

GMHS 19



THE ANNUAL REPORT 2011 GAY MEN'S HEALTH SERVICE, HSE

In 2011 GMHS reached its 19th year and it remains the only statutory, dedicated sexual health service for gay, bisexual men and men who have sex with men (MSM) in the Republic of Ireland. The GMHS multidisciplinary team runs the twice weekly clinic for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) at Baggot Street Hospital. During each three hour clinic the team can guarantee to see a minimum of 30 clients for doctors (STI Screens) and 60 clients for nursing procedures (blood test, vaccines etc). It has a regular (sessional) team of doctors, nurses, health advisor, counsellors, clerical officers, and assistants. Medical governance is provided by a consultant in infectious diseases, and there is a full time service manager, nurse and clerical officer. The team hold regular medical audits and review of the standards operation procedures.

At the 9th Annual Gay Health Forum (GHF9) held in Dublin Castle in June 2011, the HSE National Director for Integrated Services (Performance and Financial Management), Laverne McGuinness, acknowledged the valuable work of the GMHS saying: "At a time when the country is facing unprecedented financial difficulties, it is heartening to see that a service such as this can meet a current and growing demand. This is due in no small part to the dedication of the team delivering this professional and friendly service."

In 2011 the demands on GMHS remained un-abated and the high numbers of men attending highlights the need for this critical service. In 2011 there was 5,823 attendances (an increase of 36% over 2010). 783 men were first-time attendees (plus 14%) with 37% aged 24 and younger. Up to 9,000 MSM have now registered at GMHS since 1997. Nearly one in five clients reside outside Dublin City and County and 39% were born in 52 countries other than on the island of Ireland. Over 11,900 charts and 29,000 results were administered and over 3,400 men were sent results by SMS.

Correspondingly there was an increase in the number of medical procedures of 25%, with at least one-in-nine clients receiving some sort of diagnosis. Overall over 550 men received some sort of a diagnosis, and of these;

- 461 men were treated for an STI, Gonorrhoea (n=232) or Chlamydia (n=229); of these 37% were new attendees.
- 46 men were treated for syphilis; of these 93% were new attendees.
- 38 men were diagnosed with HIV and of these 53% were new attendees (further details are contained in this report).

Fulfilling its statutory duty the GMHS health advisor saw these men in relation to follow-up and partner notification in relation to a diagnosis.

Therapeutic support and interventions is important regarding emotional well being, risk taking, self esteem and assertiveness. Pre and post HIV test counselling at the GMHS clinic was supplied to over 750 men. Ongoing counselling provided at Outhouse LGBT Community Centre by sessional counsellors was supplied to over 76 people in 680 sessions. There were two of the very popular Assertiveness and Personal Development Courses at Outhouse bringing the total to 41 courses.

Having Fun?

STI CHECKPOINT

A free, friendly and confidential service for gay, bisexual men, men who have sex with men and transgender people.

Time to get checked!

WALK IN

STI CHECKPOINT, GMHS CLINIC,

Baggot Street Hospital, 18 Upper Baggot St., Dublin 4.
(Opposite 39a bus stop) T: 01 6699 553 E: gmhsclinic@hse.ie

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

Doors Open 5.00pm to 7.30pm

ALL SERVICES ARE FREE - INCLUDING:

- Full STI Screening, Blood Tests for HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis.
- Hepatitis Vaccine, Genital Warts and other Treatments.
- Information, Advice, Counselling, Support, Condoms & Lubricant.
- We can arrange an ISL interpreter; SMS 087 9410 934 one day before clinic.
- We can arrange foreign language interpreter; please telephone one day before clinic.
- Admin Office: Mon to Thurs 10.00am to 5.00pm T: 01 6699 553 E: gmhsclinic@hse.ie

Please Note: This is a sexual health service only and we will refer clients on to other services for other health needs.



PROMOTING HIV PREVENTION AND SEXUAL HEALTH AWARENESS AMONG MSM

In Ireland 40% of the people newly diagnosed with HIV are MSM and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre www.hpsc.ie has said that “sex between men is now the predominant mode of transmission in Ireland.” In the nine and a half years 2002 to June 2011 the trend continued to be upwards with nearly 860 MSM diagnosed with HIV in this period. Recent reports highlight the importance of testing and early treatment if needed. Also other STIs such as syphilis can cause serious illness if left untreated and can be a co-factor in acquiring HIV. The European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC), the UNAIDS, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Ireland’s National AIDS Strategy Committee (NASC) have all outlined the importance of specific services aimed at MSM. “Interventions to control HIV among MSM should be the cornerstone of HIV prevention strategies in countries in western Europe.” (ECDC 2010).

In Ireland GMHS and Gay Health Network (GHN) has led the way in HIV prevention. An important event in 2011 was the launch of the 1st National HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Awareness Programme for MSM. This HSE and GHN initiative is a year long programme in four phases and particularly targets MSM outside urban areas and those living in Dublin North East and Dublin Mid Leinster regions. Further detail at www.Man2Man.ie.

