



# Delivery and monitoring of a national HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programme



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## Background

- HIV PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is taken by HIV negative people before having sex and after sex, to prevent HIV
- HIQA health technology assessment (HTA) conducted in 2019 concluded that the successful implementation of a national PrEP programme would be safe, effective and cost-saving
- Ring-fenced funding was secured from 2020
- Ireland commenced a national HIV PrEP programme in November 2019
- Currently available HIV PrEP is a combination tablet containing two drugs: tenofovir and emtricitabine. These medicines are widely used to treat HIV and have been licensed for use as PrEP in Europe since August 2016.





# National PrEP programme

- Free PrEP medication is available to individuals who meet clinical eligibility criteria, attending HSE approved PrEP services (public PrEP services, some GP's and private providers).
- PrEP medication is dispensed through community pharmacies who are then reimbursed through HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS).
- National PrEP Standards and Guidelines for providers are available on [www.sexualwellbeing.ie/prepproviders](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/prepproviders)
  - PrEP safe starting and stopping quick reference guide
  - Standardised proformas for providers (first/return visit)
- PrEP information for service users is available on [www.sexualwellbeing.ie/prep](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/prep)
  - English, Irish, Ukrainian, Polish, French, Spanish and Portuguese





# National PrEP programme

- Currently 13 public PrEP services and 32 approved GP/private PrEP providers
- PrEP e-learning module developed to improve number of PrEP providers in public and private services (Dec24)
  - 70 completed
  - 15 new approved GP providers in 2025
- Standalone “Taking a Sexual History” module (Apr25)
  - HSELand

Get PrEP



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PrEP  
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Programme

Module 3:  
‘Taking a Sexual  
History’ Module

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# PrEP Monitoring

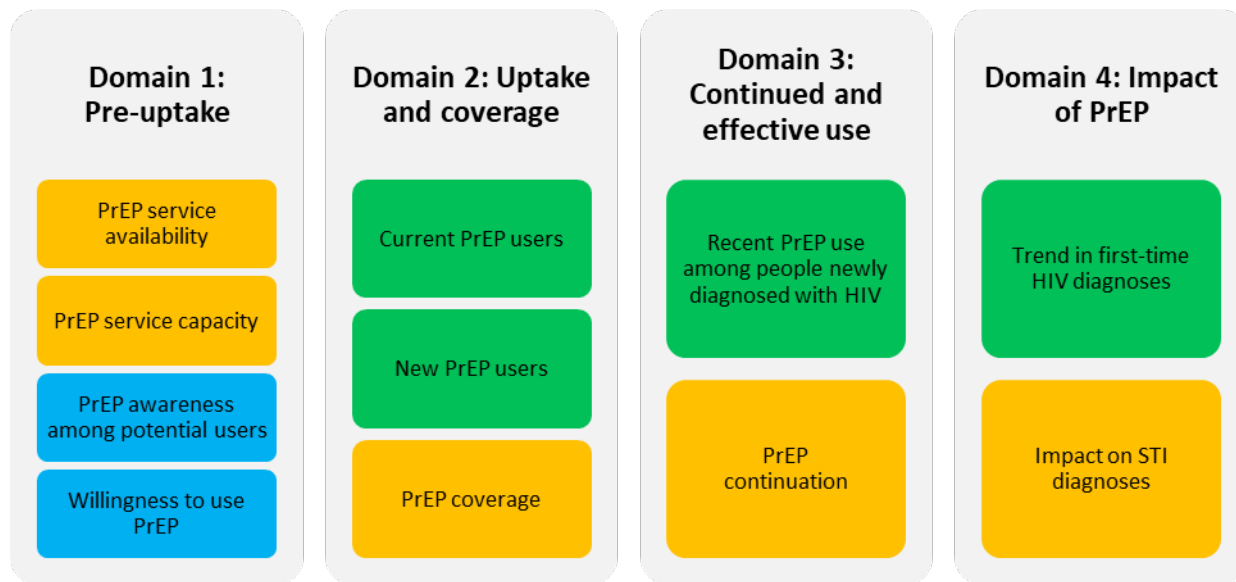
- Understand how PrEP programme performing and to inform future service planning.
- National PrEP M&E Framework published in 2024, updated 2025
  - In line with ECDC framework
  - [www.sexualwellbeing.ie/preproviders](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/preproviders)
- First national PrEP report 2023
  - <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/>





