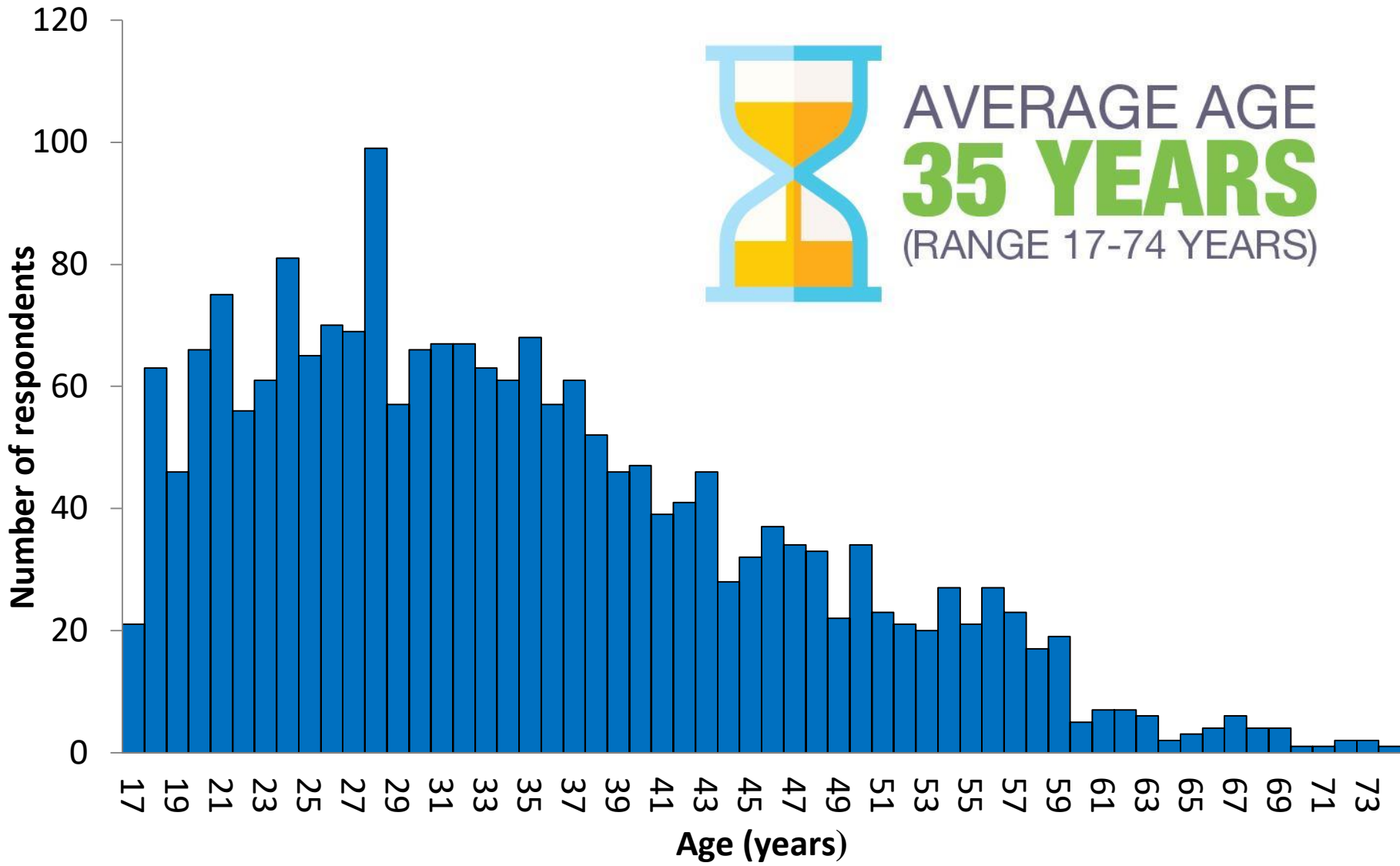
Sexual health interventions



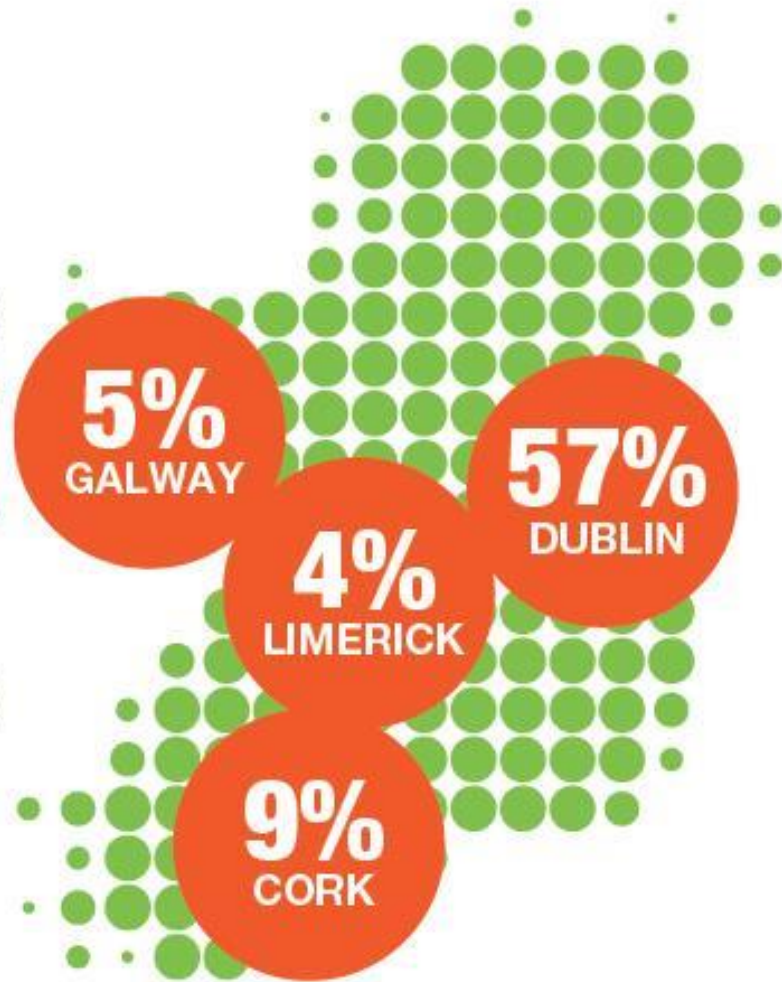
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



AVERAGE AGE
35 YEARS
(RANGE 17-74 YEARS)



RESPONDENTS
FROM EVERY
COUNTY
IN IRELAND



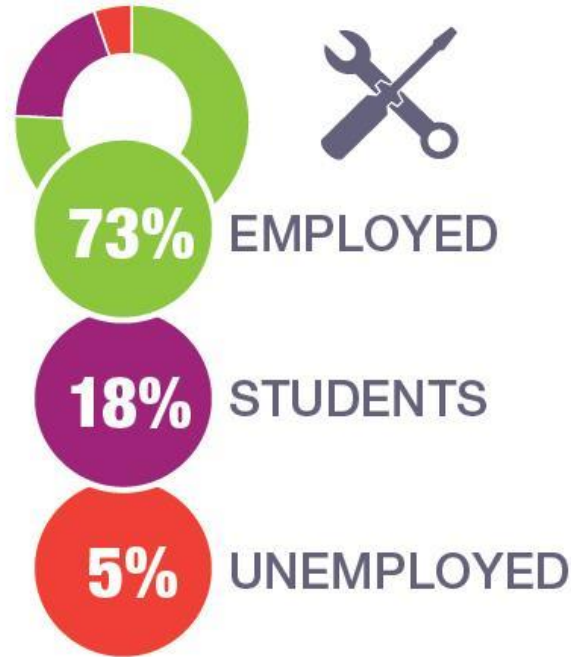


75% BORN IN IRELAND; **25%** NOT BORN IN IRELAND,
REPRESENTING 65 COUNTRIES

MOST COMMON COUNTRIES
UK, BRAZIL, POLAND AND GERMANY

WORK AND STUDY
MOST COMMON
REASONS FOR
COMING TO
IRELAND

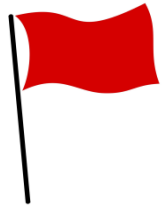
Employment and financial coping



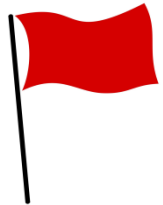


SEXUAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Mental health



11% had a red flag for anxiety
↑ 20% among unemployed men
↑ 16% among men aged 17-24 years



