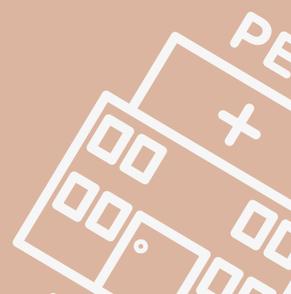
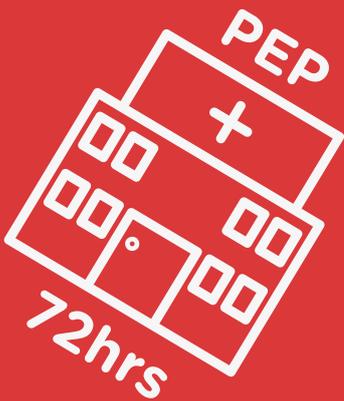
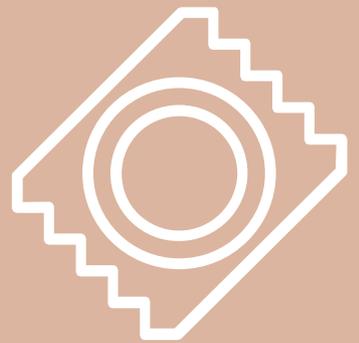


# HIV Ireland Annual Report 2019



U=U



## Introduction

HIV Ireland has been working to improve conditions for people living with HIV and AIDS for well over three decades, since it was established as the Dublin AIDS Alliance in 1987. We have sought to play a leadership role on behalf of the community of people living with, or vulnerable to acquiring, HIV and we are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of these communities. In the early years, our work centred on caring and advocating for people who were dying or who were going to die from AIDS related illness in the absence of effective treatments. Since the development of effective treatments and an increase in highly effective preventive options, our work has focused on prevention, education and inclusion. Stigma remains the most significant barrier faced by people living with HIV to achieving health and what they would like in life. Stigma is the most difficult barrier to overcome as we work to end new HIV transmission in Ireland by 2030.

Under the generous patronage of Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D. Higgins, HIV Ireland continues to lead out on key policy initiatives on HIV, to challenge stigma, to increase visibility for people living with HIV, to improve healthcare outcomes, to promote prevention, education and awareness and, above all, to challenge Ireland to meet our shared global commitment to bring an end to HIV in the coming decade. As an organisation working on the frontline of HIV advocacy and prevention, we aim to reach people who are marginalised and vulnerable to acquiring HIV.

Throughout 2019, we continued to support, advocate for, and educate people living with HIV to help improve the quality of their lives. We continued to deliver training to staff and professionals who work with people living with HIV as well as populations more vulnerable to HIV and poorer sexual health outcomes. We provided free targeted community HIV and STI testing. In 2019, we developed a new programme to provide HIV prevention and outreach services to gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in consultation with the community. In 2020, we will launch this programme and finalise our new 5-year strategic plan.

We know that there are many challenges ahead, including the impact of the recent coronavirus pandemic, COVID-19. We will continue to meet these challenges as they arise and ensure that we are never deterred from our mission and our vision. We have all the tools we need to end HIV and HIV-related stigma.

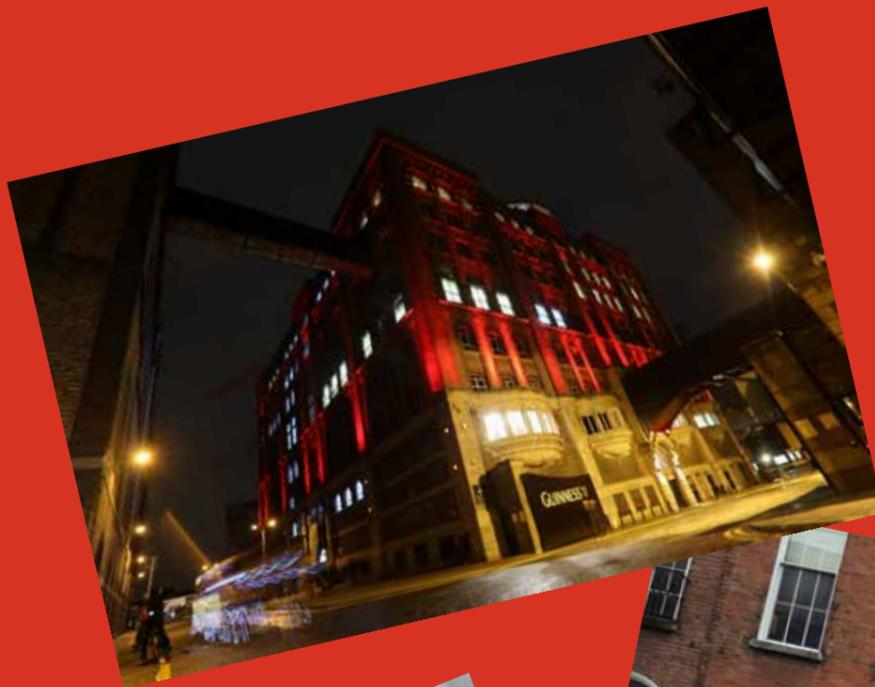
### Our Mission

Advocating for individuals living with HIV, preventing new HIV infections, and combating HIV – related stigma and discrimination.

### Our Vision

To contribute towards a significant reduction in the incidence and prevalence of HIV in Ireland and towards the realisation of an AIDS free generation.

Stephen O'Hare  
Executive Director



## Chairperson's Foreword

**On behalf of the Board of HIV Ireland, I am pleased to introduce our Annual Report 2019. This year was a landmark year in our mission to prevent new HIV infections and combat HIV-related stigma.**

On July 14th 2019, HIV Ireland joined Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Health Simon Harris TD, Minister of State for Health Promotion Catherine Byrne TD, city and county Mayors, Dr Jose Zuniga, President of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) and representatives from the HSE and partner organisations at an event marking Ireland's commitment to the global FastTrack Cities initiative. As a Fast-Track Cities partner, Ireland is committed to achieving zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2030. Partners also commit to ending HIV-related stigma, the biggest barrier to inclusion faced by people living with HIV as well as to effective HIV prevention. 2019 also saw the rollout of the first national PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) programme in Ireland. As a long-time campaigner and advocate for the widespread availability and provision of PrEP through the public health system, HIV Ireland is proud to welcome this momentous and historic development as evidence of Ireland's dedication to ending new HIV transmissions. However, despite this significant achievement, much work remains if Ireland is to stem the rise of new HIV diagnoses and reach our goal of witnessing a generation free from HIV. Recently published data from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre indicates that the number of newly notified cases of HIV recorded in 2019 was 536 cases, the highest annual level since records began (11.3 per 100,000 of the population).

At the end of 2018, HIV Ireland launched our #5Asks campaign, calling for increased resources to expand community based testing; the promotion of a national U=U (Undetectable equals Untransmittable) campaign; a commitment to Fast-Track Cities; increased resources for community based programmes to support people living with HIV, and the rollout of the national PrEP programme. There are clear signs that the Government has sought to prioritise many of these asks in 2019. However, significant additional investment is required if the Government is to meet its stated goal of ending new HIV transmissions. Despite the very significant health, societal and economic challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the momentum built in 2019 towards ending new HIV transmissions must be sustained if we are to meet our collective goal of 'Getting to Zero' by 2030.

Departure of Mr Niall Mulligan, Executive Director

In 2019, HIV Ireland said farewell to Mr Niall Mulligan, Executive Director since 2015. Niall served both the organisation and the community with dedication and distinction. He was a trusted advocate and effective leader who pioneered many key initiatives to promote the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV, to encourage prevention, and to increase awareness of HIV and HIV-related stigma. Niall was instrumental in Ireland signing up to the global Fast-Track Cities initiative and to the advent of the national

PrEP programme. Together with the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and members of the community, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Niall for his leadership of HIV Ireland.

Following a comprehensive recruitment process, we were delighted to appoint Mr Stephen O'Hare to the post of Executive Director. Stephen brings a wealth of experience to HIV Ireland in both human rights leadership and health-related policy and we wish him every success in the future.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to President Michael D. Higgins, Uachtarán na hÉireann, who continues in his role as Patron of HIV Ireland. I also wish to thank the other members of the Board of Directors, the staff, and our dedicated team of volunteers and supporters for their tireless commitment to the organisation throughout the year.

**Bernard Condon SC**  
Chairperson, HIV Ireland

## Service Delivery 2019



HIV Ireland's service delivery for 2019 is set out below. HIV Ireland is contributing to the implementation of a number of national and international health strategies and relevant policies including Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025, The National Sexual Health Strategy 2015-2020, Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025, The Dublin Declaration on Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia, and Ending AIDS: the 90-90-90 targets.

On 13th June 2019, Ireland joined the global *Fast-Track Cities* initiative. The occasion was marked at Government Buildings in Dublin with representatives of HIV Ireland joining An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Health Simon Harris TD, Minister of State for Health Promotion Catherine Byrne TD, city and county Mayors, Dr Jose Zuniga, President of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) and representatives from the HSE and partner organisations. Fast-Track Cities commits Ireland to getting to zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS related deaths, and removing barriers faced by people living with, or vulnerable to, HIV including stigma and discrimination.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

HIV Ireland’s Community Support services include advocacy, support, and counselling for people living with HIV (PLWHIV) or affected by HIV, the capacity building of people living with HIV to self-advocate, peer support (Positive Now), community HIV and STI testing, and a community street outreach service in which free condoms, sexual health literature, and information on our HIV and STI testing services is disseminated to groups disproportionately affected by HIV. Community Support staff provide training on HIV related issues and respond to public queries in relation to HIV and STIs. Staff accommodate agency visits and researchers seeking information on past and current issues for PLWHIV.

**PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV**

In 2019, HIV Ireland supported a total of 507 people living with HIV (394 who identified as male and 113 who identified as female) with a total of 2,309 interventions. Interventions related to advocacy, 1-to-1 support for PLWHIV/peer support, counselling, information sessions, and queries. (See Table 1.)

*Table 1: Summary of Interventions for PLWHIV 2019*

Type of Support	Total Number of Interventions
Advocacy	977
1-to-1 Support/Peer Support	534
Counselling	397
Health/Welfare Information	401
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,309</b>

Advocacy interventions in 2019 related to HIV discrimination complaints and cases, housing and homelessness, Direct Provision Centres for asylum seekers, Social Protection, and connecting PLWHIV to clinical and support services. Support interventions centred on disclosure in both personal and formal settings, on making decisions around HIV, and on peer support. Information interventions related to

mortgages and life assurance, disclosure to potential employers, social welfare queries, and on providing information and orientation to those seeking to move to, or return to, Ireland. Where possible, staff seek to ascertain every client’s current health status if further HIV or other medical interventions may be required. This is particularly so with vulnerable groups such as the homeless, people who use drugs, and migrants navigating the Irish health system.

**CAPACITY BUILDING OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV**

In 2019, HIV Ireland continued to work closely with, and support, Positive Now and the All-Ireland Network of People Living with HIV. During 2019, Positive Now continued to work to promote peer support amongst the 357 affiliates of the network. HIV Ireland supported Positive Now in holding support/social groups and in providing peer support for the newly diagnosed. Positive Now and the network also engaged with a wide variety of agencies, businesses, media outlets, and researchers looking for PLWHIV representation and/or to conduct specific pieces of work.

HIV Ireland assisted Positive Now and the network in planning the 3rd National Conference for PLWHIV which is due to be held on February 1st, 2020.

**The Women’s Group**

In August, HIV Ireland and Positive Now invited the national group of women living with HIV (including from Northern Ireland) to attend an over-night bonding event and workshop entitled ‘What does U=U mean to you?’. The workshop was followed by an evening social function. 24 women attended the weekend event which was kindly sponsored by Dublin Front Runners AC.

**‘My Personal Journey’**

Held over six sessions from September to November, ‘My Personal Journey’, a self development course for people living with HIV, was facilitated by John Paul O’Brien, (MIACP, Pg. Dip. Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy) and attended by 13 people. Foundational content for the course had been developed in 2018 by a diverse focus group of 17 people living with HIV; this focus group was facilitated by Dr Aislinn O’Donnell, Maynooth University. *My Personal Journey* was kindly sponsored by the Gay Health Network.