# Key performance indicators (KPIs)

- KPIs agreed with the PrEP Working Group and are monitored nationally



**Figure 1:** Visual matrix of the thematic domains, KPIs and assigned levels of priority (green = core indicator; orange = supplementary indicator; blue = optional indicator)





# Domain 1: Pre-uptake

## Domain 1: Pre-uptake

PrEP service  
availability

PrEP service capacity

PrEP awareness  
among potential users

Willingness to use  
PrEP



# KPI: PrEP service availability

Number of HSE approved PrEP services per 100,000 population by HSE Health Region.

At the end of 2023 there were 0.6 (n=31) HSE approved PrEP services per 100,000 population.

HSE Health Region	Public PrEP services	GP/Private PrEP services	Total PrEP services	Population (rounded)	Per 100,000 population
A: HSE Dublin and North East	2	3	5	1,190,000	0.42
B: HSE Dublin and Midlands	3	9	12	1,080,000	1.11
C: HSE Dublin and South East	2	6	8	970,000	0.82
D: HSE South West	1	0	1	740,000	0.14
E: HSE Midwest	2	0	2	410,000	0.49
F: HSE West and North West	3	0	3	760,000	0.39
National	13	18	31	5,150,000	0.60



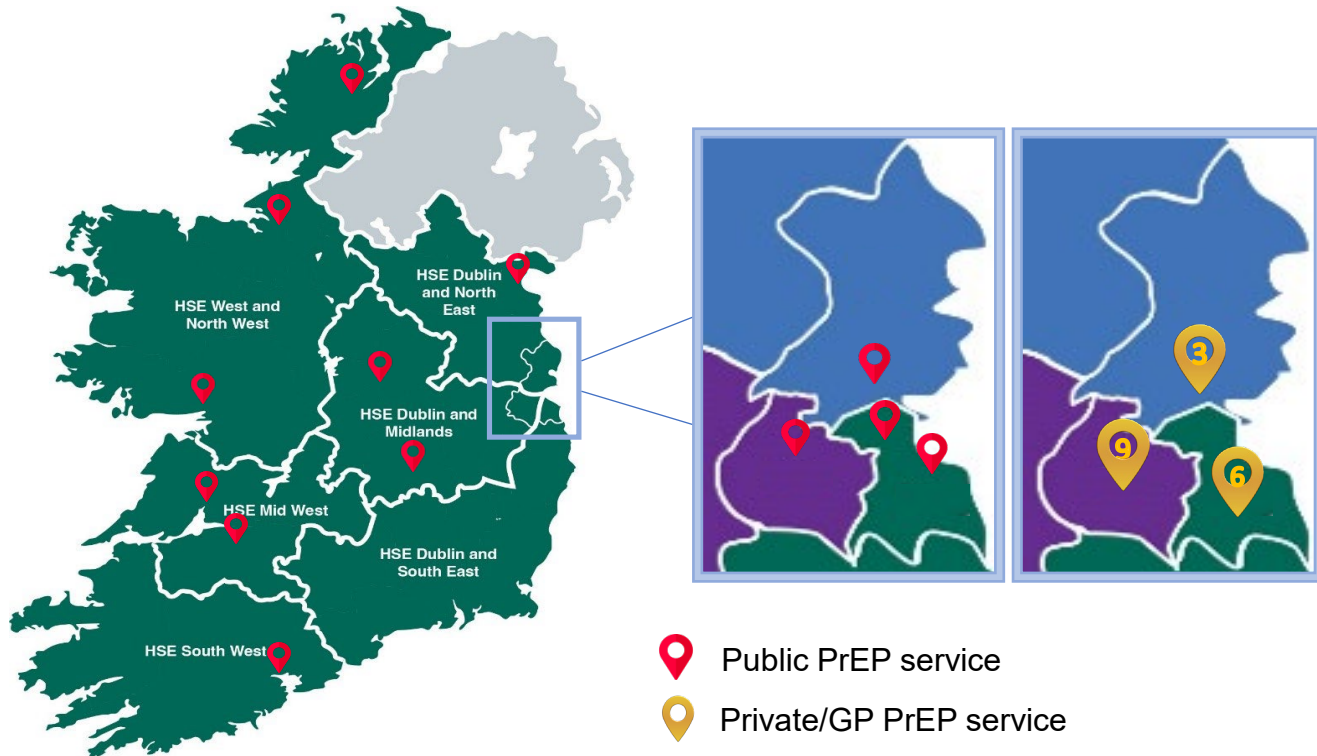
**Limitations:** This ECDC indicator is an imperfect measure of PrEP availability. It does not account for the size of a service and the size of the PrEP team within a service. It also does not take into account the need for PrEP in a given area.