8% had a red flag for depression
↑ 22% among unemployed men



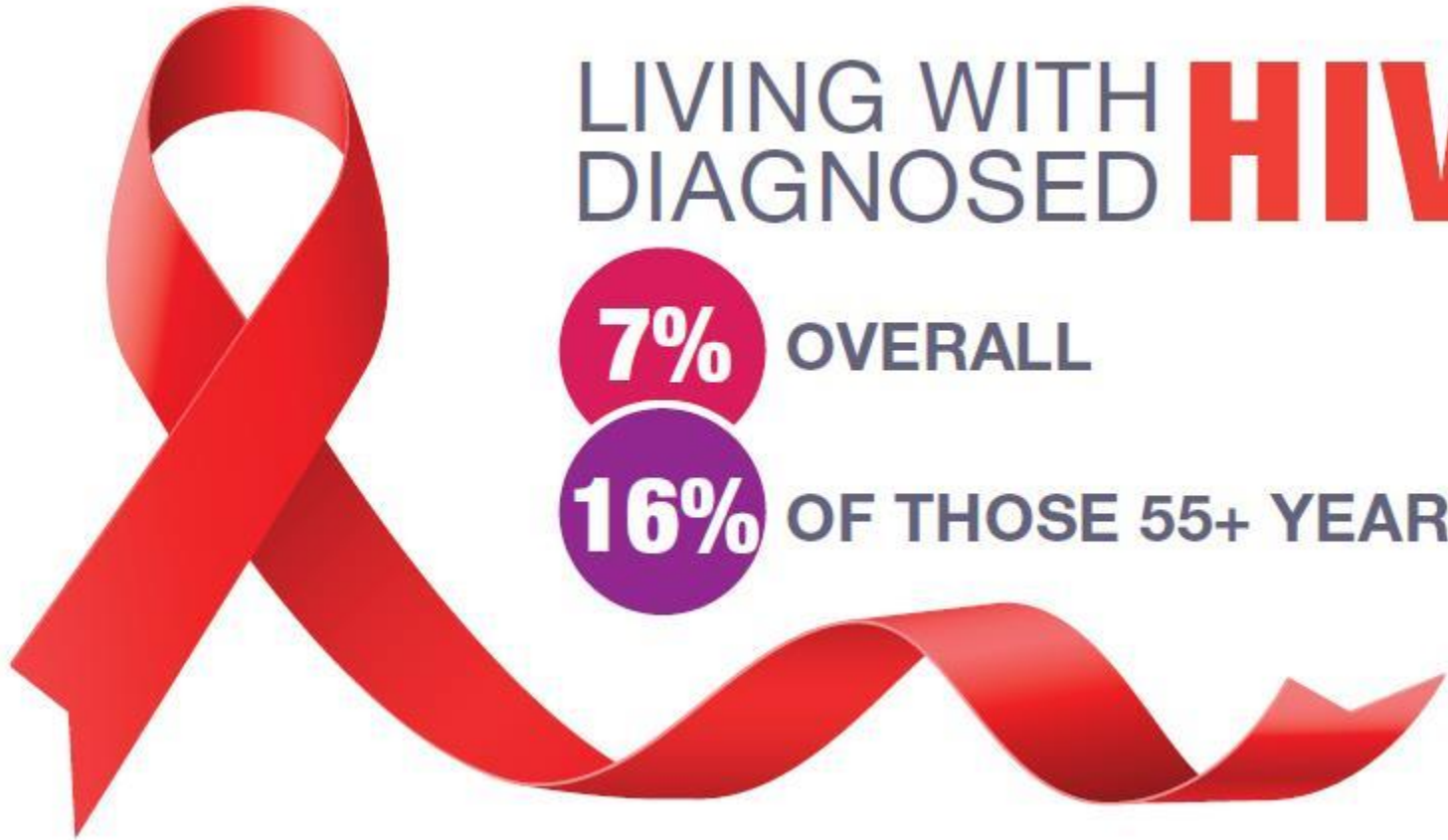
29% had possible alcohol dependency

Sexual health

LIVING WITH
DIAGNOSED **HIV**

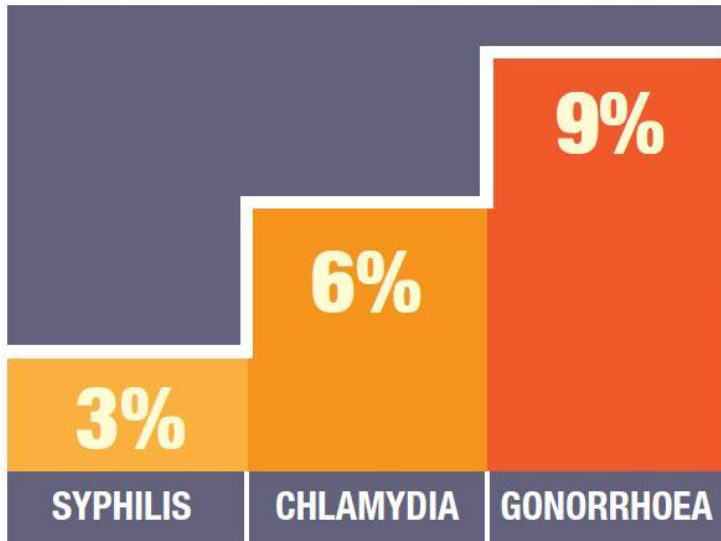
7% OVERALL

16% OF THOSE 55+ YEARS



Sexual health

DIAGNOSED WITH
**SEXUALLY
TRANSMITTED
INFECTION**
(STI) IN THE LAST YEAR



EVER DIAGNOSED WITH
HEPATITIS C



RISK AND PRECAUTIONARY BEHAVIOURS

Treatment as prevention



BETWEEN **HIV** DIAGNOSIS AND
STARTING TREATMENT IN
2017

Treatment as prevention



Vaccination against hepatitis A and B



48% VACCINATED AGAINST
HEPATITIS A



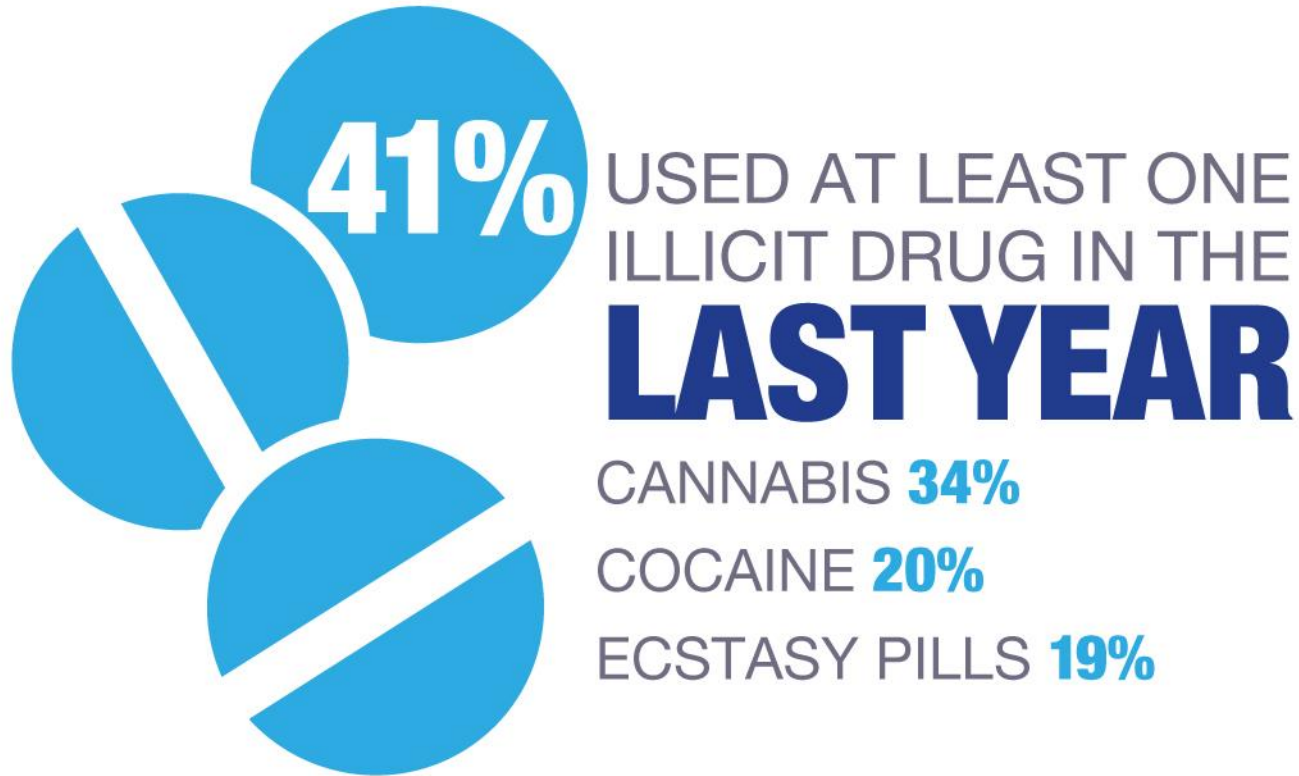