**COMMUNITY HIV AND STI TESTING**

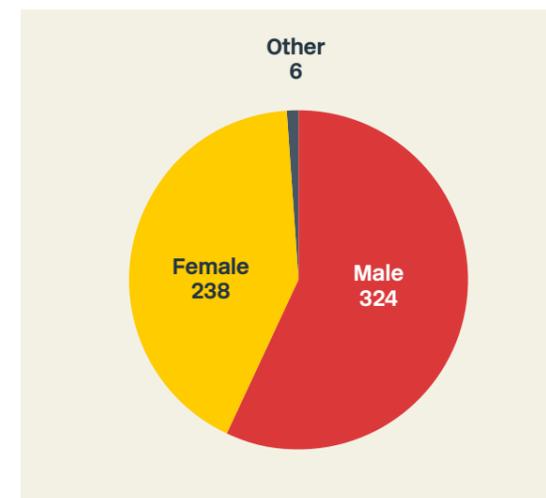
HIV Ireland is committed to reducing barriers to HIV and STI testing by providing low-threshold access to testing in a community setting. In 2019, HIV Ireland, in conjunction with the GUIDE clinic staff from St. James’s Hospital, conducted free HIV and STI testing in Dublin and partnered with both the Red Door Project and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in providing this service in Drogheda.

**DUBLIN TESTING SERVICE**

Our Community HIV and STI testing service in Dublin operates in our building on Eccles Street, Dublin 7 and is run in conjunction with the GUIDE Clinic (St. James’s Hospital). It is a low-threshold service, underpinned by a street outreach service which aims to engage communities disproportionately affected by HIV. During the registration process, participants are given a profile form to complete anonymously on their personal smart-phones or on tablets provided by HIV Ireland; this allows us to ascertain unique information on those coming in for testing, giving us an overall picture, and profile, of our testing participants.

**Profile of Dublin Testing Participants**

A total of 568 individuals (324 males, 238 females, and 6 individuals identifying with the given category of ‘other’) presented for testing. Of these individuals, 74% had tested at least once before with HIV Ireland.



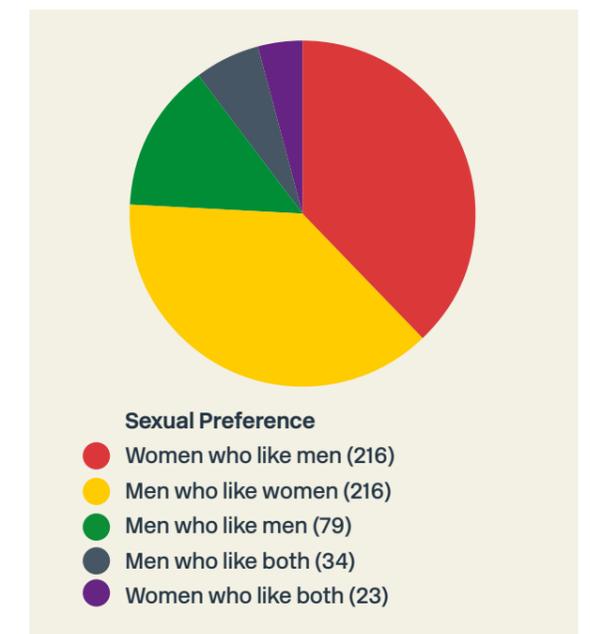
Those born outside of Ireland represented 62% of those who presented for testing (see Table 2).

*Table 2: Country/Area of Origin of Testing Participants 2019 (Dublin)*

Country/Area of Origin	Frequency
Ireland	215 (38%)
South America	96 (18%)
Central or Eastern Europe	57 (11%)
Western Europe	51 (9%)
Southern Africa/West Africa	40 (5%)
South or South East Asia	23 (4%)
North America	23 (4%)
Sub-Saharan Africa	12 (2%)
Middle East/North Africa	12 (2%)
Central America	5 (1%)
Other	34 (6%)

Total European percentage (excluding Ireland) = 19% (n=108)  
Total African/Middle Eastern Regions, percentage = 11% (n=64)

In relation to Sexual Preference, 38% (n=216) of participants identified as men who liked having sex with women, the same amount, 38% (n=216), identified as women who liked having sex with men, and 14% (n=79) identified as men who liked having sex with men. 6% (n=34) of participants identified as men who stated they liked sex with both men and women and 4% (n=23) identified as women who liked sex with both men and women.



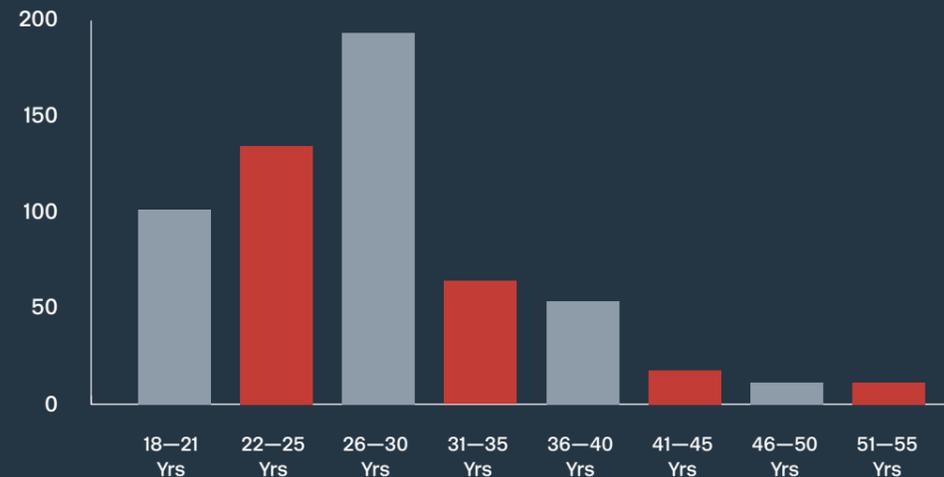
When asked how they became aware of our Dublin testing service, 25% (n=143) of those presenting for testing heard about the service through word-of-mouth, 26% (n=148) became aware through various HIV Ireland advertising modes and 47% (n=266) found the service through Google Search or saw it mentioned on Facebook. 2% (n=11) were referred from another agency or a hospital. (See Table 3.)

**Table 3: How Testing Participants Heard of HIV Ireland’s HIV and STI Testing Service 2019 (Dublin)**

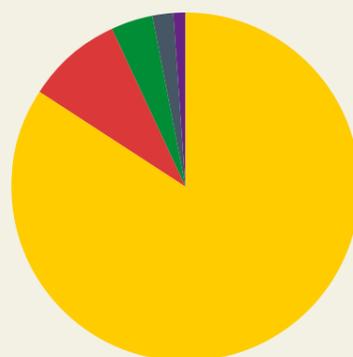
Mode	Frequency
Google Search	249 (44%)
Word of Mouth	143 (25%)
HIV Ireland Website	107 (19%)
HIV Ireland Sexual Health Testing Service Booklet (Outreach)	23 (4%)
Poster in HIVI Front Window	18 (3%)
Facebook	17 (3%)
Referral from a Hospital	6 (1%)
Referral from Another Agency	5 (1%)

The age range of those who presented for testing was 18 yrs – 55 yrs. The majority of participants were in the age group 22 yrs – 30 yrs (56%, n=317). The younger cohort of those aged 18 yrs – 21 yrs made up 17% of all participants and the older cohort of those aged 51 yrs – 55 yrs represented 2%.

**Age Range of Testing Participants (Dublin)**



**Drugs Taken Before, During, or After Sex**



- No Drugs (479)
- Poppers (51)
- GHB (22)
- Maphadrone (11)
- Crystal Meth (5)

In 2019, 89 (15%) of Dublin testing participants had taken drugs before, during, or after sex. Out of the 89 participants, 57% (n=51) had taken Poppers, 25% (n=22) had taken GHB (known also as ‘G’), and 12% (n=11) had taken Mephedrone (also known as ‘M-CAT’). 6% (n=5) had used Crystal Meth.



**Additional Profile Information on Dublin Testing Participants**

Participants who tested resided mainly in Dublin north inner-city areas adjacent to HIV Ireland’s location (Dublin 1, 3, and 7; n=181, 32%). A total of 14 other Dublin postal code districts were represented by participants, with the highest number (n=34) coming from Dublin 15. 12% (n=68) of participants resided outside of Dublin postal code areas; just over half of these reside in County Dublin (n=39). 4 additional counties of residence were noted, representing a total of 22 individuals. All counties are in Leinster. One person stated to a staff member that he came from outside the island of Ireland for this testing.

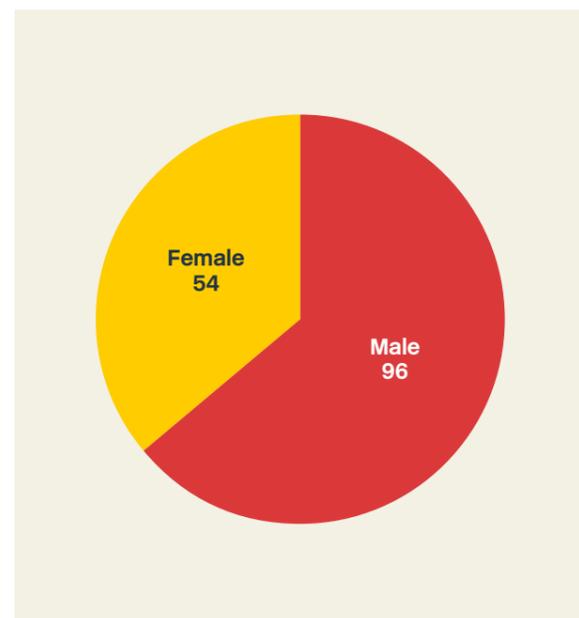
2% (n=11) of testing participants declared themselves from the Traveller or Roma community, 48% (n=272) declared themselves to be a citizen of another country, and 8% (n=45) of individuals hoped to become a citizen of Ireland. 2% (n=11) identified as having experienced IV drug use and a further 12% (n=68) of participants had experienced homelessness.

**DROGHEDA TESTING SERVICE**

In 2019, HIV Ireland continued to partner with the Red Door Project and Our Lady Of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda to provide a free HIV and STI testing service aimed at people who use intravenous drugs and/or people who are homeless as well as migrants, particularly those coming from countries where HIV is endemic. As with the Dublin service, testing is promoted through street outreach in Drogheda town and surrounding areas.

**Profile of Drogheda Testing Participants**

A total of 150 individuals (96 males, 54 females), presented for testing at our testing centre in the Red Door Project, Drogheda. Of these individuals, 46% had tested at least once before at this service.



Those born outside of Ireland represented 28% of those who presented for testing at our Drogheda service. (See Table 4.)

*Table 4: Country/Area of Origin of Testing Participants 2019 (Drogheda)*

Country/Area of Origin	Frequency
Ireland	107 (71%)
Sub-Saharan Africa	11 (7%)
Central or Eastern Europe	11 (7%)
South America	8 (6%)
South or South East Asia	4 (3%)
Western Europe	3 (2%)
Middle East/North Africa	3 (2%)
South Africa/West Africa	2 (1%)
North America	1 (<1%)

Total European percentage (excluding Ireland) = 9% (n=14) Total African/Middle Eastern Regions percentage = 11% (n=16)

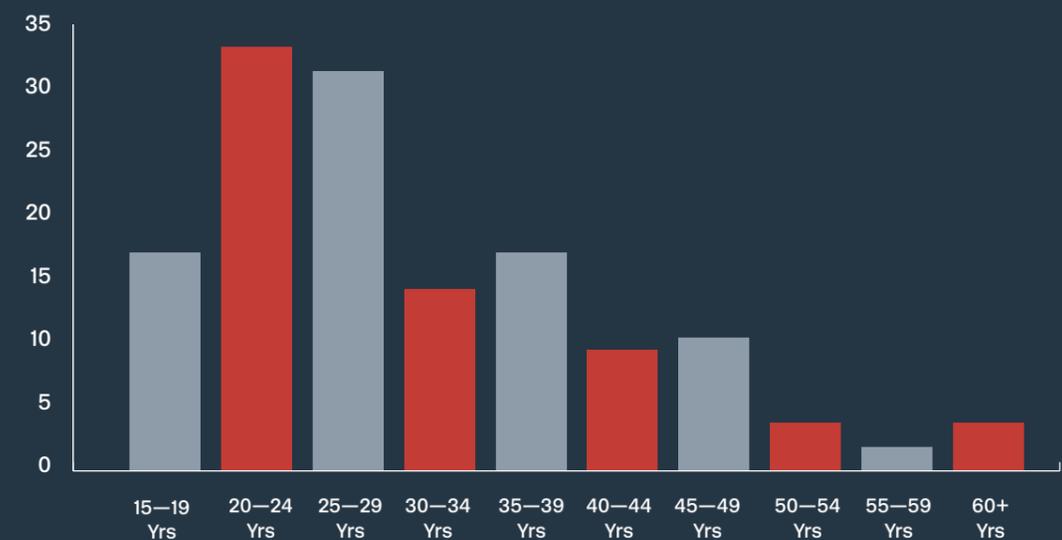
When asked how they became aware of the testing service at the Red Door Project, 37% (n=55) of participants heard about it through word of mouth; 24% (n=37) of testing participants heard about the service through Red Door Project staff members or through outreach conducted by the Red Door Project. 15% (n=21) became aware through Facebook, 13% (n=20) through a Google search, and 11% (n=17) through a GP, hospital, or another agency. (See Table 5)

*Table 5: How Testing Participants Heard of Red Door Project HIV and STI Testing Service 2019*

Mode	Frequency
Word of Mouth	55 (37%)
Red Door Project Outreach/ Staff	37 (24%)
Facebook	21 (15%)
Google	20 (13%)
Referral from Hospital	7 (5%)
Referral from Another Agency	6 (4%)
Referral from a GP	4 (2%)

Those in the age brackets of 20–29 yrs represented the highest number of participants testing in Drogheda (n=68), followed by the 15–19 yrs age bracket and the 35–39 yrs age bracket (both n=18). Noting these brackets, 57% of all testing participants were under 30 yrs old (n=86). Those over 40 yrs of age (n=31) represented 21% of all participants.

