A clinical perspective from Ireland



Eoin Feeney

Consultant in Infectious Diseases, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin

Infection Research Ireland, UCD

UCD DUBLIN
Infection Research Ireland
Science · Health · Community

What we do well in Ireland

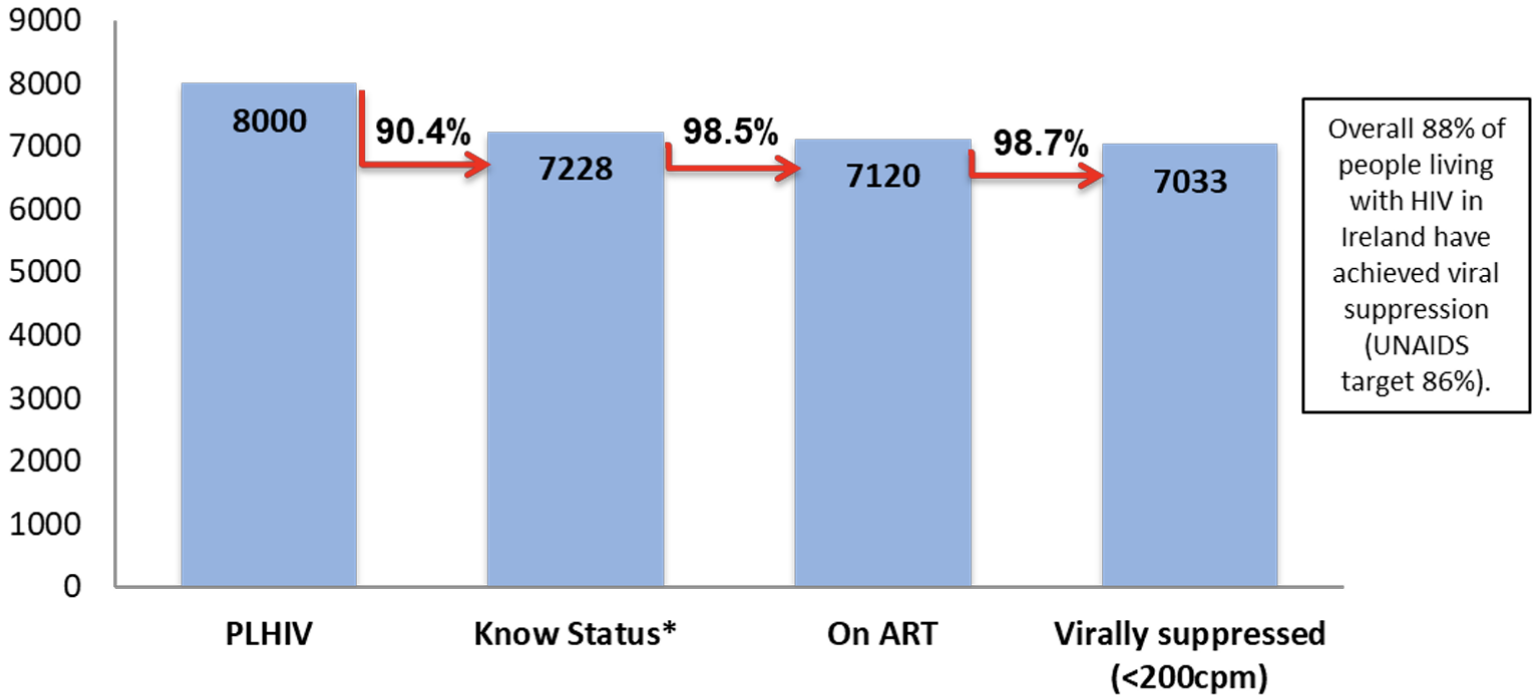
- Free home testing – SH24
- Free PrEP from community / hospital providers
- Widespread antenatal testing for HIV, HBV, HCV
- HIV / HCV antivirals provided free at clinics
- Good linkage to care for those diagnosed with HIV
- HCV numbers falling

UCD DUBLIN
Infection Research Ireland
Science · Health · Community

Problems

- Prevention
  - PrEP clinics / providers oversubscribed, waiting lists exist
  - gbMSM focused
  - No widely available injectable PrEP
- Testing
  - 239 first time HIV diagnoses 2024, 41% diagnosed late
  - Universal BBV screening in ED only performed in one ED - SJH
- Treatment / care
  - Hepatitis B cascade has gaps

