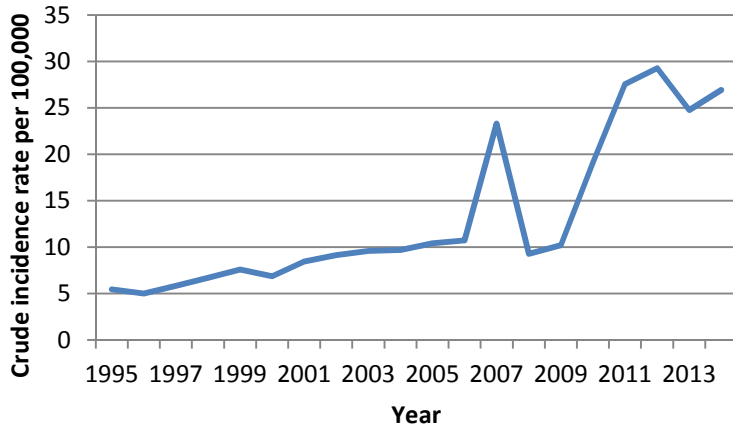


In 2104, all laboratories reported herpes simplex (genital) data via the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system. All cases of herpes simplex (genital) reported by clinicians were also entered into CIDR.

Figure 1 Trend in CIR of herpes simplex (genital) in Ireland, 1995-2014

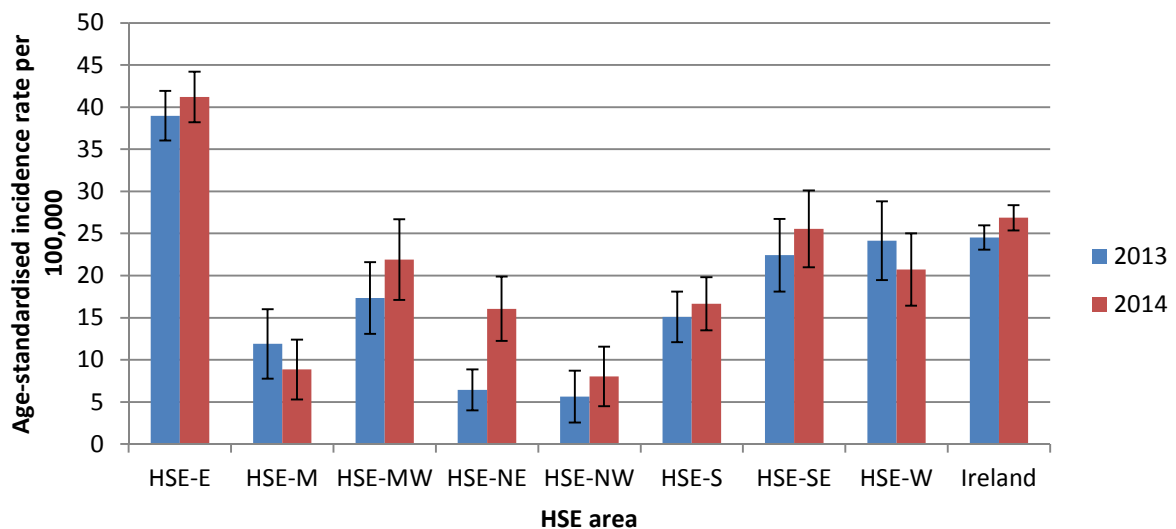


As of 14th September, 2015, there were 1,235 cases of herpes simplex (genital) notified in Ireland during 2014 corresponding to a crude incidence rate (CIR) of 26.9 per 100,000 population, a small increase from 2013 (24.8/100,000) (figure 1). The CIR among men in 2014 was 13.4/100,000 and 39.9/100,000 among women.

Ninety-four percent of cases notified in 2014 were laboratory confirmed while 6% were probable (clinically compatible) cases. Most cases were reported as herpes simplex virus (HSV) type 1 (42%) and 31% as HSV type 2; subtype was not reported for 27% of cases.

Cases were reported from all HSE areas with the majority (64%) reported in HSE East. The highest ASIR was in HSE East (41.2/100,000) followed by HSE Southeast (25.5/100,000) and HSE Midwest (21.9/100,000) (figure 2).