*Age Range of Testing Participants (Drogheda)*



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

HIV Ireland has a longstanding and unique history of conducting community outreach with marginalised groups disproportionately affected by HIV. Led primarily by migrant volunteers, outreach takes place on the streets and in migrant businesses and social spaces in Dublin 1, 3, and 7 as well as at various social events including those hosted by Sport Against Racism Ireland (SARI), New Communities Partnership, and other migrant focused organisations. Information on sexual health and sexual health testing is disseminated and free condoms are offered to those who may not otherwise be able to access or afford them. Outreach staff answer pertinent questions and one-to-one support is also given to those concerned about the consequences of testing positive for HIV or another STI.

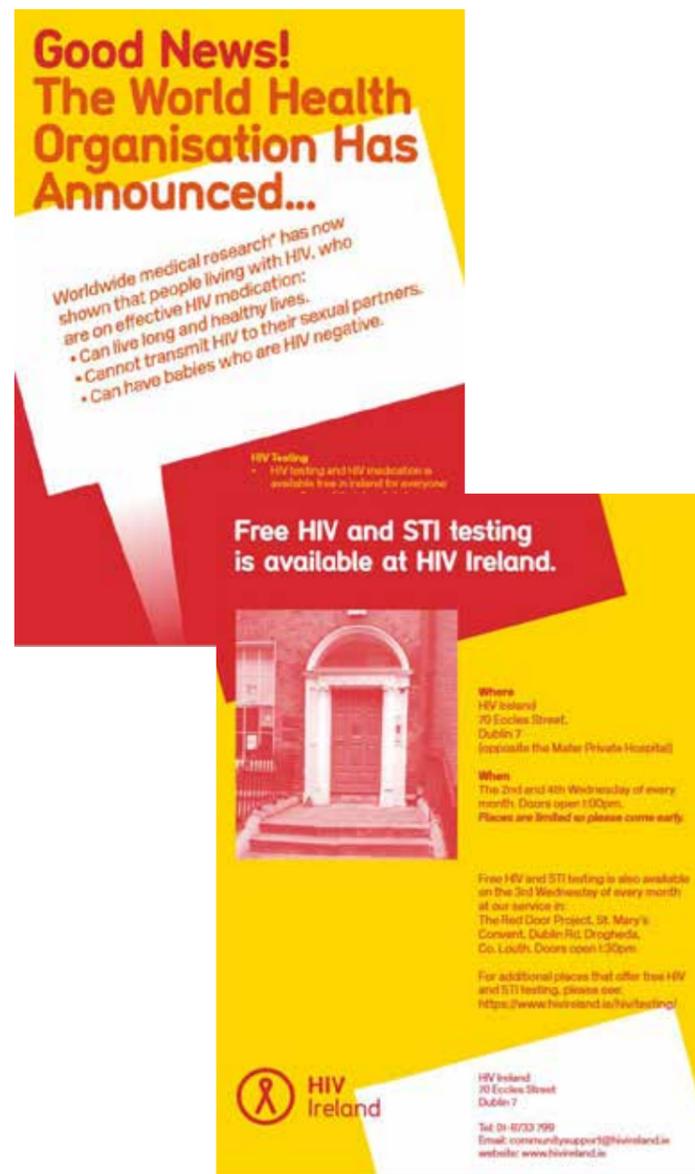
In 2019, 45 street outreach sessions were conducted in approximately 19 migrant businesses and social spaces in Dublin, including 3 sessions in Baleskin Reception Centre for asylum seekers. 10,440 condoms and lubes were distributed. (See also *Free Condom Service and Outreach*). 25 outreach sessions were conducted in Drogheda to promote the Red Door Project testing service, with an approximate total of 860 condoms and lubes distributed.



Joel Biongo & Guylaine Mbaki, Community Support Outreach Volunteers

**Community Forum**

In July, HIV Ireland held a forum with members of the African community (n=9) and Dr Rachel McCann (Mater Hospital) to discuss the development of a Rapid HIV Testing Service within the community. The group defined key messages for the *Good News* leaflet which was developed to help lower barriers to testing.



Joel Biongo & Lily Hyland, Community Support Outreach Volunteers

**GENERAL PUBLIC**

Our Community Support staff field calls, emails, and walk-in queries from the general public which includes the significant others, family, and friends of people living with HIV, a variety of professionals, as well as individuals looking for information on HIV and other STIs. In 2019, there were a total of 391 interventions with the general public. The vast majority of these were questions relating to HIV and STI risks, HIV and STI testing, legal issues around HIV, and how to support clients, partners, family members, or friends living with HIV.

**AGENCY VISITS AND RESEARCH**

HIV Ireland supports agencies and researchers interested in finding out more about our organisation as well as those hoping to gain insight into current or past issues for PLWHIV. In many cases, individuals look to HIV Ireland to help them access individuals living with HIV to participate in their research. Where it is appropriate, we advertise the research request amongst our service users and Positive Now, amongst their affiliates. In 2019, there was a total of 10 students (1 M.Ed.; 2 BA; 3 B.Sc. and 4 PhD students) who were supported by HIV Ireland and Positive Now. In addition, there were 7 agency visits from those working in the sexual health, LGBT+, or homeless sectors. In August 2019, the ISA (International Studies Abroad) agency conducted its annual visit to HIV Ireland. 26 US and Canadian students, undergoing degrees relating to public health, participated in a HIV Ireland workshop and discussion group focused on topical HIV issues.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

HIV Ireland’s education and training services provide and deliver training on a broad range of topics including HIV, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sexual health, HIV training for counsellors, HIV and sexual health training for trainers programme for youth and community workers, Chemsex training (the use of drugs to facilitate sexual activity), and HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

Our primary focus for training delivery is the training of staff and professionals who work with populations more vulnerable to HIV and poorer sexual health outcomes. Education programmes can be accessed through an annual calendar of training or on request from organisations.

Groups and organisations accessing our training include statutory bodies, voluntary agencies, youth and community groups, private sector organisations, healthcare professionals and education centres.

**TRAINING DELIVERY 2019**

A total of 33 various education and training programmes were delivered in 2019 to a total of 460 participants.

**Annual Calendar of Training**

13 education and training programmes were delivered as part of our annual calendar of training. These programmes included education on HIV, hepatitis, STIs, Chemsex, HIV training for Counsellors, HIV Stigma & Discrimination and training for trainers programmes.



**Training Partnerships**

HIV Ireland works in partnership with organisations to provide and facilitate the delivery of training. Partnerships in 2019 included the North West Inner City Network, Dóchas Centre – Irish Prison Service, the Talbot Centre (Learning Together, Working Together programme), AkiDwA, the Irish Family Planning Association, Foróige (REAL U Programme), Ferns Diocesan Youth Service, Casadh, and the Gay Men’s Health Service HSE (Understanding Chemsex training). A total of 20 education and training programmes were delivered in 2019 as part of these partnerships.

**Words Used to Describe our Education & Training in 2019**



**Training for Trainers Programme: Let’s Talk About Safer Sex**

Two training for trainers programmes were delivered in 2019 with a total of 21 participants completing the programme. One programme was delivered in partnership with Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (funded by the Adobe Community Fund), and one was delivered as part of our annual calendar of training.



Participants who completed the Let’s Talk About Safer Sex training for trainers programme in March 2019 as part of our annual calendar of training

**FREE CONDOMS SERVICE**

Our free condoms services, supported by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, are focused mainly on key population groups more vulnerable to acquiring HIV and STIs. We operate a walk-in service for individuals, and a request service to a range of organisations who wish to provide this service to their service users. This service is primarily linked with our *Just Carry One* campaign.



**Walk-in Service**

Based at 70 Eccles Street, Dublin 7, individuals can access free condoms and lube via this service during opening hours, Monday to Friday. 512 people accessed this service in 2019, with 3,460 condoms and lube provided.

**Request Service**

14,800 condoms and lube were provided via this service in 2019, and was accessed by organisations working with a range of population groups including homeless services, drugs and addiction services, youth organisations, LGBT services, third-level colleges and student unions/societies, sex worker support services, and organisations working with people living with HIV. Some organisations accessed the service to enable them to provide free condoms and lube to their service users via their own services. Others requested the service for specific events such as Freshers Week, SHAG Week, Health Promotion Events, Sexual Health Education, LGBT Pride events, and World AIDS Day events.

**FREE RESOURCES SERVICE**

HIV Ireland stocks a range of educational resources including information booklets, leaflets and posters, and other resources on HIV, hepatitis and sexual health for general distribution. This service is accessed by a range of organisations including youth organisations, NGOs and community organisations, colleges, schools, statutory agencies and the general public. Information leaflets and booklets are also distributed at key events annually such as Irish AIDS Day and World AIDS Day activities, SHAG week in third-level colleges, community health initiatives, conferences, seminars, and through our training and support services.

In 2019, this continued to be a popular service with 109 requests from organisations supported for various services and events, and 19,145 educational leaflets, booklets, and posters, and red ribbons provided/distributed. Newly published and revised resources added to the service in 2019 included *Gettin’ It On*: a guide to using condoms, an updated HIV information leaflet, and a revised Chlamydia booklet.



**MSM PROGRAMME**

In 2019, a programme of services and resources for men who have sex with men (MSM) was devised at HIV Ireland and funded by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme. The aim of the MSM Programme is to create a suite of peer-driven community-level interventions which seeks to achieve a reduction in the acquisition of HIV and STIs and an overall improvement of sexual health and wellbeing among gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men (gbMSM).

The MSM programme includes a peer-led, community-based rapid HIV testing service; a peer-led outreach team that offer information, support and referrals online, in-person and in partnership with social venues and clinical services; a free condom and lube service in community spaces; and advocacy on topics relating to the sexual health and wellbeing of gbMSM.

**RAPID HIV TESTING SERVICE**

Free rapid HIV testing is available to gay, bisexual and MSM on evenings and weekends in Dublin’s gay-identified community -based venues. These include a bar (Pantibar), nightclub (The George), sauna (The Boilerhouse) and Dublin’s LGBT+ community centre (Outhouse). Our team of gay and bisexual male volunteers, who represent a diverse range of ages, ethnicities, and serostatus, are trained to perform the rapid test and to offer information and referrals to service users. The overarching aim of this peer-led, community-based testing service is to reduce the number of gbMSM living with undiagnosed HIV and to ensure that getting tested for HIV is as simple, accessible, and convenient as possible. In total, 1,376 rapid HIV tests were performed by our volunteers during the 211 testing sessions that took place in 4 community-based venues throughout the year. 8 service users received a reactive result. All those who received reactive results were successfully connected with a clinical service for confirmatory testing and subsequently diagnosed positive. 99% of service users received a negative result.

*Table 6: Summary of performed, reactive and confirmed rapid HIV tests in 2019*

	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
<b>Rapid HIV Tests Performed</b>	337	427	329	283
<b>Reactive Results</b>	1	3	2	2
<b>Linked to Care</b>	1	3	2	2

In 2019, HIV Ireland partnered with the HSE Health Protection and Surveillance Centre (HPSC) alongside other NGO’s offering community-based testing, to establish a national surveillance system to monitor community HIV testing in Ireland. Comprehensive non-identifiable data on all those who engaged in the MSM Programme’s rapid HIV testing service in 2019 was sent to the HPSC for analysis. The production of a report (expected Summer 2020) will enable an ongoing assessment of the impact of community HIV testing strategies, help to inform national testing policy, and assist with the future delivery of the service as part of the MSM Programme.



Bill Foley, Rapid HIV Testing Volunteer.



Jason Doyle & Karl Hayden, Rapid HIV Testing Volunteers

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICE**

Our peer-led Community Outreach Service aims to connect with gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men where they meet to socialise and/or have sex. Our team of peer sexual health outreach workers offer information, support, resources, and referrals relating to HIV, STIs and sexual health and wellbeing needs.