# KPI: PrEP service availability

Geographic distribution of HSE approved PrEP services by HSE Health Region, at the end of 2023.





# KPI: PrEP service capacity

## PrEP quality standard<sup>1</sup>

- It is a core requirement that those seeking PrEP assessment be offered an appointment to be seen within 3 months of making contact with the service.

## Of the Public PrEP services (n=13) at the end of 2023

- 12 (91.3%) were able to offer new appointments to urgent<sup>2</sup> referrals within 3 months
- 6 (46.1%) were able to offer new appointments to self referrals within 3 months



<sup>1</sup> National Standards for the Delivery and Management of PrEP for HIV [www.sexualwellbeing.ie/preproviders](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/preproviders)

<sup>2</sup> Urgent referrals (e.g. immediate transition from PEP to PrEP)



# KPIs: PrEP awareness and willingness to use PrEP

Data only available for the gbMSM population (EMIS-2017<sup>1</sup> survey)

Ireland survey respondents (n = 2,082) were asked if they had heard of PrEP:

- **86% had heard of PrEP**
- 11% were unaware of PrEP
- 3% were not sure

Ireland survey respondents not diagnosed with HIV (n=1,929) were asked “If PrEP was available and affordable to you, how likely would you be to use it?”

- **49% were likely to use PrEP**
- 24% were unlikely to use PrEP
- 27% were unsure





# Domain 2: Uptake and coverage

## Domain 2: Uptake and coverage

Current PrEP users

New PrEP users

PrEP coverage



# KPIs: Current and new PrEP users

Increasing annual trend in PrEP uptake in Ireland, since the programme was launched in 2019.

A total of **9,041** new PrEP users have accessed PrEP through the HSE, since the programme commenced in 2019.

Description	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Q1 2025
Number of individual PrEP users (new & return) approved for free PrEP medication	573	2046	3616	4929	6950	<b>8014</b>	7244
Number of individuals who received PrEP mediation at least once	346	1566	2558	3838	5292	<b>6132</b>	4392
New PrEP users (first PrEP prescription)	346	1467	1399	1670	2020	<b>1724</b>	415
Existing PrEP users (repeat prescription)	0	99	1159	2168	3272	<b>4408</b>	3977



Data provided by PCRS

# KPI: PrEP coverage

The PrEP-to-need ratio compares the number of PrEP users relative to the number of first time HIV diagnoses.

For each first-time HIV diagnosis in 2023, there were 73.3 PrEP users. Females had lower levels of PrEP use relative to epidemic need (the data for females should be interpreted with caution due to the low numbers)

There is currently no benchmark for PnR.

Description	Total	Male	Female
First time HIV diagnoses*	173	119	54
First time HIV diagnoses - probable country of infection Ireland**	72	56	16
PrEP Users	5279	5224	55
PrEP to need ratio (first time diagnoses)	30.5	43.9	1.0
PrEP to need ratio (first time diagnoses with probable country of infection = Ireland)	73.3	93.3	3.4



**\*First-time diagnosis:** HIV diagnosis in Ireland **excluding** those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown.