Figure 2 Age-standardised incidence rate of herpes simplex (genital) by HSE area, 2014

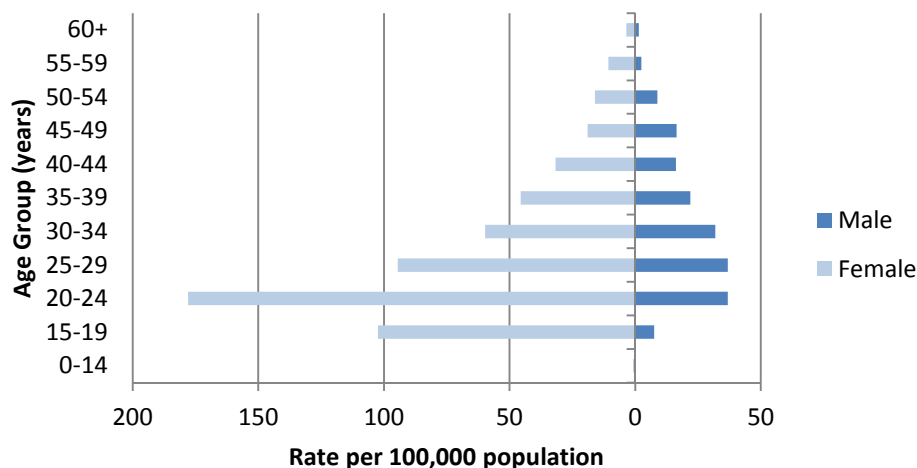


The median age was 27 years (range 14-71 years). The median age among women (26 years; age range 14-71 years) was lower than men (31 years; age range 16-71 years). The highest age-specific rate was among those aged 20-24 years (108.3/100,000) (table 1). The rate among women (178/100,000) was almost five times greater than among men (36.8/100,000) in this age-group (figure 3).

Table 1 Age-specific incidence rate, number and percentage of herpes simplex (genital) cases by age group and gender, 2014

Age group (years)	Male		Female		Unknown		Total		Age-specific incidence rate
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
0-14	1	0.3	4	0.4	0	0.0	5	0.4	0.5
15-19	11	3.6	142	15.4	0	0.0	153	12.4	54.1
20-24	54	17.7	268	29.0	1	16.7	323	26.2	108.3
25-29	64	21.0	177	19.2	1	16.7	242	19.6	66.7
30-34	62	20.3	119	12.9	2	33.3	183	14.8	45.9
35-39	40	13.1	83	9.0	0	0.0	123	10.0	33.8
40-44	27	8.9	52	5.6	2	33.3	81	6.6	23.9
45-49	25	8.2	29	3.1	0	0.0	54	4.4	17.7
50+	20	6.6	49	5.3	0	0.0	69	5.6	5.4
Unknown	1	0.3	1	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.2	-
Total	305	100.0	924	100.0	6	100	1235	100.0	-

Figure 3 Age and gender-specific rates of herpes simplex (genital), 2014



Patient type (reflecting the service at which the patient was diagnosed) was recorded for 40% (n=497) of herpes simplex (genital) cases in 2014. Where patient type was reported, 47% were diagnosed in STI clinics (hospital out-patients) and 45% in general practice (n=319). Eight percent of cases were diagnosed in emergency departments or other hospital settings. Some patients diagnosed with herpes simplex (genital) were diagnosed with other STIs during 2014: chlamydia (n=34), gonorrhoea (n=7), hepatitis B (n=2), hepatitis C (n=1), HIV (n=13), LGV (n=1), syphilis (n=4) and trichomoniasis (n=1).

Technical Notes

1. Data are analysed by date of notification in CIDR.
2. Data for this report were extracted from CIDR on 14th September, 2015, and were correct at the time of publication.
3. Percentages are rounded up in the text and provided to one decimal place in the tables.
4. The counties covered by each HSE area are as follows: HSE East: Dublin, Kildare & Wicklow; HSE Midlands: Laois, Longford, Offaly & Westmeath; HSE Midwest: Clare, Limerick & N. Tipperary; HSE Northeast: Cavan, Louth, Meath & Monaghan; HSE Northwest: Donegal, Leitrim & Sligo; HSE South: Kerry & Cork; HSE Southeast: Carlow, Kilkenny, S. Tipperary, Waterford & Wexford; HSE West: Galway, Mayo & Roscommon.
5. Age-standardised incidence rates were calculated using the direct method in which the national population was taken as the standard population. Population data were taken from Census 2011 from the Central Statistics Office. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis: 0-4 years, 5-9 years, 10-14 years, 15-19 years, 20-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years and ≥65 years.