**Online Outreach**

Many gay, bi and MSM use online platforms to seek, organise and meet their sexual partners as well as obtain information on sexual health. Our outreach team is available to offer information, support and referrals on popular hook-up apps and dating sites such as Grindr, Scruff, Squirt, BBRT, PlanetRomeo and Rent.Men. In 2019, 1,010 gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men connected with our outreach workers on these online platforms. The type of information and support offered varied across several sexual health and wellbeing topics (outlined in Table 7). The most frequent topics discussed were PrEP (43%), HIV & STI Testing (22%), and Symptoms (8%).

*Table 7: Summary of topics for online interactions with MSM Programme Outreach Team*

<b>PrEP</b>	43%
<b>HIV &amp; STI Testing</b>	22%
<b>Symptoms</b>	8%
<b>Wellbeing</b>	6%
<b>Drugs &amp; Alcohol</b>	5%
<b>HIV</b>	5%
<b>PEP</b>	4%
<b>Condom &amp; Lube</b>	4%
<b>Risk</b>	1%
<b>U=U</b>	1%
<b>Vaccines</b>	1%



Mark Doyle, MSM Programme Outreach Worker.

**NEW OUTREACH TEAM MEMBER**

In April 2019, HIV Ireland commenced recruitment of an Outreach Worker to join the MSM Programme Outreach Team on a part time basis. Expanding the team would increase the capacity of the team to undertake weekly outreach work through digital platforms such as hook-up apps and cruising sites in addition to sex-on-premises venues, semi-public sex environments, pubs, clubs, and clinical settings.

In July 2019, Mark Doyle joined the team. Mark has spent the last four years researching Grindr use by gbMSM in Ireland as part of his PhD at UCD School of Sociology, which will be completed in 2020. His main research interests are in rural and peri-urban gbMSM and how they negotiate and express their sexualities on and offline. Mark is also interested in perceptions of sexual risk and how negative self-perception and internalised homophobia can affect perceptions of risk. Mark also teaches sociology, politics, and policy classes to college students.

As the MSM Programme develops, we hope to see our outreach efforts increase and the outreach team expand even more.



(L-R) Paul Ryan, Adam Shanley, Robbie Lawlor and Kate McGrew at Sex Workers Alliance Ireland Soundhouse Sunday PrEP Event

**Clinic-based Outreach**

For some, going to a sexual health clinic can be a daunting experience. Our outreach workers are available by phone and email to explain and familiarise people with the process of accessing testing, treatment, and vaccinations that happen at the Gay Men’s Health Service (GMHS) and other sexual health clinics that gay, bi and MSM go to. Similarly, it is important that users of these services feel that they have the time, space, and ability to express themselves when they are there. Our outreach team has been available to offer information, support, and resources to GMHS users while attending Tuesday and Wednesday clinics.

In 2019, our outreach team engaged with 264 gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men at the Gay Men’s Health Service clinics and offered information and support on several sexual health and wellbeing topics (see Table 9). The most frequent topics discussed included PrEP (58%) and Drugs & Alcohol (25%).



**Table 9: Summary of topics for clinic interactions with MSM Programme Outreach Team.**

PrEP	58%
Drugs & Alcohol	25%
U=U	15%
Wellbeing	7%
Rapid Testing	5%

**Venue Outreach**

Gay bars, clubs, and saunas have traditionally acted as important meeting places for gay, bi and MSM. For many, these are venues to socialise and seek sexual partners. Our outreach team is growing and as we do, we intend to increase our presence at these venues in Dublin offering information, support, and resources. In 2019, our outreach team engaged with all gay-identified venues in Dublin City and several gay-identified club nights and events. The outreach team promoted sexual health and wellbeing messages by making posters, fliers, and leaflets available throughout the venues listed in Table 8.

**Table 8: List of venues, club nights and events for the MSM Programme Outreach Team**

- Pantibar
- The George
- Outhouse
- The Boilerhouse
- Street 66
- GLAMworld
- Mother
- Sweatbox
- PrHomo
- Sunday Social
- Bukkake
- Love Sensation Festival

**One-to-One Outreach**

Throughout 2019, specific time was allotted each week for face-to-face sessions for individuals requiring additional support beyond what is provided through other interventions. As such, this intervention primarily provides a higher level of support, specifically for those with the greatest need and the most pronounced barriers around accessing services. These sessions are reactive to service-user needs; the length and focus is determined by the presenting issues. The outreach workers are trained in motivational interviewing, which may be used to better support these individuals. 26 gay, bi and MSM access this one-to-one support in 2019 with two main topics of discussion – Drugs & Alcohol and HIV anxiety.

**FREE CONDOM & LUBE SERVICE**

Our peer outreach workers maintain a supply of condoms and lube via wall mounted dispensers in LGBT-identified venues in Dublin City Centre. This service seeks to specifically engage gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men, including trans men and non-binary folk who wish to access gay-identified services. See Table X for a list of venues where condoms and lube were available.

Our peer outreach workers also offer one-to-one outreach support. Support delivered in these sessions is geared towards those with more pronounced presenting issues, and those with high barriers to service access. As part of this service and where appropriate, condoms and lube are offered to service users. Again, this service specifically engages gbMSM, some of whom are also members of other key population groups, most prominently, sex workers and migrants.

**Venues where free condom & lube are available to gbMSM via wall-mounted dispensers**

- Pantibar, Dublin 1
- The George Bar and Club, Dublin 2
- The Boilerhouse Sauna, Dublin 2
- Outhouse LGBT Community Centre, Dublin 1
- Street 66, Dublin 2
- GLAMworld, Dublin 1
- The Dock Sauna, Dublin 1



**THEORY OF CHANGE AND LOGIC MODEL FOR OUTREACH SERVICE**

One of the key recommendations proposed in a positive external evaluation of the outreach service for gbMSM was the development of a logic model to provide a clear and well-defined description of the aims, objectives and scope of the programme, which in turn would inform a programme manual and a monitoring and evaluation framework to support service implementation.

The Theory of Change and Logic Model recognises that the outreach programme as a whole cannot be considered in isolation; rather it serves to complement other interventions beyond the scope of the service, including biomedical and psychosocial initiatives. This also underlines that outreach has a function in improving wellbeing more broadly, rather than viewing sexual health in a narrow epidemiological sense.

The aim is therefore to: *Contribute to a reduction in HIV/STI transmission among diverse communities of MSM while improving their resilience, sexual health and wellbeing.*

Six objectives support this aim; these were designed during the intervention manual-development process and represent the activities which must be undertaken to achieve the service aim and outcomes.

The theory of change and logic model, which uses the COM-B model of behaviour change to frame and define the programme, was developed in partnership with several key contributors. Charles Witzel, a Research Fellow at Sigma Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine lead the process and authored the report. Stakeholders from HIV Ireland, HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy, HSE Gay Men’s Health Service, HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre and Gay Health Network adopted a collaborative and dynamic approach in the production of the model which was published in December 2019.

## Campaigns & Events



### **PREP (PRE EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)**

PrEP (Pre Exposure Prophylaxis) is a highly effective antiretroviral medication taken before and after sex to prevent someone acquiring HIV.

At the end of 2018, HIV Ireland launched our #5Asks campaign including a call to invest in HIV prevention services and implement a national PrEP programme in Ireland. Together with national LGBT organisations, sexual health centres, peer led organisations and grassroots campaign groups like ACT UP, HIV Ireland has repeatedly called for the introduction of a free PrEP programme as a key tool in the prevention of HIV.

In June 2019, HIQA (the Health Information and Quality Authority) published its Health Technology Assessment report on PrEP. The report found PrEP to be safe and effective at preventing HIV in people at substantial vulnerability. It recommended the introduction of a PrEP programme and indicated that such a programme would be cost-saving.

On 10th October 2019, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Health Simom Harris TD and Minister of State for Health Promotion Catherine Byrne TD announced the introduction of a National PrEP programme beginning 4 November 2019.

The programme, to be rolled out nationwide, will make PrEP freely available to anyone identified as being at increased vulnerability of acquiring HIV through sex and who meets the eligibility criteria. Eligibility will be assessed following attendance at approved services with PrEP dispensed on prescription by community pharmacies.

Announcing the programme, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD paid tribute to the work of HIV Ireland in securing the introduction of the programme saying "I thank the advocacy groups like HIV Ireland and the LGBT NGOs who have worked with us to get to this point, and the HSE team who have put the necessary standards and guidelines in place to deliver a safe, quality service."

For information on PrEP including how to access PrEP visit: [www.hivireland.ie/hiv/prevention/prep-2/](http://www.hivireland.ie/hiv/prevention/prep-2/).



### **ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY**

Zero Discrimination Day is a global event which takes place on 1st March annually. Led by UNAIDS, the event is a call to people everywhere to promote and celebrate diversity and reject discrimination, and HIV Ireland supports the initiative every year focusing on zero discrimination for people living with HIV.

The 2019 Zero Discrimination Day campaign highlighted the urgent need to take action against discriminatory laws which result in people being treated differently, excluded from essential services or being subject to undue restrictions on how they live their lives, simply because of who they are.

To mark the day, HIV Ireland delivered a free education and training programme about HIV, Stigma and Discrimination, highlighting case studies of HIV-related discrimination in Ireland.

### **THE 2019 ANNUAL GAY HEALTH FORUM (GHF2019)**

The 2019 Annual Gay Health Forum took place on Friday 24th May in Dublin Castle. This annual event is organised by the Gay Men's Health Service HSE, the Gay Health Network and HIV Ireland, and is supported by the Department of Health and the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme.

The forum provides an important platform for those who deliver services to the gay community, and the community itself, to discuss, share and acknowledge the developments in the response to HIV and STIs in Ireland.



### **WOMEN'S HEALTH CAMPAIGN 2019**

The Mediaplanet Ireland 2019 Women's Health campaign launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 with a special printed feature in the Irish Independent newspaper, with content also available online at [www.healthnews.ie](http://www.healthnews.ie). HIV Ireland worked with Mediaplanet on this campaign to raise awareness about HIV and Cervical Cancer, with an exclusive feature online.

Women living with HIV are more at risk of cervical cancer and are up to five times more likely to develop cervical cancer than women who do not have HIV. This important campaign aimed to highlight and remind women that cervical cancer is curable if detected and treated early, that an annual smear test is recommended for women living with HIV, and that the HPV vaccine is available for women living with HIV up to and including 26 years of age.

GHF2019 was officially opened with an address by Catherine Byrne, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion and the *National Drugs Strategy*.

The 2019 programme offered an engaging line-up of national and international speakers. Keynote speakers included Bruce Richman, Executive Director of Prevention Access Campaign's U=U Movement; Nathan Sparling, Chief Executive of HIV Scotland; and Rusi Jaspal, Professor of Psychology and Sexual Health at De Montfort University in the UK.



The HIV Ireland team with Bruce Richman at the 2019 Annual Gay Health Forum

On behalf of HIV Ireland, Dr Erin Nugent presented on HIV-related discrimination in Ireland, outlining client case studies and our work advocating for individuals who have experienced discrimination in work and healthcare settings.

**SMOKING AND HIV – WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2019**

Every year on World No Tobacco Day (31<sup>st</sup> May), the World Health Organisation highlights the health and other risks associated with tobacco use.

To mark World No Tobacco Day in 2019, HIV Ireland and Positive Now hosted a community event on 30<sup>th</sup> May for people living with HIV, to highlight concerns about the high prevalence rate of smoking amongst people living with HIV in Ireland.

Supported by NiQuitin and the Mater Hospital Smoking Cessation Service, the event was hosted for people living with HIV and for those working in health promotion providing smoking cessation information and supports and aimed to better inform people of the health risks associated with smoking and having HIV.

Speakers at the event included Professor Paddy Mallon, Consultant in Infectious Diseases at St. Vincent’s Hospital, Noeline White, Smoking Cessation Officer at the Mater Hospital, Gerald Browne, Positive Now, and Peter Daly, NiQuitin.



A short survey was also launched aimed at people living with HIV who are current smokers. The survey ran online for three weeks and aimed to identify if those who are current smokers are interested in community-based supports and programmes to help quit smoking. Results of the survey showed that 92% of current smokers are thinking about quitting smoking, or want to quit smoking; 85% of those are interested in support to help quit smoking; and 71% of those are interested in individual support, with 29% interested in group support.



**FAST-TRACK CITIES**

On 13th June 2019, in advance of Irish AIDS Day (15th June), Ireland signed the Paris Declaration pledging to place our cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway on a fast-track to end AIDS by 2030. The Paris Declaration commits cities to achieve ambitious targets to reduce new HIV infections, end AIDS-related deaths, and eliminate barriers faced by people affected by, and living with, HIV, including stigma and discrimination.

