GMHS Welcome Launch of EMIS 2010

- ECDC publish EMIS 2010 The European Men-Who-Have-Sex-With-Men Internet Survey*. Available to download or order at [www.emis-project.eu](http://www.emis-project.eu) and [www.emis-project.eu/national-reports](http://www.emis-project.eu/national-reports).

- In welcoming the availability of the publication Mick Quinlan, Manager of the Gay Men’s Health Service HSE (GMHS) and national lead for EMIS 2010, said “this important survey among MSM in Ireland and Europe saw the largest ever response to a survey for MSM”. As well as this main report there are two country (All Ireland) reports available at [www.ghn.ie](http://www.ghn.ie) or [www.gmhs.ie](http://www.gmhs.ie) and [http://www.emis-project.eu/national-reports](http://www.emis-project.eu/national-reports).

- “This EMIS 2010 data has been already useful in planning services and programme such as man2man.ie and this Technical report will be invaluable for contribution to a National Sexual Health Strategy.”

- This EMIS 2010 report comprises the findings of an internet survey among men who have sex with men (MSM) from 38 European countries, making a total sample of over 180,000 men across Europe. It is the largest transnational survey among MSM ever conducted. The survey focused on knowledge of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sexual behaviour and the use of services for HIV and sexual health. The results show considerable differences across the 38 national samples, reflecting the diversity in Europe with respect to the cultural and legal conditions affecting MSM (ECDC 2013).

- The presentation following was made at the 11th Annual Gay Health Forum (GHF 11) held at Dr Steven’s Hospital, June 21st 2013 by Daniel McCartney (Researcher GHN).

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EMIS: The Final Report

Findings from the 2010 European MSM Internet Survey

Republic of Ireland

Gay Health Forum 11
21 June 2013

Daniel McCartney
GHN

Mick Quinlan (GMHS)

Susan Donlon (GHN)
EMIS Report

• Findings of internet survey among MSM from 38 European countries – over 180,000
• Largest transnational survey among MSM ever conducted in world
• Total of 2610 respondents (RoI: 2194; NI: 416) represents largest survey ever conducted in Ireland
• Two All-Ireland reports already published

EMIS 2010

• Joint technical report released at end of May 2013
• Countries grouped into 9 sub-regions for comparison
• RoI grouped within West sub-region
  – Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and the UK
Key Findings

1. Sexual happiness
2. HIV testing
3. HIV prevalence
4. Testing for other STIs
5. Sexual behaviour
6. Sex abroad
7. Substance use
8. Homophobia
9. HIV-related knowledge
10. Migration

Key Demographics

- 31 years median age among RoI respondents (Euro median age 30)
- 50% of RoI respondents living in cities over 500,000 (Euro median 48%)
- 70% of RoI highly educated (Euro median 60%)
- 9% RoI unemployed (6% Euro median)
  - Highest in West sub-region
- 78% identified as ‘gay’ (72% Euro median)
  - Lowest in West sub-region
53% of RoI were happy with their sex life, slightly less than Euro median of 55%

Reasons for unhappiness:
1. Not having a regular (steady) sexual partner (#1 Euro)
2. Not as confident as want to be (#3 Euro)
3. Want more sex with partner(s) (#2 Euro)
HIV Testing

- Majority across Europe reported access to free or affordable HIV testing
- 17% in RoI reported inaccessibility, higher than the median across Europe (10%)
  - Testing more accessible in urban than rural
- 37% of men remained untested in RoI, same as the Euro median
  - Testing less likely among young MSM and MSM with lower education

Figure 5.3: Proportion of respondents who had been tested for HIV in the past 12 months
• 6% of RoI respondents indicated were living with HIV (Euro median 4%)
• 10% among tested in RoI (Euro median 7%)
• 3% newly diagnosed in RoI (during previous 12 months among tested), same as Euro median
• 93% reported access to medical care and monitoring, same as among Euro respondents
• 75% of RoI receiving ART, greater than Euro median of 67%
• 91% of RoI were confident they could receive an STI test if needed (Euro median 88%)
• 38% of RoI indicated receiving an STI test in past 12 months (Euro median 30%)
• 68% of RoI included inspection of anal and penile areas (Euro median 18%)
• 55% of RoI were in need of vaccination against hepatitis B (Euro median 50%)
• Similar to European median, half of RoI respondents had first same-sex experience before 18, and first anal intercourse before 20
• 80% of RoI reported one or more non-steady sexual partners in previous 12 months (Euro median 74%)
• 30% of RoI with non-steady partners reported non-concordant UAI (Euro median 25%)
• 16% of RoI reported UAI in previous 12 months solely because no condoms available (Euro median 14%)
EMIS 2010

38% of RoI respondents reported sex abroad in previous 12 months, greater than European median of 26%
  - Spain and England most commonly cited destinations (Germany second among all Euro)
61% reported anal intercourse with last sexual partner abroad (Euro median 62%)
  - Of these men, 28% reported UAI (Euro median 24%)
- 41% of RoI reported alcohol use in past 24 hours (Euro median 37%)
- 24% of RoI respondents were concerned about their alcohol consumption, significantly great than European median of 13%
- Greater use of recreational drugs in last four weeks compared to median European use
- Concerns about recreational drug use higher with 6% of RoI concerned (Euro median 3%)
Homophobia

• Complex scoring of ‘internalised homonegativity’
• Overall score for RoI respondents lower than median, but greater than most western European countries
• In previous 12 months, RoI respondents more likely to report being:
  – Stared at or intimated (40% vs. 33%)
  – Verbally insulted (33% vs. 28%)
  – Punched, hit, kicked or beaten (4% vs. 3%)
HIV-related Knowledge

- High knowledge in RoI related to HIV testing (93%) and HIV transmission (80%), same as European median
  - Lowest among West and Central-West Europe
- Knowledge about transmission of STIs (66%) and PEP (37%) was greater in RoI than median
- Overall, RoI scored lower than neighbouring countries

Figure 11.1: Mean overall knowledge scores across 38 countries
Migration

• 15% of respondents born in RoI were living in one of the other 37 EMIS countries
  – 79% were living elsewhere in the West sub-region (UK, Belgium, France, or the Netherlands)
• Higher proportion of expatriates compared to median of 11% across Europe.
Migration

• A total of 22% of RoI respondents were born outside of country
  – Migrants more likely to be over 25, live in a large city, have high education, and feel lonely
  – More commonly reported having more sexual partners, use more recreational drugs, and been diagnosed with HIV/STIs in past 12 months

• Report recommends prevention interventions be tailored towards group, including social support