**\*\*Probable country of infection Ireland (n=72):** This excludes those infected outside Ireland (n=60) who couldn't have benefited from PrEP in Ireland. It also excludes those where probable country of infection was reported as unknown (n=41).

**Ref:** HSE-Health Protection Surveillance Centre. HIV Slideset 2023. Dublin: HPSC; November 2024.



# Domain 3: Continued and effective use

## Domain 3: Continued and effective use

Recent PrEP use  
among people newly  
diagnosed with HIV

PrEP  
continuation



# KPI: Recent PrEP use among people newly diagnosed with HIV (core)

Of the first time HIV diagnoses in 2023, three people were reported\* to have received PrEP in the 12 months prior to their HIV diagnosis.

No individual was reported\* to have been on PrEP at the time of their HIV diagnosis.

Description	Total
First time HIV diagnoses	173
First time HIV diagnoses - probable country of infection Ireland	72
Number of individuals who received PrEP at least once in the 12 months prior to being diagnosed with HIV	3
Number of individuals on PrEP at the time of their HIV diagnosis in Ireland	0

\*HIV enhanced surveillance forms were completed and returned to the Department of Public Health for 83% of people in 2023.

Ref: HSE-Health Protection Surveillance Centre. HIV Slideset 2023. Dublin: HPSC; November 2024.







## KPI: PrEP continuation

**Description:** This indicator aims to describe how many people who started PrEP continue to use it in the 12 months after PrEP initiation.

This data is not available for the 2023 report and will be explored for the 2024 report.





# Domain 4: Impact of PrEP

## Domain 4: Impact of PrEP

Trend in first-time  
HIV diagnoses

Impact on STI  
diagnoses



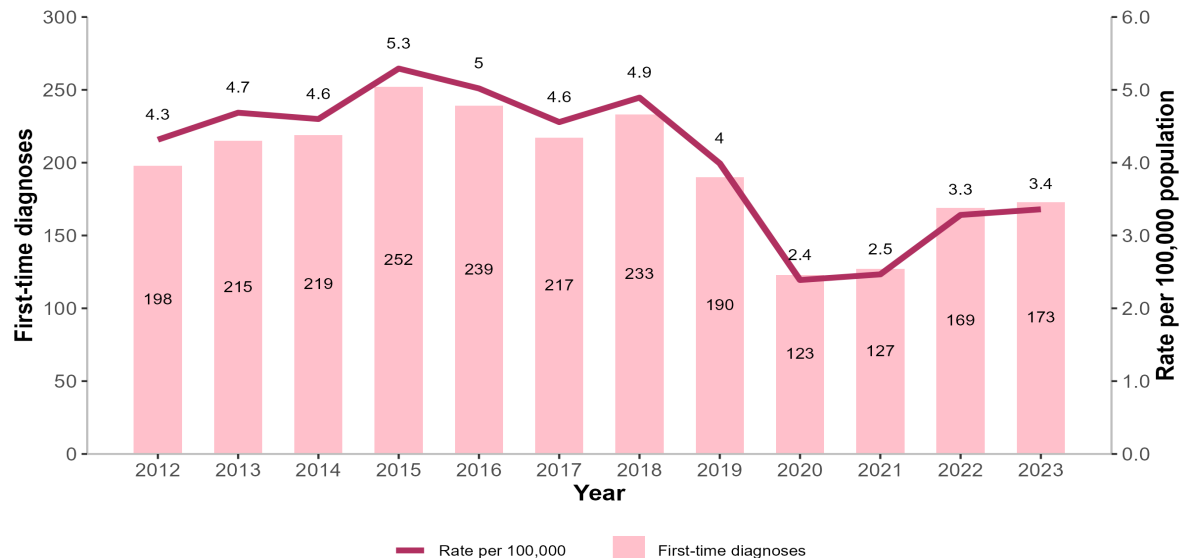
# KPI: Trend in first-time HIV diagnoses (core)

## National data from HPSC HIV report 2023

In 2023, there were 173 first-time HIV diagnoses, giving a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 population