For Dublin, the declaration was signed by City and County Mayors, supported by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD, and Dr Jose Zuniga, President of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), and by Niall Mulligan, Executive Director with HIV Ireland, as the lead HIV support and advocacy organisation for Dublin. Mayor and Council signatories included Paul McAuliffe, Lord Mayor of Dublin (Dublin City Council), Cllr Eoghan O’Brien, Mayor of Fingal (Fingal County Council), Cllr Shay Brennan, Cathaoirleach, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and Cllr Vicki Casserly, Mayor of South Dublin County Council.



Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Health Simon Harris TD, Minister for State Catherine Byrne TD, City and County Lord Mayors of Dublin, representatives from the HSE and HIV Ireland at the launch of Fast Track Cities.



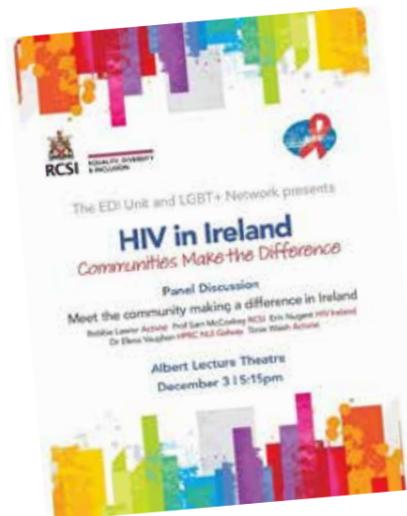
**WORLD AIDS DAY 2019**

World AIDS Day takes place annually on 1<sup>st</sup> December. 2019 marked 31 years of this pioneering global health campaign, first initiated by the World Health Organisation in 1988. The global UNAIDS theme for 2019 was 'Communities make the difference' and our events to commemorate World AIDS Day 2019 were an important opportunity to recognise the essential role that communities have played, and continue to play, in the HIV response at the international, national and local levels.



**HIV in Ireland: Communities Make a Difference**

To highlight World AIDS Day, the EDI and LGBT+ Society of the Royal College of Surgeons held a panel discussion on the role of communities in addressing HIV. HIV Ireland was invited to participate and speak on our history of advocating for people living with HIV.



**Lord Mayor of Dublin hosts World AIDS Day reception at City Hall**

On Saturday 30th November 2019, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Paul McAuliffe, hosted a reception in City Hall to mark World AIDS Day. The reception was held to pay tribute to the work of HIV Ireland, its volunteers and supporters and to raise awareness of HIV-related stigma and the need to further improve prevention and treatment strategies in line with Dublin's commitments under the global Fast Track Cities initiative. To coincide with the event, key landmarks in Dublin City were lit up in red light.



**THE 2ND ANNUAL RED BALL – 15TH JUNE 2019**

To mark Irish AIDS Day 2019, HIV Ireland hosted our second #RedBall raising awareness and much needed funds to support people living with and affected by HIV in Ireland.

Panti Bliss was the Master of Ceremonies for the 2019 event and opened the night by speaking candidly and openly about her experiences of living with HIV, and about the stigma that still exists for many people living with HIV in Ireland. The auction was co-ordinated by Eamon O'Connor, and the wonderfully entertaining music was provided by singer/songwriter Jack O'Rourke.



the  
**RED**  
ball





the  
**RED**  
ball  
17 June 2019

# Thank you to our sponsors

These organisations have kindly donated sponsorship towards the work of HIV Ireland, in support of people living with HIV

### GOLD SPONSORS



### SILVER SPONSORS



### SUPPORTERS



### HIV Ireland Community

HIV Ireland would also like to thank the individuals and companies within our community who have kindly supported this evening

HIV Ireland is extremely grateful for the support of the individuals, companies and government departments who make our work possible. By working together to raise both funds and awareness of HIV in Ireland, we can increase our impact and ensure that those living with HIV are afforded the best possible care

For further information on our work and how to get involved please see [www.hivireland.ie](http://www.hivireland.ie)

Thank you

### Panti Bliss in conversation with Gareth Thomas

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019, GCN and HIV Ireland hosted our second annual joint fundraising and community awareness event in Trinity College Dublin: an evening in conversation between two legends of the LGBT+ community, Panti Bliss and Gareth Thomas. The event was supported by GSK Ireland, Dublin City Council, HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, Trinity College Students Union and Guinness.

In a sold-out event, Panti Bliss was in conversation with rugby star Gareth Thomas who shared his story about growing up gay in Wales, coming out, and his experience telling the world that he is living with HIV.

A podcast of the conversation is available at [www.gcn.ie](http://www.gcn.ie)



Gareth Thomas with Panti Bliss



L-R Gareth Thomas, Adam Shanley (HIV Ireland), Lisa Connell (Editor, GCN), Stephen O'Hare (HIV Ireland), Panti Bliss



Gareth Thomas on stage in conversation with Panti Bliss at Trinity College Dublin

**GSK IRELAND IMPACT AWARDS**

The GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards recognise and reward community-based charities doing excellent work to improve people’s health and wellbeing in Ireland. Having been notified in 2018 that HIV Ireland was one of five recipients of the award, members of our Board of Directors and staff attended the awards ceremony in January of 2019. Applicants were evaluated using six criteria from which the name ‘IMPACT’ derives: Innovation, Management,

Partnership, Achievement, Community focus and Targeting need. HIV Ireland received €10,000 in unrestricted funding as well as a specially commissioned bespoke video and photography package to help us promote our work. HIV Ireland’s GSK Impact Award Film can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/zvfnY3VWPR4>



Bernard Condon SC Chairperson, HIV Ireland accepting GSK Impact award.

**JUST CARRY ONE**

Just Carry One is a national social media campaign targeting young people, primarily those aged 17 to 25 years, promoting the consistent use of condoms for STI prevention.

Promotion of the campaign is carried out primarily through a dedicated Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/justcarryone](http://www.facebook.com/justcarryone)), highlighting key messages about condom use, STI prevention, STI testing and where to access free condoms. Competitions are held throughout the year to encourage engagement with followers, and at the end of 2019 the campaign had over 17,000 followers.

The Just Carry One condom and lube packs got a fresh new look in 2019, and the campaign recorded distribution of 18,260 free packs throughout the year (see our Service Delivery section for more details).



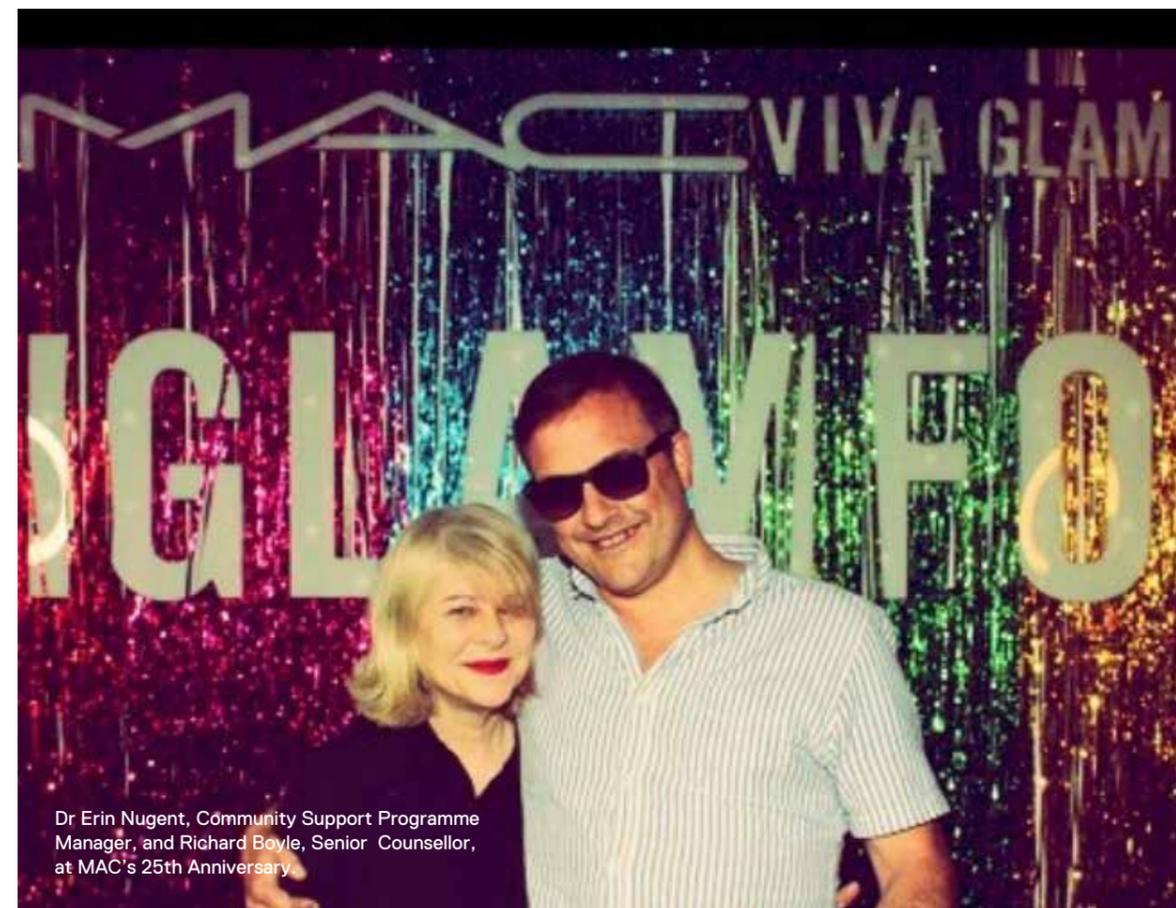
Joe Hogan, IT Guys, and Richard Boyle, Senior Counsellor, at MAC’s 25th Anniversary

**RAPIDS**

*Rapids*, a theatre piece by Talking Ensemble, explores disclosure and the presence of stigma in the lives of people living with HIV in Ireland today. In February, HIV Ireland was invited to participate in a post-show panel discussion in the Project Arts Centre, Temple Bar.

**MAC AIDS FUND 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

In June, HIV Ireland was invited to help celebrate the MAC AIDS Fund’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Held in the George Nightclub, in Dublin 2, the event was dedicated to honouring MAC’s global response to HIV and AIDS and to acknowledging the work of MAC funded agencies.



Dr Erin Nugent, Community Support Programme Manager, and Richard Boyle, Senior Counsellor, at MAC’s 25th Anniversary

**DUBLIN PRIDE**

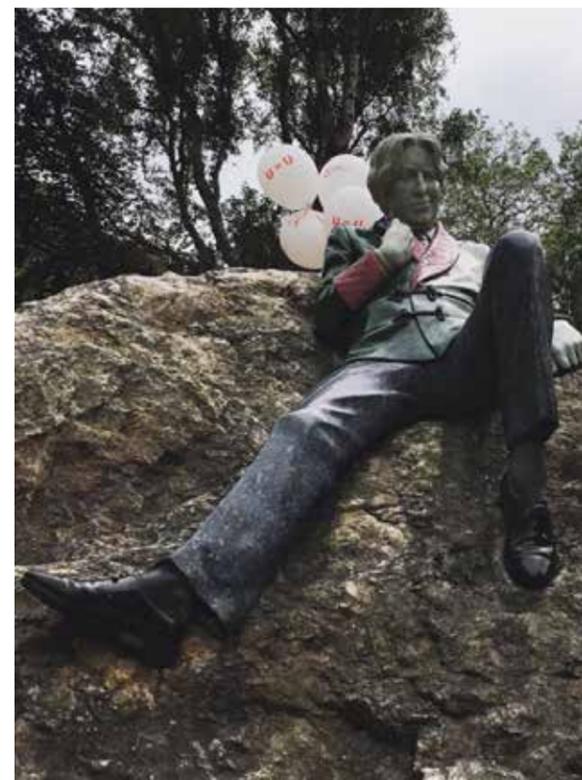
HIV Ireland was delighted to participate in the Dublin Pride Parade in June alongside our friends in Positive Now and the All-Ireland Network of People Living with HIV; St. James's GUIDE clinic; the Gay Men's Health Service; Sankalpa Addiction Services; and the children and parents of the Jamie Kelly (JK) Dance Academy. Our theme in 2019 was U=U (undetectable equals untransmittable) to highlight and celebrate this important message. In advance of the Pride Parade, HIV Ireland also attended a Pride Community Forum and the LGBTQ+ Pride Conference which looked at current issues, community wellness, and plans for Pride.



HIV Ireland staff, volunteers, and supporters



Anthony Newsome, Client Support Worker



HIV Ireland staff, volunteers, and supporters



Dublin Frontrunners AC presenting a cheque to Dr Erin Nugent

**DUBLIN PRIDE RUN**

The annual Dublin Pride Run in June is organised by Dublin Frontrunners AC and is an Athletics Ireland accredited run. In 2019, HIV Ireland was nominated as one of three charities to receive monies from this fundraising event. Members of the Board, staff, and volunteers of HIV Ireland participated to support all the worthy causes.

