



Annual Epidemiological Report

September 2018

Trichomoniasis in Ireland, 2017

Key Facts

- There were 67 cases of trichomoniasis notified in 2017, a notification rate of 1.4 per 100,000 population
- All reported cases were among females with the highest rate among females aged 20-24 years (8.8/100,000 female population)
- The median age was 32 years (range: 18-89 years)

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Introduction

Trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the protozoan parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis*. Trichomoniasis can affect both males and females, however infection is more common in females. Only about 30% of people infected develop any symptoms, which can range from mild irritation to severe inflammation. Trichomoniasis increases the risk of getting or spreading other STIs, and increases the risk of preterm delivery of babies born to infected mothers [1].

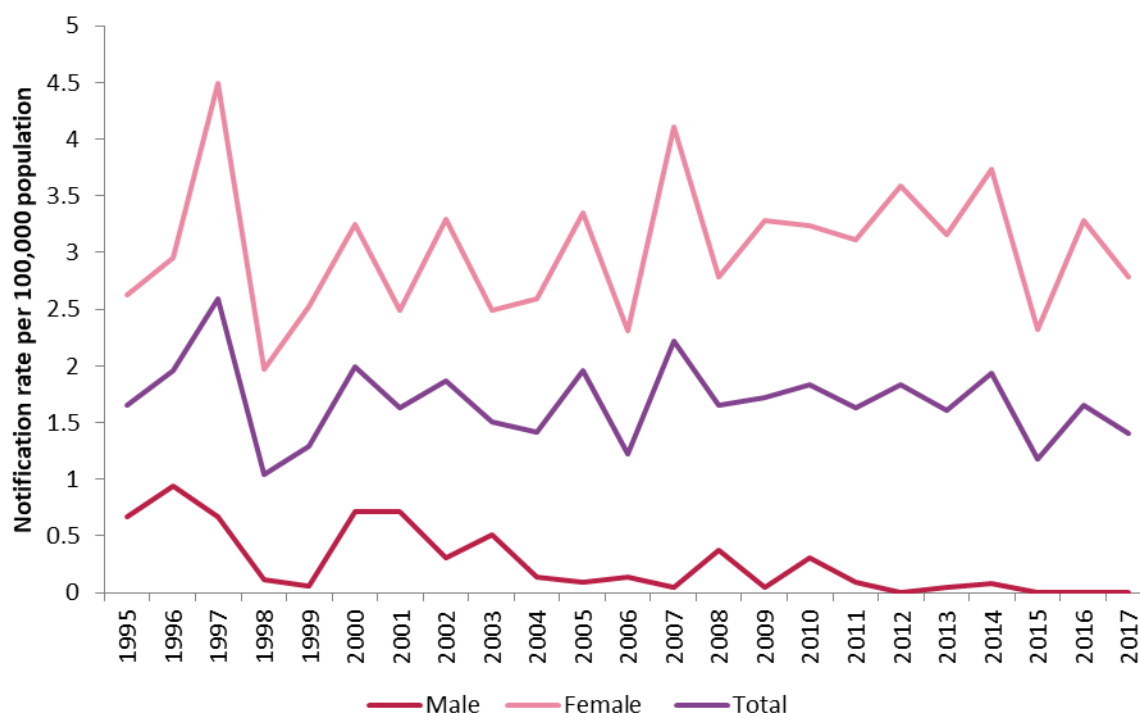
Trichomoniasis is notifiable under the Infectious Disease Regulations in Ireland, all cases are reported via the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system [2].

Epidemiology

Cases and notification rates

There were 67 cases of trichomoniasis notified in Ireland during 2017, a decrease of 15% compared to 2016 (n=79). The notification rate (NR) has remained relatively steady since the early 2000s; the NR in 2017 was 1.4 per 100,000 population (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Notification rate of trichomoniasis in Ireland by sex, 1995-2017