In launching the programme, Roisin Shortall TD., Minister of State for Primary Care, spoke about her concern of the high rates of HIV among MSM, saying “It is essential we identify the reasons for this and deliver targeted prevention programmes in order to address this situation”... “and to increase access and encourage younger men and men living in rural areas to test for HIV”.

Promotion of and increasing access to testing is an essential component of GMHS. It has contributed to this by:

- supporting and organising the Annual Gay Health Forum (GHF) at Dublin Castle along with GHN and supported by the Department of Health Social Inclusion Unit.
- continuing to supply condoms and lubricant as part of HIV prevention initiatives
- research and producing reports from the All-Ireland MSM Internet Surveys. The 2nd Community Report launched in July 2011 - <http://www.emis-project.eu/community-report-2> was prepared by a team of Collaborating Partners headed by GMHS
- promoting at LGBT Pride events and in GCN magazine and social media awareness of and access to HIV and STI screening services for MSM
- presenting at the National PEP Conference and other international events

GMHS continues to work in partnership with the Gay Health Network (GHN), Outhouse (LGBT Community Centre) and BeLonGToYouth Service amongst others. GMHS is also represented on

NASC, SWAI (Sex Workers Alliance Ireland), the HSE Advisory Group working on the strategic framework and action plan for LGBT health and two European Networks, The Correlation Network and the EMIS Project (European MSM Internet Survey).

Next October 6th 2012 the Gay Men’s Health Service (GMHS) will be 20 years in service. Also next June 8th GMHS and GHN will celebrate the 10th Annual All Ireland Gay Health Forum at Dublin Castle. These landmark occasions provide an opportunity for recognition of the continued partnership approaches to HIV Prevention and sexual health awareness among MSM in Ireland.



Protect yourself...

...We're worth protecting

HIV infection is increasing in Ireland. Let's value our sexual health and protect each other when having sex.

You are. He is. We are worth protecting. Learn more about safer sex, HIV and our sexual health at Man2Man.ie or call *01 872 1055 (Gay Switchboard Dublin).

Man2Man.ie
Check it out!

A GHN & HSE initiative | © Gay Health Network 2011 | 2012



Get tested...

...We're worth protecting

Get tested. Get treated. Take the healthy option and get a free and confidential HIV test.

You are. He is. We are worth protecting. Learn more about HIV testing at Man2Man.ie or call *01 872 1055 (Gay Switchboard Dublin).

Man2Man.ie
Check it out!

A GHN & HSE initiative | © Gay Health Network 2011 | 2012

GMHS CLINIC DETAILS FOR 2011

The GMHS STI clinic operates on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at Baggot St Hospital, Dublin 4 and the doors open from 5pm to 7.45pm (the doctors see clients from 6pm to 8.30pm). The Multi Disciplinary Team provides a free, friendly, confidential and professional service which is very welcomed by clients. As mentioned demands on the clinic continues to rise. The graph provides details in numbers.

NUMBERS FOR GMHS CLINIC IN 2011

102 Clinics 51 Tues and 51 Weds 5,823 client attendees for Tues and Wed Clinics (2,386 Client Walk-ins and 2,618 Appointments)	4116 Nursing Contacts +25% over 2010 290 men received treatment (for Syphilis or GC)
783 First-Time Clients +14% over 2010	2769 Syphilis Tests +25% over 2010
7,120 charts for medical administration (assemble charts, results, file etc) (includes 2,840 results sent by SMS)	2,089 HIV test +14% over 2009
Clerical Admin: 11,800 charts for medical administration (assemble charts, results, file etc) 3048 men sent results by SMS Filing of 29,000 results	2648 HIV tests +27% over 2010 890 Hepatitis B Tests (-) 968 Hepatitis A Test +19% 1695 Hepatitis C Test +64% 1110 Post Hepatitis Vaccine Blood Test +23% 1411 Hepatitis Vaccine +28%
Checking of results by Nurse 29,000	550 plus men seen by the health advisors
3,475 Medical Consultations / STI screens	780 Counselling sessions

DIAGNOSIS AT THE GMHS CLINIC 2011

There were approximately 555 positive diagnosis made up of the following;

- 461 STI diagnosis (123% increase over 2010)
Note: 73 men had multiple STIs
- 38 HIV diagnosis (31% increase over 2010),
- 46 Treatable syphilis slightly less than in 2010
(but 39% increase among new attendees).

A significant percentage of men diagnosed were aged 29 and younger.

AGE RANGE	<24	25 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50>
STIs n=461	27%	30%	28%	9%	5%
Syphilis n=46	22%	22%	35%	15%	4%
HIV n=38	7%	38%	34%	14%	2%

Many of those receiving a diagnosis, (39% STIs, 48% HIV and 93% syphilis), were first time attendees to the clinic and this is expanded on in the next section.