**TRANS PRIDE (BREAKING THE BINARY)**

In July, the Trans community came together with their allies to march for the rights and needs of the trans community and to celebrate hard won victories. HIV Ireland joined them, supporting the community in its call for an equitable society in which the rights of trans people are enacted.



Dr Erin Nugent, Community Support Programme Manager, and Susan Donlon, Prevention Education & Training Programme Manager, completing Dublin Pride Run



Francisco Figueroa, Adam Shanley, Dr Erin Nugent, and Lysander Preston (Positive Now) at Trans Pride



**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS FOUNDATION (STIF) COURSE AT SJH GUIDE CLINIC**

The GUIDE Clinic STIF course is a two day multi-disciplinary sexually transmitted infections (STI) course which is pertinent to GPs and GP trainees, practice nurses, family planning and reproductive health staff, doctors and nurses from Genitourinary Medicine clinics, health advisers, secondary care clinicians who may encounter patients with STIs; rheumatology, ophthalmology, O&G, ED, SATU.

MSM Programme Manager, Adam Shanley, delivers a lecture on the sexual health and wellbeing of gay, bisexual and MSM to attendees of this biannual event. The aim of the lecture is to increase knowledge and understanding of the social determinants of poor sexual health and wellbeing outcomes for gbMSM, highlight and explore the barriers that gbMSM experience when accessing care for sexual health and, to share recommendations on how to develop a welcoming environment for LGBT+ people in their clinical settings.

**ANNUAL HIV IRELAND LECTURE (UCD)**

In February, the 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students in UCD were once again recipients of a lecture by Richard Boyle, our senior HIV counsellor, on the topic of "The Patient's Perspective". This lecture is one of several in the "Professional Clinical Practice" module which is run with great enthusiasm by Professor Walter Cullen. Over the course of an hour, students explored the stories of some of the people Richard has worked with during his 20 years of counselling in HIV Ireland, and the ways in which medical personnel can contribute to the psychosocial and mental health of their patients.

**AIDS IMPACT CONFERENCE**

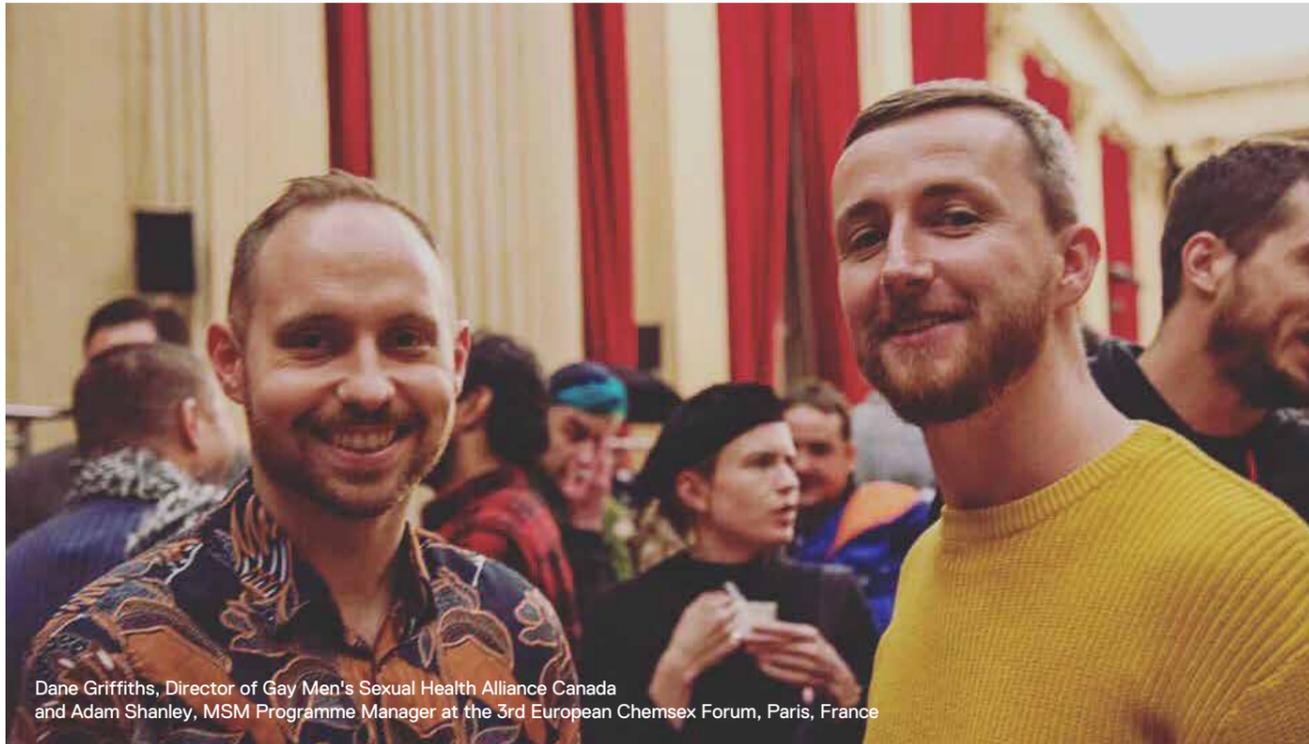
HIV Ireland attended the AIDSImpact conference in May 2018. AIDSImpact is an international behavioural and psychosocial science conference that addresses issues related to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, focusing both globally and on specific communities and countries hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2018, AIDS Impact took place in London, UK where HIV Ireland's MSM Programme Manager, Adam Shanley presented alongside Dr Kiran Santlal on "A Collaborative Response to Chemsex & GHB Usage in Ireland" during the session on Chemsex. The presentation outlined the collaboration between health service providers, policy makers and community advocates in examining the evidence in relation to early harm reduction responses appropriate to current and emerging trends relating to chemsex, development of harm reduction campaigns to provide education regarding chemsex and drug usage and, to advance intervention efforts for those engaging in chemsex who are finding their use problematic.



**PREP IN EUROPE**

The second meeting of the PrEP in Europe Summit took place in Warsaw, Poland from 10-12 of October 2019. The summit brings together researchers, providers, policymakers, physicians and the community of affected individuals with an aim of increasing access to PrEP throughout the WHO European region while also using the energy involved in PrEP advocacy as a catalyst for better HIV testing and treatment, and for better sexual health and health equality for HIV-affected marginalised groups in general.

PrEP in Europe provided information on the effectiveness and availability of PrEP and news and advice to help strengthen advocacy for PrEP throughout Europe. It aimed to help organisations like HIV Ireland and the MSM Programme to develop guidelines, recommendations and consistent policy demands for PrEP, and to provide networking opportunities for people working for PrEP access in different capacities throughout the continent to develop practicable PrEP programmes and ways of advocating for them.



Dane Griffiths, Director of Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance Canada and Adam Shanley, MSM Programme Manager at the 3rd European Chemsex Forum, Paris, France

### EUROPEAN CHEMSEX FORUM

Building on the previous two European Chemsex Fora, HIV Ireland attended the third European Chemsex Forum took place on 14 – 17 November 2019 in Paris. The Forum aimed to provide participants with the tools to develop and improve multi-sectoral responses appropriate to their settings and provide a platform to engage in international, multi-disciplinary dialogue and discussion around chemsex.

The forum started with an evening plenary session on the medico-psycho-sexual approach to chemsex and was followed by two full days of presentations and discussions, with Day One looking at data and evidence across Europe and Day Two focussing on the community response to chemsex.

### AIDS ACTION EUROPE – MEMBER MEETING

In October 2019, HIV Ireland attended the AIDS Action Europe Member and Partner Meeting on Criminalisation of HIV non disclosure, exposure and transmission in Berlin, Germany. Delegates were treated to presentations on HIV Criminalisation in the WHO European region and around the world and on the European Legal Forum on HIV and its work on HIV Criminalisation. Other areas of discussion included Working with media on HIV Criminalisation and HIV Criminalisation and Partner Notification.

## Committee Representation & Policy Work

### NORTH INNER-CITY DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TASK FORCE (NICDATF)

HIV Ireland's work is strongly linked with the National Drugs Strategy – Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery. HIV Ireland participates on the Prevention and Education sub-committee of the NICDATF and receives support funding for the delivery of education and training services.

### NATIONAL CHEMSEX WORKING GROUP

Members of this collaborative group in 2019 included HIV Ireland, HSE National Drug Treatment Centre, the Rialto Community Drug Team, the Gay Men's Health Service, HSE National Social Inclusion, HSE Public Health, and HSE Addiction Services.

In addition to producing harm reduction resources, the work of this collaborative partnership was presented (oral and poster presentations) at a range of conferences in 2019 including the College of Psychiatrists Ireland Spring Conference in April (winning Best Poster Presentation), the Club Health Conference in Amsterdam in May, the AIDS Impact Conference in London in July, the Lisbon Addictions Conference in October, and the European Chemsex Forum in Paris in November.

### NATIONAL SEXUAL HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

HIV Ireland participates on this Working Group, the establishment of which is one of the priority actions within the National Sexual Health Strategy Action Plan. Chaired by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, the group was established to coordinate sexual health communications activities between HSE and non-statutory organisations to ensure joint resources are used in the most effective manner.

### GAY HEALTH NETWORK (GHN)

HIV Ireland continues to work with GHN to support and promote sexual health initiatives within the gay community, and in particular the joint HSE Man2Man.ie programme.

### EUROPEAN MSM INTERNET SURVEY (EMIS) 2017

In October 2019, a national report from the European Men who have sex with men Internet Survey 2017 (EMIS-2017 Ireland) was launched by Minister Catherine Byrne T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy. The EMIS-2017 Ireland report presents information from 2,083 gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with other men (MSM) who responded to an online survey about their sexual health and wellbeing, and HIV Ireland participated on a Communications Group to support the dissemination of the findings of the report.



Members of the EMIS-2017 Ireland Communications Group with Minister Catherine Byrne TD, at the launch of the report in October 2019.

### SEXUAL HEALTH AND CRISIS PREGNANCY PROGRAMME'S HIV STIGMA CAMPAIGN ADVISORY GROUP

In July 2019, HIV Ireland was asked to join the SHCPP's HIV Stigma Campaign Advisory Group. The aim of the HIV stigma campaign is to:

- 1) Raise awareness about HIV
- 2) Improve understanding around HIV transmission, particularly of the U=U message
- 3) Promote HIV testing and early detection of HIV so people living with HIV can be linked to treatment services; and
- 4) Reduce HIV stigma as a barrier to testing.

### **SEXUAL HEALTH AND CRISIS PREGNANCY PROGRAMME'S MIGRANT COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The Migrant Communications Working Group works to improve communications between those promoting sexual health in the migrant population. HIV Ireland continued its participation in 2019, working with other agencies to help develop campaign messages, audit sexual health resources, and streamline outreach in Direct Provision centres.

### **HEALTH PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE CENTRE'S HIV SURVEILLANCE COMMITTEE.**

In 2019, HIV Ireland continued its participation on the HPSC's HIV Surveillance Committee, which oversees both recent HIV infection and HIV drug resistance surveillance in Ireland, and which aims to enhance the treatment, prevention, and control of HIV in Ireland.

### **FRIENDS OF BALSESKIN**

HIV Ireland currently conducts outreach amongst residents in Baleskin Reception Centre for people seeking asylum. Established to strengthen links which already exist between the Centre, NGO's, community groups, and residents, the Baleskin Friends Group encourages participants to form new links with agencies interested in supporting asylum seekers in Ireland in their physical and mental health.

### **1 YEAR DEFERRAL POLICY ON BLOOD DONATION FOR GBMSM (IBTS)**

The MSM Programme Manager at HIV Ireland has organised meetings with senior members of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) throughout 2019 to further HIV Ireland's policy position to review the 12-month deferral criteria for gbMSM blood donors.

Currently, gbMSM in Ireland must abstain from any sexual contact (regardless of the use of condoms and/or PrEP) for a minimum of 12 months. The same criteria do not apply to heterosexual blood donors. HIV Ireland's position is that this approach is discriminatory and should be replaced with an individualised risk-based approach to assess sexual behaviour, rather than grouping donors based on sexuality. Meetings will continue in 2020.

### **PREP EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP (HIQA)**

In August 2018, the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) commenced work on a health technology assessment (HTA) of a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programme for populations at substantial risk of sexual acquisition of HIV.

The MSM Programme Manager was a member of the Expert Advisory Group on PrEP and contributed on behalf of the community throughout the process. The HTA has now been published and advice to the Minister for Health on a PrEP Programme for Ireland was sent and accepted, culminating in a National PrEP Programme starting in October 2019.