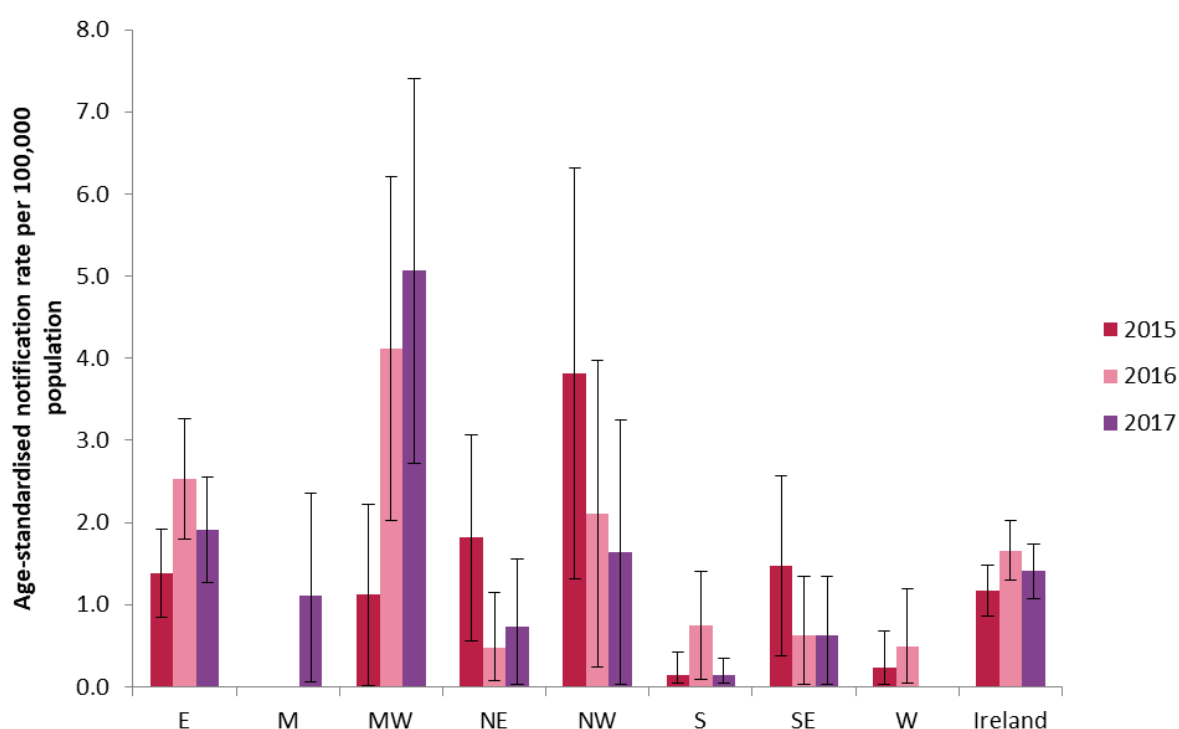


HSE area

In 2017, cases were reported in all HSE areas, except HSE West (W). Just over half of cases ($n=35$; 52%) were reported in HSE East (E). The age-standardised notification rate (ASNR) per 100,000 population was significantly higher than the national rate for HSE Midwest (MW) (5.1/100,000), and significantly lower than the national rate for HSE South (S) (0.2/100,000). Other HSE areas were not significantly different to the national rate (Figure 2).

Data on HSE area should be interpreted with caution. HSE area is based on the clinic and not the patient's address for the vast majority of cases. Consequently, rates and numbers of cases by HSE area reflect the location of STI services as well as differences in reporting practices by clinics and clinicians from one area to another. A list of STI clinics is available at <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/>.

Figure 2: Age-standardised notification rate (with 95% confidence intervals), of trichomoniasis in Ireland by HSE area, 2015-2017[†]



[†]See technical note 3 and 4 for details on the counties covered by each HSE area and ASNR calculation methodology.

Age and sex

All cases were in females. The median age was 32 years (range 18-89 years). The highest age-specific rate among females was in 20-24 year olds (8.8/100,000 female population) (Table 1).

Table 1: Number and notification rate of trichomoniasis among females in Ireland, by age group, 2017

Age group (years)	0-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55+	Total
Number of cases	0	2	12	13	12	5	14	6	1	2	67
Notification rate per 100,000 female population	0.0	1.4	8.8	8.5	6.4	2.5	7.8	3.7	0.7	0.3	2.8

Technical notes

1. Data for this report were extracted from CIDR on 22nd August 2018, and were correct at the time of publication. Information from previous years is updated on an ongoing basis in CIDR, therefore data in this report may be updated in future reports.
2. Percentages are rounded up.
3. The counties covered by each HSE area are as follows: HSE East (E): Dublin, Kildare & Wicklow; HSE Midlands (M): Laois, Longford, Offaly & Westmeath; HSE Midwest (MW): Clare, Limerick & N. Tipperary; HSE Northeast (NE): Cavan, Louth, Meath & Monaghan; HSE Northwest (NW): Donegal, Leitrim & Sligo; HSE South (S): Kerry & Cork; HSE Southeast (SE): Carlow, Kilkenny, S. Tipperary, Waterford & Wexford; HSE West (W): Galway, Mayo & Roscommon.
4. Age-standardised notification rates were calculated using the direct method in which the national population was taken as the standard population. Population data were taken from Census 2016. 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.
5. While efforts are made to remove duplicate records from these data, it is not always possible to link and remove all duplicate records and some patients or disease events may be counted more than once.

Further information

- Previous years' reports are available at <http://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/hivstis/sexuallytransmittedinfections/trichomoniasis/surveillancereports/>, at <http://www.hpsc.ie/about/hpsc/annualreports/> and at <http://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/hivstis/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/>
- Keep up to date with HIV and STIs in Ireland at <http://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/hivstis/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/stiweeklyreports/>

Acknowledgements

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References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017). "Trichomoniasis - CDC Fact Sheet." Retrieved 23 August 2018, from <https://www.cdc.gov/std/trichomonas/stdfact-trichomoniasis.htm>.
2. Government of Ireland. Infectious Diseases (amendment) Regulations 2016 S.I. No. 276 of 2016. 2016 : Ireland. 2016