53% VACCINATED AGAINST
HEPATITIS B



HAD SEX WITH
NON-STEADY
MALE PARTNER(S)
IN THE LAST YEAR

OF THESE, **35%**
HAD CONDOMLESS
ANAL INTERCOURSE
WITH **2** OR **MORE**
NON-STEADY PARTNERS

Illicit drug use



Use of stimulant drugs during sex



USED STIMULANT DRUGS

IN THE LAST YEAR TO MAKE
SEX MORE INTENSE OR LAST
LONGER

14% OVERALL

26% OF MEN LIVING WITH HIV



SEXUAL HEALTH NEEDS



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Safer sex

SEX ALWAYS AS SAFE
AS THEY WOULD LIKE



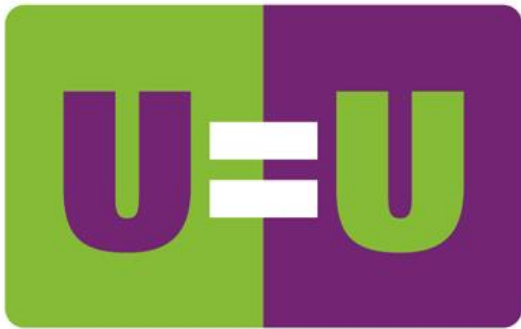
FOUND IT EASY TO SAY
NO TO UNWANTED **SEX**



Awareness and use of PEP & PrEP