### **MSM HEALTH COMMITTEE (HSE)**

The MSM Programme Manager represents HIV Ireland on the National MSM Health Committee. As a member of the committee we provide strategic advice and direction to support the work of the committee and advise on annual priorities for the work of the committee in line with resource allocation.

The purpose of the committee is to: Maintain a focus on sexual health among gbMSM; Offer strategic advice on planning and resourcing sexual health efforts for gbMSM; Monitor progress in the implementation of actions arising from the HSE MSM Action Plan and recommendations of the National Sexual Health Strategy.

### **NATIONAL CHEMSEX WORKING GROUP**

The MPOWER Programme Manager represents HIV Ireland on the National Chemsex Working Group. The aim of the working group is to collaborate with stakeholders that are working to address issues related to the sexualised use of drugs amongst the gbMSM population.

In 2019 the group were examining the evidence in relation to early harm reduction responses appropriate to current and emerging trends relating to chemsex, developing harm reduction campaigns to provide education regarding chemsex and drug usage and, advancing the creation of interventions for those engaging in chemsex who are finding their use problematic.

### **HPSC COMMUNITY HIV TESTING WORKING GROUP**

Voluntary community-based HIV testing helps to reduce the undiagnosed population of people living with HIV in the community. Monitoring is essential to determine whether at-risk groups are being effectively reached and to inform future community-based testing activities.

The HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) formed a multisectoral working group which includes two representatives of HIV Ireland, the Community Support Manager and the MSM Programme Manager. The working group made recommendations on the development of a minimum standardised dataset in which service providers would submit de-identified case-based data on a quarterly basis to form a national surveillance system. This culminates in an annual report which is published on the HPSC website. The multisector group continue to meet to share data and best practice.

### **ACUTE STI OUTBREAK CONTROL TEAM**

An outbreak of an STI among gbMSM was reported in the East of the country during the final quarter of 2019. In response, HSE Public Health convened an Acute STI Outbreak Control Team (OCT). HIV Ireland was represented on the OCT by the MSM Programme Manager.

As a result of meetings of the OCT, the MSM Programme delivered a reactive digital outreach campaign of information and advice on symptoms and pathways to testing during the pre- and post-Christmas period to gbMSM in the affected region with positive outcomes. The OCT will be stood down in 2020.

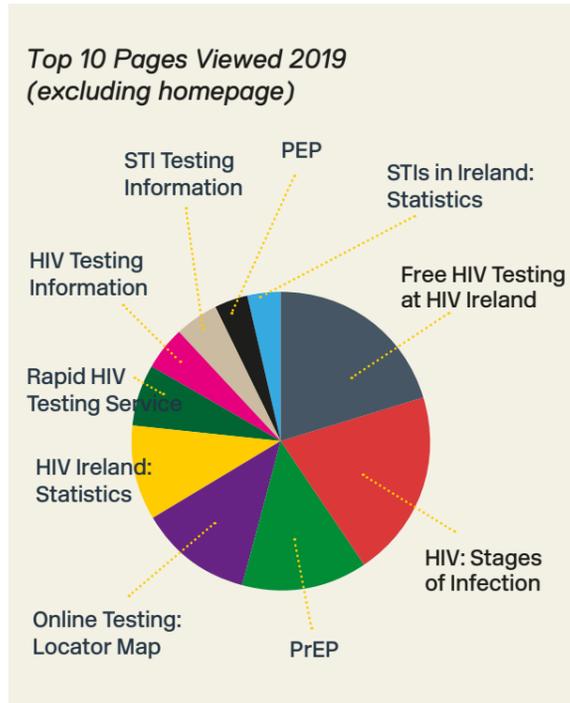
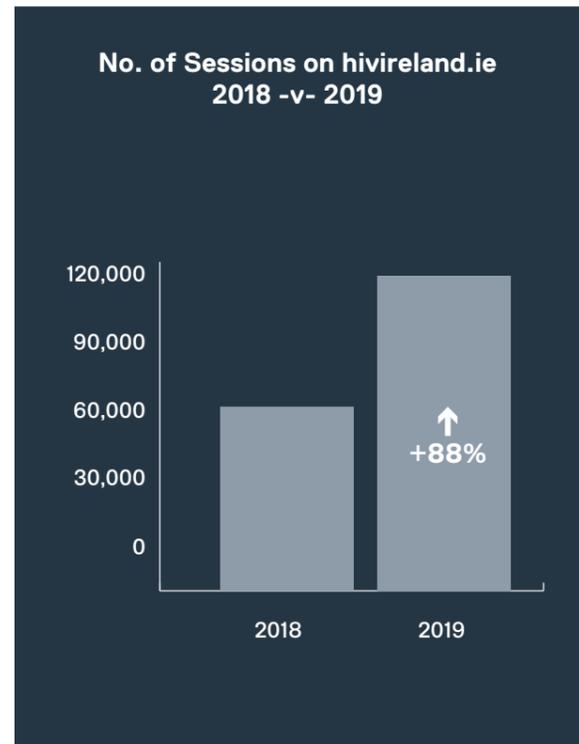
# Digital & Social Media

HIV Ireland utilises social media platforms to promote available services, to publish and promote harm reduction information about HIV, STIs, hepatitis, and sexual health, to promote specific campaigns and to highlight our policy and research work. Our primary platforms are our website, Facebook and Twitter pages, and publishing a weekly NewsDesk with a round-up of all the national, European and international news and policy issues about HIV and related issues.

### WEBSITE (WWW.HIVIRELAND.IE)

In 2019 there were a total of 117,716 sessions on the HIV Ireland website (+88% over 2018), and 95,254 users (+95% over 2018). 88% of users were new visitors with 12% returning visitors.

There was a total of 195,646 page views (an increase of 72% over 2018). Of the top 10 pages viewed (excluding the homepage), 31.9% related to HIV testing information including free testing services available from HIV Ireland, 20.3% related to information about the stages of HIV infection, 13.5% related to PrEP, and 12.4% of page views were of the online testing locator map.



### NEWSDESK WEEKLY

The HIV Ireland NewsDesk Weekly includes news and updates on relevant national, European and international news and policy issues about HIV, hepatitis and sexual health-related issues.

This service is provided free by HIV Ireland to a range of organisations and individuals involved and interested in these areas and offers a summary of relevant weekly news highlights from various sources including national and local print media, and related-websites.

26 editions of NewsDesk Weekly were published in 2019, with a 13% increase in subscribers to the NewsDesk, which you can subscribe to on our website.

### FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

At the end of 2019, our Facebook and Twitter platforms have just over 11,000 followers between them.

With an average of 8 posts per week on Facebook, we reached a cumulative audience of 384k in 2019. Tweets averaged 130 per month with over 1.6million tweet impressions in 2019.

Campaigns and trending hashtags included #5Asks, #ZeroDiscrimination, #SHAG2019, #WomensHealthIE, #JustCarryOne, #GHF2019, #SmokingandHIV, #IrishAIDSDay, #FastTrackCities, #RedBall, #UequalsU, #PrEPforIreland, #EMIS2017Ireland, #WorldAIDSDay.



**Our Work  
in Numbers  
2019**

**460**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PARTICIPANTS.

**95,254**

UNIQUE VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE

**391**

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO RECEIVED HIV AND STI INFORMATION OR SUPPORT AROUND A PARTNER'S, FAMILY MEMBER'S, OR FRIEND'S HIV DIAGNOSIS

**19,145**

INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND BOOKLETS DISTRIBUTED

**211**

RAPID HIV TESTING SESSION IN GAY-IDENTIFIED VENUES

**33**

EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMMES DELIVERED

**2,309**

INTERVENTIONS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

**27**

EVENT & VENUE OUTREACH INTERACTIONS WITH MSM OUTREACH TEAM

**30**

RAPID HIV TESTING VOLUNTEERS

**17,477**

PEOPLE FOLLOW THE JUST CARRY ONE CAMPAIGN

**1,376**

RAPID HIV TESTS PERFORMED IN GAY-IDENTIFIED VENUES

**2**

MSM OUTREACH TEAM

**11,063**

FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

**14**

VOLUNTEERS WHO SUPPORTED OUR WORK IN DIFFERENT CAPACITIES

**1,267**

ONLINE OUTREACH INTERACTIONS WITH MSM OUTREACH TEAM

**151,000**

CONDOMS DISTRIBUTED BY MSM PROGRAMME IN COMMUNITY VENUES

**718**

INDIVIDUALS WHO PRESENTED FOR TESTING IN HIV IRELAND'S FREE HIV AND STI TESTING SERVICES IN DUBLIN AND DROGHEDA

**10**

RESEARCH STUDENTS WHO WERE ASSISTED BY HIV IRELAND IN ACCESSING INFORMATION AND RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

**507**

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV WHO RECEIVED SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY SERVICES

**18,260**

JUST CARRY ONE CONDOMS DISTRIBUTED

**95**

% INCREASE OF UNIQUE VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE COMPARED TO 2018

**70**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SESSIONS CONDUCTED ON THE STREET, AT SPORTING EVENTS, AND IN MIGRANT BUSINESSES AND SOCIAL SPACES IN DUBLIN AND DROGHEDA

**25**

FACE-TO-FACE SUPPORT SESSIONS WITH MSM OUTREACH TEAM

**1,470**

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS MET ON STREET OUTREACH TO GROUPS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY HIV AND WHO RECEIVED FREE CONDOMS AND SEXUAL HEALTH AND TESTING INFORMATION

**146,000**

LUBE DISTRIBUTED BY MSM PROGRAMME IN COMMUNITY VENUES

# Community Employment Scheme

## DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME (JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2019)

This annual report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2019.

Community Employment (CE) Scheme is a Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) funded intervention that provides practical work experience for the long-term unemployed. It also provides them with relevant accredited training, to enhance their post-CE employment prospects, or their access to full-time education. HIV Ireland is approved for 17 participants.

The year started with twelve staff engaged in various positions, including Receptionists, Administrative Assistants, a Health Information Worker, Coffee Shop Assistants, and General Operatives/Cleaners. As a reflection of the diversity of our CE workforce, they originate from countries including Mauritius, Russia, Poland, Estonia, Zambia, Italy, Romania, and of course Ireland. Approximately half of participants receive their practical work experience with our sub-sponsor organisations - Cairde, Outhouse and New Communities Partnership (NCP).

Many participants are already into their second and third years on CE and have already obtained several QQI and industry-recognised certifications. QQI Level 5 courses successfully completed this year include Reception and

Frontline Office Skills (x2), Cleaning Professional Skills, Customer Service, Food Safety and HACCP. Other courses successfully completed include the World Barista Association accredited "Licence to Work" certificate, as well as English Language and Literacy Skills courses with the Dublin Adult Learning Centre (DALC) and the City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDET). All participants have successfully completed the mandatory HSE-approved *An Introduction to Children First* certificate course and one is currently engaged in a QQI Level 8 Bachelor of Business (Hons) degree course in International Business with Dorset College, Dublin.

Problems populating available vacancies continued throughout the year – a reflection of the national low unemployment rate. However, the overall internal staff progression was 100%. Of those that completed their contracts during the year, two progressed into part-time employment.

2019 ended with 13 active participants and four vacancies.

# Financial Report

# Financial Report

## DUBLIN AIDS ALLIANCE LIMITED TRADING AS HIV IRELAND

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Summarised Financial Statement extracted from the Director's report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2019

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019		2018	
	€	€	€	€
<b>Income</b>				
Donations & Fundraising	119,992		76,244	
HSE Dublin North City Social Inclusion	307,994		308,000	
HSE National Social Inclusion	22,000		22,000	
D.S.P.	234,349		233,537	
HSE (NICDAFT)	68,400		68,400	
HSE Health & Well Being	137,433		129,310	
HSE (SHCPP)	1,072		-	
Other grants	116,406		88,389	
Other income	11,018		19,015	
	<u>1,018,664</u>		<u>944,985</u>	
		1,018,664		944,985
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Salaries incl. Employer's PRSI	670,698		592,792	
Training & Consultancy	29,960		3,842	
Rent payable	36,470		36,530	
Project costs	172,069		221,614	
Combined Overheads	59,665		49,545	
	<u>968,862</u>		<u>904,323</u>	
		968,862		904,323

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019		2018
	€	€	€
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	51,099		28,200
Cash at bank and in hand	293,300		240,387
	<u>344,399</u>		<u>268,587</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<u>(183,284)</u>		<u>(157,273)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>161,115</u>		<u>111,314</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>161,115</u>		<u>111,314</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
<i>General Fund (Unrestricted)</i>	<u>161,115</u>		<u>111,314</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>161,115</u>		<u>111,314</u>

## Executive Director



In October, HIV Ireland appointed Stephen O'Hare as its new Executive Director. Stephen has over 15 years' experience in leadership and advocacy within Ireland's human rights civil society sector. Prior to his most recent position as Chief Executive Officer with Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI), Stephen worked in both management and senior policy positions with the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Pavee Point, and the National Council for Ageing and Older People. Stephen is a qualified barrister and social researcher with experience leading high profile initiatives to promote human rights, equality, and inclusion. He has worked on numerous human rights campaigns including the referendum on Marriage Equality (2015), the Convention on the Constitution (2013) and the referendum on Oireachtas Inquiries (2011). He has contributed to many key human rights and LGBTI+ strategic initiatives including the Review of the Gender Recognition Act 2015, the National LGBTI+ Strategy and the first and second examinations of Ireland under the UN's Universal Periodic Review mechanism.