HIV – Cascade of care



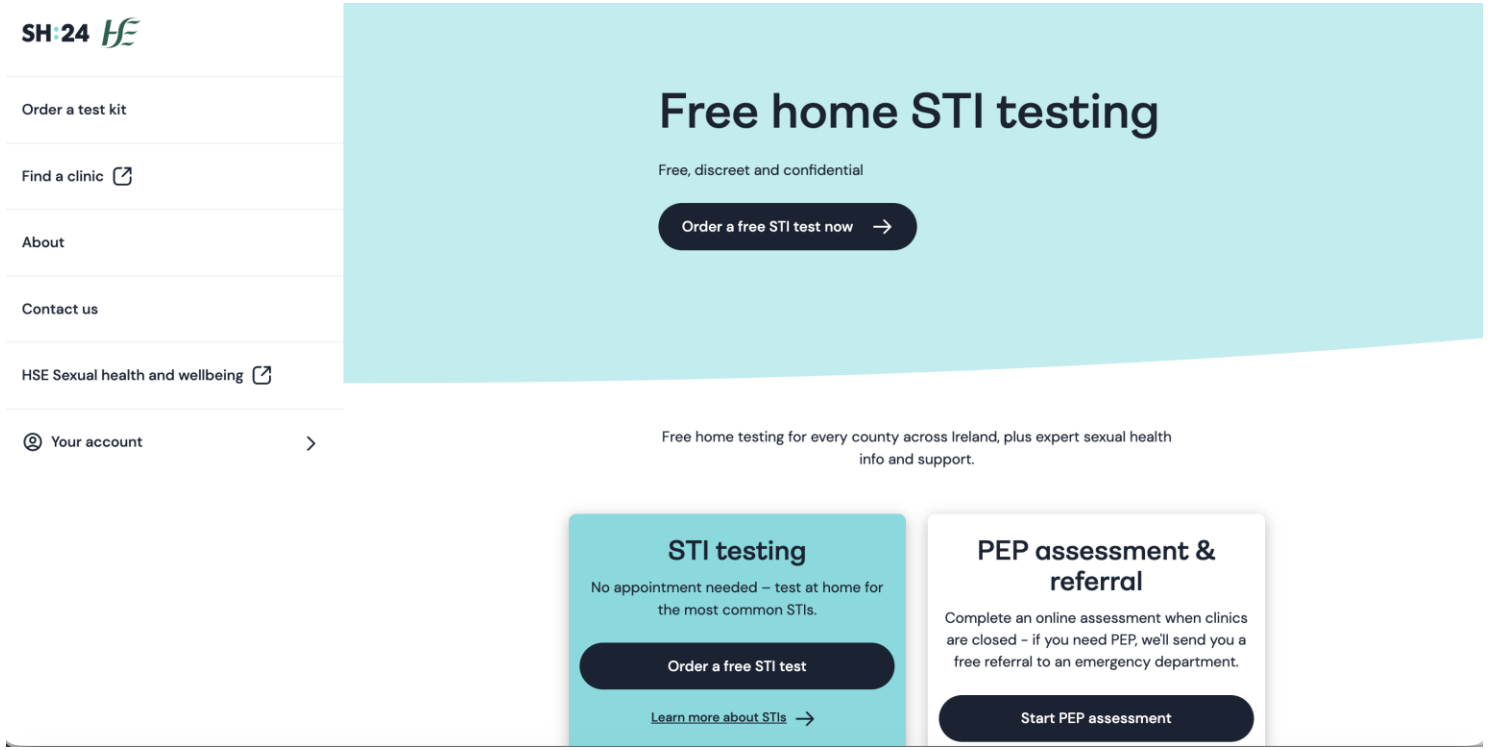
Proportion living with HIV who know their status (90.4%): 95% CI: 77% to >98%
Proportion of those who know their status who are on treatment (98.5%): 95% CI: 84% to >98%
Proportion of those on treatment who have a suppressed viral load (98.7%): 95% CI: 84% to >98%

Figure 9: Progress towards the 95-95-95 UNAIDS targets, Ireland, 2022

hpsc – 2022 Treatment Audit

UCD DUBLIN
Infection Research Ireland
Science · Health · Community

SH24.ie



- Since 2022
- Free online home self testing for HIV, HBV, HCV, chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis
- 47% of all chlamydia diagnoses in 2025
- 27% of gonorrhoea diagnoses
- Posted to home, follow-up arranged where needed
- PEP assessment