Awareness of U=U



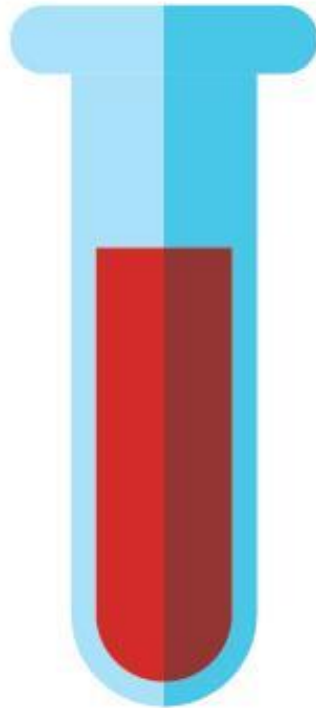
KNEW THAT

UNDETECTABLE=UNTRANSMITTABLE (U=U)

59% OVERALL

93% OF MEN LIVING WITH HIV

Where to test for HIV



IN MEN WHO NEVER
PREVIOUSLY TESTED FOR

HIV

45%

**DID NOT KNOW WHERE TO
TEST OR WERE NOT SURE**

56% IN THOSE 17-24 YEARS

Awareness of hepatitis vaccination for MSM



HEPATITIS A AND B VACCINATION

37%

UNAWARE THAT THESE VACCINES
ARE RECOMMENDED FOR MSM



SEXUAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS



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Homophobic abuse



IN THE LAST
YEAR

(BECAUSE OF THEIR
PRESUMED ATTRACTION
TO MEN)

