



**FSS Lárionad Faire
um Chosaint Sláinte**

25 - 27 Sráid
Ghairdinéir, Baile Átha
Cliath, D01A4A3, Éire

**HSE Health Protection
Surveillance Centre**

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22nd February 2024

Ivana Bacik
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: To ask the Minister for Health the number of diagnoses of HIV, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis, pubic lice and HPV in each of the past five years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Bacik,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Please find below data on the annual number of diagnoses of HIV, gonorrhoea, chlamydia and syphilis from 2018 to 2023 (up to 15/10/2023).

Table 1 provides the annual number of diagnoses of HIV, gonorrhoea, chlamydia and syphilis from 2018 to 2023 (up to 15/10/2023). This data is correct at time of publication but is subject to ongoing review and validation. Pubic lice and HPV are not notifiable diseases in Ireland therefore HPSC cannot provide information on these diseases.

Table 1: Total number of HIV, gonorrhoea, chlamydia and syphilis diagnoses by year, 2018 to 2023

See notes on page 2

	HIV ¹	Gonorrhoea	Chlamydia	Early Infectious Syphilis
2018	518	2402	7926	506
2019	527	2801	9167	785
2020	438	2061	6944	604
2021	400	2093	7208	713
2022	884	4063	10938	891
2023 (up to 15/10/2023)	749	5432	10668	765

Data extracted from CIDR (Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting) System 16/10/2023

Notes:

- In January 2021, a pilot project on free home STI testing was launched in three counties (Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow) for those aged 17 years and older living in Ireland. Additional counties were included over time, and free home STI testing has been available nationwide since October 2022. The service aims to improve access and

¹ Includes all HIV diagnoses in Ireland, including in those previously diagnosed with HIV elsewhere



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capacity for STI testing and diagnostics for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and HIV (with some users offered a hepatitis B and C test as required). This increased capacity for STI testing likely led to better case ascertainment and could in part explain the recent increases in STI notifications in Ireland. Further details on the home STI testing service can be found on <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/sexual-health/sexually-transmitted-infections/sti-testing/home-sti-test/>

- In 2022, HIV diagnoses increased considerably compared to previous years, with 884 diagnoses during 2022. However, it is important to note the majority of HIV diagnoses in 2022 are in those who were previously diagnosed outside Ireland (where history of previous diagnosis is known). People with a previous HIV diagnosis are included in the national data as it is their first diagnosis in Ireland. However, it is important to distinguish between people who were previously diagnosed from those who were not, in order to understand the epidemiology of HIV in Ireland and the impact of prevention campaigns.

Latest reports:

- Latest HIV surveillance data and reports (to the end of 2022) can be found on <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/hivandaids/hivdataandreports/>.
- Latest annual STI surveillance report (to the end of 2022) can be found on <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/>
- Latest weekly HIV and STI report can be found on <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/stiweeklyreports/>

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Gregory Martin

Director of HPSC

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