This is similar to the rate in 2022

This is a decreasing trend since 2015



**Figure. HIV diagnoses and rate per 100,000 population in Ireland, 2012 to 2023 (first-time diagnoses)**

**\*First-time diagnosis:** HIV diagnosis in Ireland **excluding** those with a previous HIV diagnosis and those whose previous history of HIV diagnosis is unknown

**Ref:** HSE-Health Protection Surveillance Centre. HIV Slideset 2023. Dublin: HPSC; November 2024.



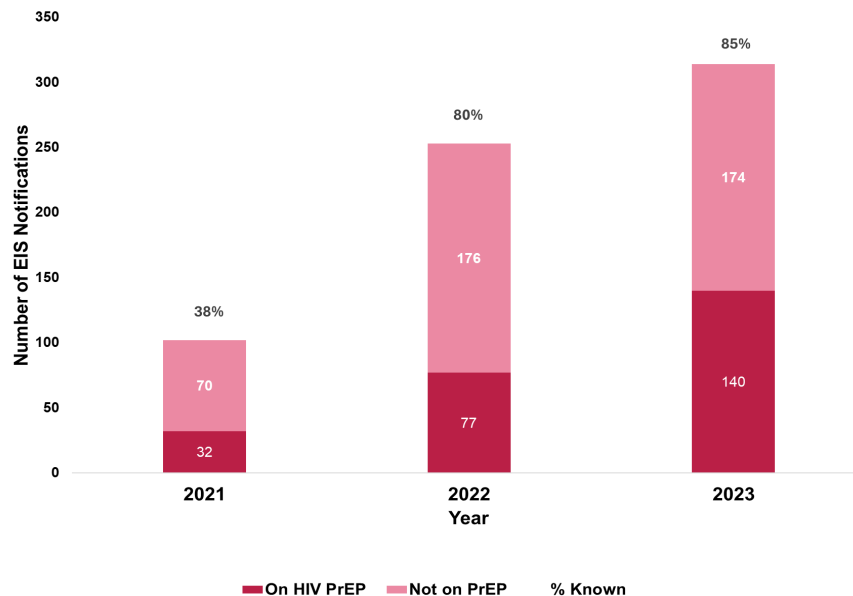


# KPI: Impact on STI diagnoses

## National data from HPSC early infectious syphilis (EIS) report 2023

In 2023 among HIV negative males with EIS

- 44% were on HIV PrEP (up from 30% in 2022)



**Figure. EIS notifications in HIV negative males on HIV PrEP 2021\*-2023**

\*The national HIV PrEP programme started in November 2019. Limited data were available in 2020 likely due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Ref: HSE-Health Protection Surveillance Centre. Early Infectious Syphilis (EIS) Annual Report 2023



# KPI: Impact on STI diagnoses

Data from Home STI testing service in 2023 for gbMSM users.

Those taking PrEP were more likely to have gonorrhoea or chlamydia detected at any site.

Those taking PrEP were more likely to report condomless sex in the 5 days before ordering a home STI test kit.

Characteristic		gbMSM users	Not taking PrEP	Taking PrEP	p-value <sup>2</sup>
Gonorrhoea	Negative	10,170 (92%)	7,449 (93%)	2,721 (90%)	<0.001
	Positive	849 (7.7%)	<b>547 (6.8%)</b>	<b>302 (10.0%)</b>	
Chlamydia	Negative	10,290 (93%)	7,531 (94%)	2,759 (91%)	<0.001
	Positive	729 (6.6%)	<b>465 (5.8%)</b>	<b>264 (8.7%)</b>	
Condomless sex last 5 days	No	8,516 (77%)	6,352 (79%)	2,164 (72%)	<0.001
	Yes	2,503 (23%)	<b>1,644 (21%)</b>	<b>859 (28%)</b>	





## Conclusions and next steps

- Our monitoring is important to understand how the PrEP programme is performing and to inform future service planning
- Continue to monitor trends through our annual reporting
- Continue to work to improve access to PrEP – commenced pilot hybrid PrEP pathway (online and face-to-face), in collaboration with TCD and SH:24.





# Acknowledgements

- HSE Sexual Health Programme (SHP)
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- All staff involved