36% STARED AT/INTIMIDATED

28% VERBALLY INSULTED
44% in those 17-24 years

3% PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED

Free condoms and information



**IN THE LAST
YEAR**

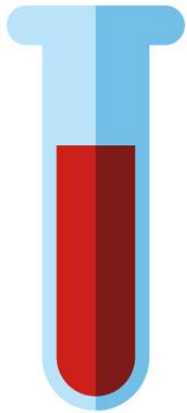


ACCESSED FREE CONDOMS



HAD SEEN MSM-SPECIFIC
INFORMATION ABOUT HIV/STIs

HIV testing



Never tested for HIV

HIV

23% OVERALL

47% IN THOSE 17-24 YEARS

MOST POPULAR PLACE
FOR **HIV TESTING**



**HOSPITAL OR
CLINIC**

41%

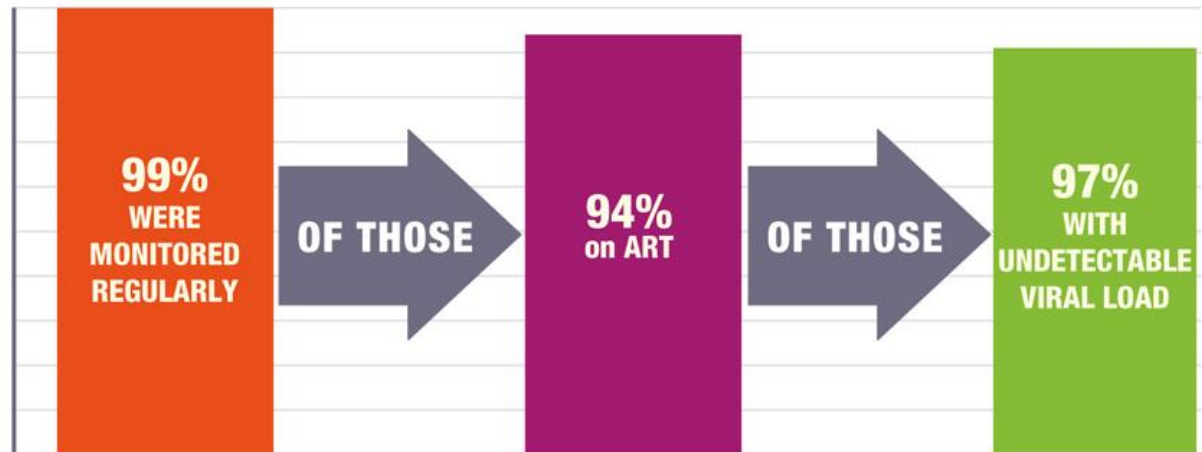


**COMMUNITY
HEALTH SERVICE**

23%

HIV continuum of care

OF MEN LIVING WITH
HIV



STI testing



24%

NEVER TESTED FOR A
**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
INFECTION (STI)**

55%



HAD AN **STI** TEST IN THE LAST YEAR

84%

NO SYMPTOMS WHEN TESTED



Conclusions

Conclusions

Positive progress in the sexual health of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in recent years

Men living with HIV:

- Engaged in care
- Virally suppressed
- High rates of STI screening and hepatitis A and B vaccination uptake

All men:

- Increase in HIV and STI testing compared to previous surveys.

Conclusions

Still room for improvement

- Areas of risk behaviour relating to HIV and STI transmission
- Better understanding of chemsex required
- Concern with the number of respondents indicating red flags for depression and anxiety, particularly younger men.

Utilise the information from EMIS-2017
Ireland to improve the health and
wellbeing of gay, bisexual and other men
who have sex with men living in Ireland.

Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to all of the men who participated in the survey

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- EMIS-2017 Ireland communication group responsible for dissemination of findings, 2019

Maeve O'Brien (Chair), Claire Casey, Derval Igoe, Anita Ghafoor-Butt, Sarah Tecklenborg, Siobhan O'Dea, Susan Donlon , Mick Quinlan

Acknowledgements

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--Peter Barrett- Department of Public Health/ University College Cork



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