In July 2019, Niall Mulligan departed his role as Executive Director of HIV Ireland to take up a new position as Executive Director of Samaritans Ireland. Niall was appointed Executive Director of HIV Ireland in 2015. During his time with HIV Ireland, Niall oversaw many key developments within the organisation including the development and implementation of the organisation's strategic plan, the development of a human rights and harm reduction approach, and Ireland's recent commitment to the global Fast-Track Cities initiative.

## Acknowledgements

HIV Ireland would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to all who worked with and supported our organisation throughout 2019.

The Directors holding office during the year comprised Bernard Condon (Chairperson), Jeanne McDonagh, Tim Lee (Treasurer), Fergal O'Sullivan, Claire Power, Gerry Kennedy (Company Secretary), Dr Patrick Mallon, Stephen Rourke (departed May 2019)

**Executive Director:** Stephen O' Hare (appointed October 2019), Niall Mulligan (departed July 2019)

**Administration:** Marie Hamilton (Office Manager), Patricia Dillon-Killeen, Olusola Martin Ade-Onojobi, (CE Supervisor), Charity Makala, Tara Sinclair, Aideen Healy-Brady, Karl Stritch (departed September 2019)

**Community Support staff team 2019:** Dr Erin Nugent, Anthony Newsome, Evonne Mushonga (appointed July 2019), and Richard Boyle.

**Volunteers 2019:** Joel Biongo, Gerald Browne, Barbara Lunga, Peter Kellegher, Martha Mutanda, Guylaine Ndonga Mbaki, Patrick Murphy, Luiz Gasparelli Junior, Rachel McCann, and Louise Hogan.

**Volunteer Counsellors:** Arnaud Bongrand and Arran Whelan

**Work Placement:** Francesca Scully and Garech Murphy

**Prevention Education & Training Programme staff team:** Susan Donlon, Sue Carter, Silvana Avigliano.

**MSM Programme Team:** Adam Shanley (Manager), Diego Caixeta and Mark Doyle + 30 Volunteers

### Our Express thanks to our principle funders...

Health Service Executive Northern Area; Health Service Executive Office for Social Inclusion, Health Service Executive Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme. Department of Social Protection, Parnell St; North Inner-City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force; MAC AIDS Fund; Open Society Foundation, TUSLA.

### ... We wish to thank the individuals and companies who supported our Red Ball 2019

Byrne Wallace, Canada Life International Assurance, Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Gilead, LinkedIn, The Bar Council; Camille O'Sullivan, Eamon O'Connor, Jack O'Rourke, Panti Bliss, Rugs Ukulele; Jay M. Cashman, Joe Caslin, Michael Coleman, Coppinger Row, My Dental, John Farrington Antiques, Brenda Fitzsimons, "The Garden" Powerscourt Town Centre, Guinness Storehouse, Nadine King, Bernadette Madden, Atelier Maser, Mondello Park, Paula Rowan, Café Rubis, Barbara Stack, Niall Sweeney, Chupi Sweetman, Annie West, Vivienne Clarke, Craig Dwyer, Ross Flanagan, Paul J Franey, Alan Hatton, Karl Hayden, JB Isabelle, Patrick Sweeney.

### ... We wish to thank the individuals and companies who donated or fundraised for us in 2019, including

AIB Pride Matters Employee Resource Group, Allianz Pride Network, Diageo, Deloitte, Dublin Front Runners, Dublin Pride, EY, Ulster Bank Ireland Rainbow Network, Mercer Ireland, Microsoft, Roundtower Housing Association, Rotunda Hospital, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland, and State Street.

### .... and additional organisations and individuals for their support in 2019

Dr Derval Igoe, Kate O'Donnell, Melissa Brady and the team at the Health Protection Surveillance Centre; Maeve O'Brien, Caroline Hurley, Janice Donlon, Anita Butt, Helen Deeley,

Owen Brennan Ray Madden and all at the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme; Dr Aisling Loy, Dr Fiona Lyons, Grainne Kelly, Sinead Murphy, Laura Quinn, Clara O'Neill, and Marie Burke and all at the GUIDE clinic, St. James's Hospital; The Pharmacy team at St. James's Hospital; Dr Justin Low and Clio Milner, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda; Lisa Donaghy, RGN; Louise Mahoney and the Team at the Red Door Project, Drogheda; the Medical Social Workers of Beaumont Hospital, Mater Hospital, St. James's Hospital, and St Vincent's Hospital; David Field and all at the Mater Hospital STI Clinic, Clarence Soliman, St. Vincent's Hospital; Dr PJ Boyle, Áine Lambe, Linda McDonnell, and the medical and social work team of Baleskin Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers; Dr Fiona O'Reilly, Dr Maitiú O'Tuathail, Debbie Marshal, Emma Coughlan and all at Safetynet; Dr Kiran Santlal and all at the Club Drug Clinic at the National Drug Treatment Centre; Graham Ryall and all at the Rialto Community Drug Team; Dr Chris Noone and all at the Health Behaviour Change Research Group at NUI Galway; Dr Stephen Field, Dr Louise Pomeroy and all at the Irish Blood Transfusion Service; Dr Charles T. Witzel, Sigma Research Group, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr Ray O'Neill, Machna; Adam Stubb, Ronan Lynskey, Grainne Farrell and the team at GSK; Dáire Ryan, Sylvia Alfred and the team at Gilead; Michael Krone, Ferenc Bagyinszky, Oksana Panochenko and the team at AIDS Action Europe; Declan Hayden, Dublin City Council; Dr Maria Quinlan; Jacquie Richardson and the team at Positive Life, Northern Ireland; Ken McCue and Perry Ogden, Sports Against Racism Ireland; Paul Neale, and the staff of Capital Financial Planning; Karen Sutton and the Griffith College Law Department; Graham Ryall and the Rialto Community Drug Team; Lysander Preston, Irish Institute of Legal Executives; Margaret Horan and Co. Solicitors; O'Connor Bergin Solicitors; Maureen Gourley, Sinead Lucy, and the team at FLAC; Sinead Fitzpatrick and the team at The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; Dr Aislinn O'Donnell, Maynooth University; Eoin McReamoinn, Oxford University; Fr. Joseph Loftus; John Paul O'Brien; Mary Shannon, David

Shannon, of the Irish Names Quilt; Trish Conway; Dublin MAC Cosmetic staff; Jamie Kelly and the JK Academy Dancers and their parents; Paula O'Brien; the staff of Sankalpa Addiction Services; Siobhan O'Dea, Colm O'Sullivan and all at the Gay Men's Health Service; all the shops and businesses on Frederick Street, Henry Street, Moore Street, Parnell Street, and in Drogheda town who support our street outreach work. Adobe Foundation Community Fund; Minister Catherine Byrne, TD; Irish Family Planning Association; Avril Hickey & Michael Kiernan, Foróige; Noeleen Jennings, North West Inner City Network; Brigid McKeever, Dóchas Centre – Irish Prison Service; Emma Whitty, Ferns Diocesan Youth Service; Abigail O'Reilly, Talbot Centre; Mediaplanet Ireland; Paddy Mallon, Consultant in Infectious Diseases at St. Vincent's Hospital; Noeline White, Smoking Cessation Officer at the Mater Hospital; Gerald Browne, Positive Now; Peter Daly, NiQuitin; Rory O'Neill, aka Panti Bliss; Gareth Thomas; Trinity College Students Union; Guinness; Nadine Ferris France, Irish Forum for Global Health & The Work for Change; Sarah O'Connor and the team at SATU; Shane Harte, Emma Parkes, Rory O'Neill and all at Pantibar; Sophie McDonald and all at The Geroge Bar and Club; Jimmy Lacey and all at the Boilerhouse Sauna;

Martha Whyte and all at Outhouse LGBT Community Centre; Lisa Connell, Peter Dunne and all at Gay Community News; Jed Dowling, Eddie McGuinness and all at Dublin LGBTQ Pride; Noel Sutton and all at the Gay Health Network; The members of ACTUP Dublin; Brian Merriman and all at the International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival;

Jenny Bulbulia BL; Emmett Patterson and all at Grindr for Equality; Barry Mulcahy and all at Ulster Bank Rainbow Network; Francisco Figueroa and all at Allianz Pride Network;

Orlaith Ross and all at Science Gallery Dublin; John Lannin, Ursula Liston, Aoife Nash, Declan Groves and all at GLEAM Microsoft; Megan Reilly, Darren Malone, Roisin Donovan and all the Union of Students of Ireland; Kate McGrew, Linda Kavanagh, Paul Ryan and all at the Sex Workers Alliance of Ireland; Garrett White, photographer; Fanchea Gibson and the Office of the Lord Mayor of Dublin; Paul McAuliffe TD (formerly Lord Mayor of Dublin).



#### **SPECIAL THANK YOU**

We wish to thank Diageo Ireland and their employees who ran a Christmas Table Quiz, raising €18,000 for HIV Ireland. The MCs for the night were Shane Colman and Bunny O'Hare pictured below.

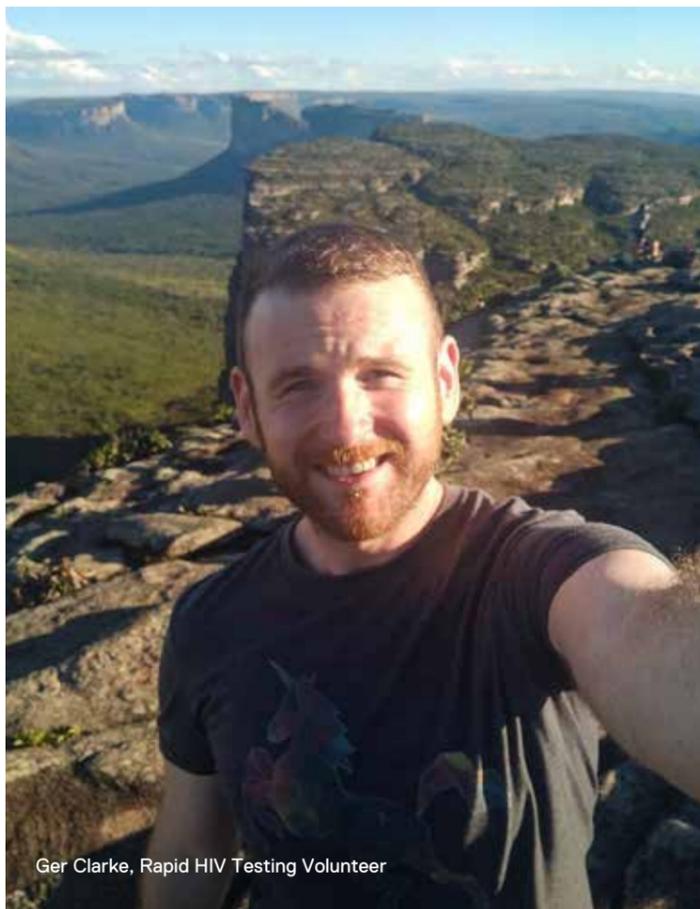


#### **COVID-19**

The emergence of the Sars-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19 at the end of 2019, and which has since developed into a global pandemic, has placed a considerable burden on Ireland's health and social care services. Many people have lost loved ones and the impact on family and community life throughout Ireland has been profound.

HIV Ireland would like to pay tribute to the extraordinary efforts of colleagues - in hospitals, in primary and community care settings - right across Ireland who have risen to meet this challenge.

Special mention goes to Prof Paddy Mallon, Professor of Microbial Diseases at UCD and Consultant in Infectious Diseases at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin and current board member of HIV Ireland. Prof Mallon has played a leading role in educating people about COVID 19 and, together with his colleagues working on the frontline right throughout the health services, treating many of those who have fallen ill as a result of the disease. We join with Paddy in urging everyone to stay safe by continuing to wash your hands, maintain physical distancing and to wear appropriate face coverings where required. We are all in this together.



Ger Clarke, Rapid HIV Testing Volunteer

**SPECIAL MENTION**

Our friend and rapid testing volunteer, Ger Clarke, passed away unexpectedly in February 2019. Ger was a kind, generous and gentle person with a wonderful sense of humour. He offered an abundance of kindness to all those he met - a gentleman who will be sorely missed but fondly remembered by us all.



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