PROFILES OF FIRST TIME ATTENDEES

In-depth reporting on first time attendees to the clinic is important as it helps to assess the impact of and access to services. It also provides an indication of prevalence among this cohort, as for most it is the first time they have tested for STIs, HIV or Syphilis including the Hepatitis test and vaccine.

AGE PROFILE OF NEW ATTENDEES

285 (37%) of the new attendees were aged 24 and younger, a 16% increase when compared to 2010 (there was a 51% increase in men aged 19 and younger).

AGE RANGE	<20	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60>
2011 n=783	59 (8%)	226 (29%)	214 (27%)	185 (24%)	63 (8%)	27 (3%)	9 (1%)
2010 n=686	39 (6%)	206 (30%)	185 (27%)	165 (24%)	55 (8%)	25 (4%)	11 (2%)

PLACE OF RESIDENCE (n=781)

Most of the new attendees, 652 (83%), resided in Dublin city and county (85% in 2010), with a significant number 122 (16%) living in other parts of Ireland. 7(1%) lived abroad.

ETHNIC AND CULTURAL PROFILES (n=783)

Those not born on the island of Ireland are increasing rising from 35% in 2009 to 39% in 2011.

WHERE BORN	2009 (n=655)	2010 (n=686)	2011 (n=783)
Island of Ireland	65%	64%	61%
Abroad	35%	36%	39%

Over 50 countries were represented and of the 307 attending in 2011: 29% were born in Brazil, 11% (England, Scotland or Wales), 10% Poland and 4% each for France, Italy, USA and Spain.

GMHS introduced Ethnic Coding in Sept 2011; of the n=290 registered to end December, 84% identified as White Irish, Irish Traveller and other white, and 16% as Asian, African, mixed race or other.

FIRST TIME ATTENDEES TO GMHS AND DIAGNOSIS

In 2011 over 202 men, or 26% of the 783 first time attendees, received a diagnosis compared to 16% in 2010, an 87% increase.

169 were treated for an STI Gonorrhoea (78) or Chlamydia(91); a 60% increase compared to 2010.

43 (6%) had infectious treatable syphilis; a 41% increase compared to 2010.

20 (3%) had a positive HIV diagnoses; a 43% increase compared to 2010.

Nearly half of those diagnosed with an STI were aged 24 and younger rising to three quarters for those aged 29 and younger. One in four of those treated for Syphilis or diagnosed with HIV were aged 24 and younger.

n=686	<24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50>
STIs n=169	40%	37%	16%	7%	1%
Syphilis n=43	26%	21%	40%	12%	2%
HIV n=20	25%	15%	35%	20%	5%

PREVALENCE BY AGE

The prevalence rate within each age group compared to the overall rate (in the left column) provides a clearer indication. I.E. of those aged 24 and less, 24% received an STI diagnosis while 4% were treated for syphilis and 2% were diagnosed with HIV.

2010 n=783	<24 (n=285)	25-29 (n=214)	30-39 (n=185)	40-49 (n=63)	50> (n=36)
Syphilis n=43 (5%)	11(4%)	9(4%)	17(9%)	5(8%)	1(3%)
STIs n=169 (22%)	68(24%)	63(26%)	17(9%)	12(19%)	2(6%)
HIV n=20 (3%)	5(2%)	3(1%)	7(4%)	4(6%)	1(3%)

IMPLICATIONS:

The STI and syphilis prevalence rate among the younger age group perhaps reflects the increase in uptake of the GMHS service by this group and also highlights the need for ongoing targeted information as envisaged in the GHN & HSE, National HIV Prevention and Awareness Programme.

This report, combined with research findings and the reports by the HPSC, clearly shows that continued promotion of, and increased access to, HIV testing and STI services is as critical as ever.



GAY MEN'S HEALTH SERVICE

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN AND FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

BAGGOT ST HOSPITAL, DUBLIN 4

T: +353 1 669 9553 F: +353 1 669 9597 E: gmhsadmin@hse.ie

W: www.gmhs.ie for Services, Reports and Links



FE Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

The PDC is for gay and bisexual men and is free of charge. It is series 6 of weekly workshops held on Tuesday evenings at Outhouse.

THE AIM OF THE COURSE IS:

- To help you become more aware of yourself.
- To improve self esteem and assertiveness.
- To meet new people and expand your social network.
- To learn practical ways of dealing with day to day situations.
- Personal development is all about making positive changes in your life and improving your health and well-being.
- It can be both fun and challenging and helps you learn coping skills for everyday situations.

Take the next step, contact us, to find out more or to book your place.

T: 01 873 4932 E: info@outhouse.ie

GMHS and Outhouse, 105 Capel Street, Dublin 1.

www.gmhs.ie for services www.Man2Man.ie for information on sexual health.