UCD DUBLIN
Infection Research Ireland
Science · Health · Community

PrEP in Ireland

- PrEP medication – TDF/FTC- provided free of charge since 2019
- 11,000 individuals have accessed PrEP between 2019 and 2025
- 8521 people prescribed PrEP in Q1 2026 (~2,200 new users)
- 13 approved public PrEP services across Ireland
- 45 GP / Private services

- In July 2026 626 individuals on waiting lists for PrEP
- Predominantly gbMSM focused

HIV – first time diagnoses

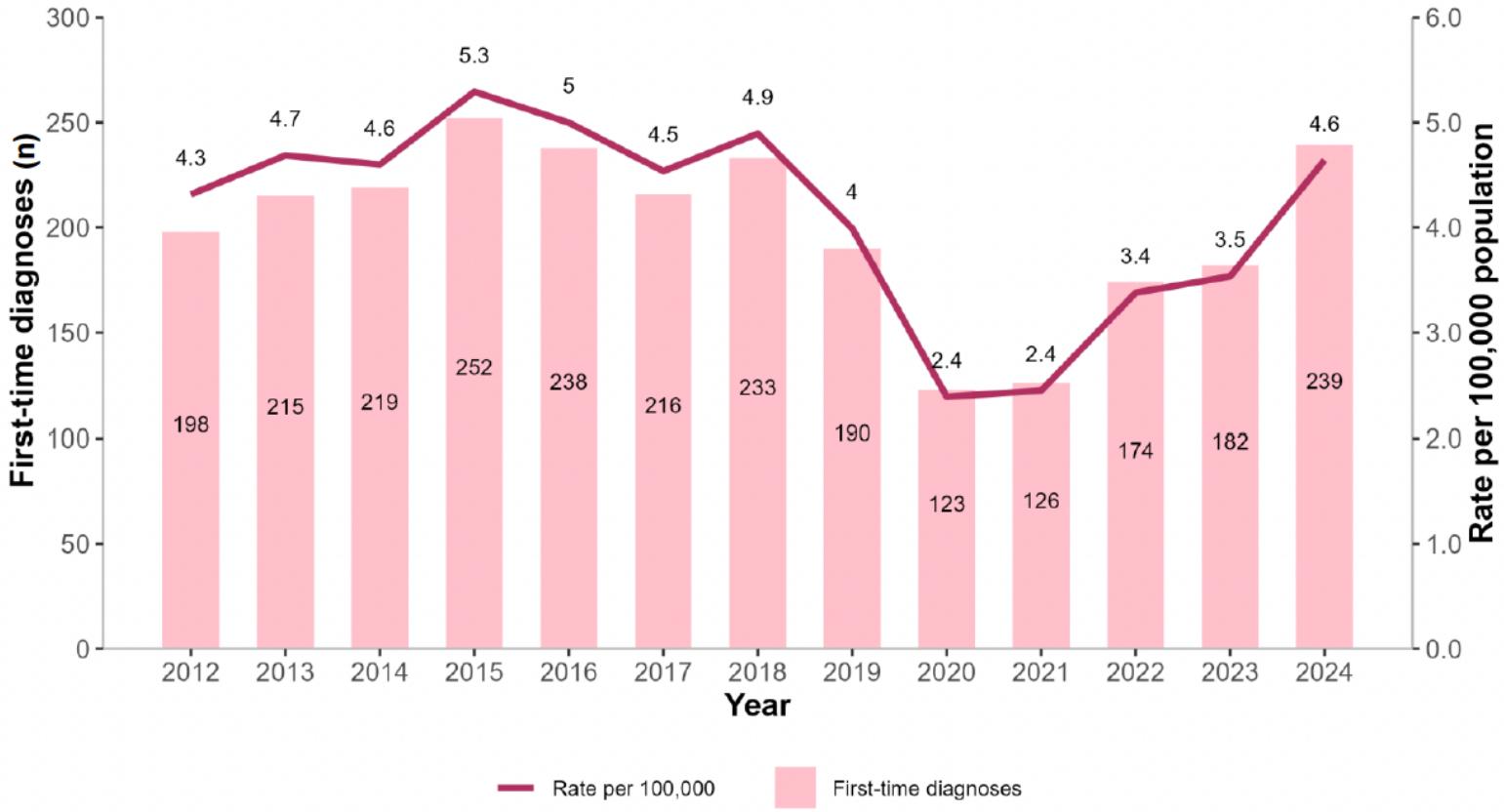
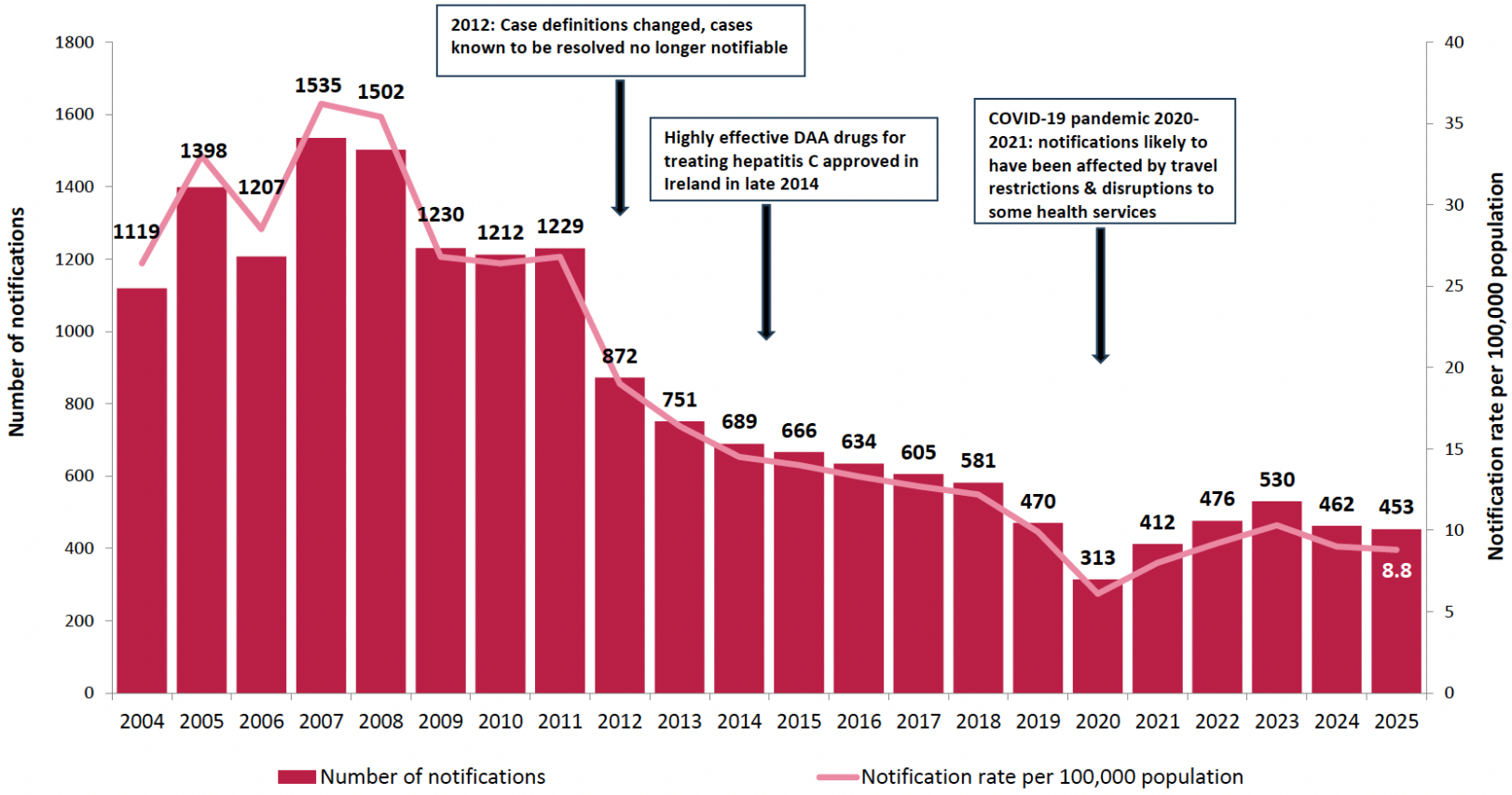


Figure 1. Number of HIV diagnoses and rate per 100,000 population in Ireland, 2012 to 2024 (first-time diagnoses)

- Rising first time diagnoses in 2024
- 67% in men
- 41% late-stage (CD4<350 or AIDS-defining illness)
- Majority (74%) in those born outside Ireland – 30% acquired HIV in Ireland
- 97 new diagnoses in gbMSM

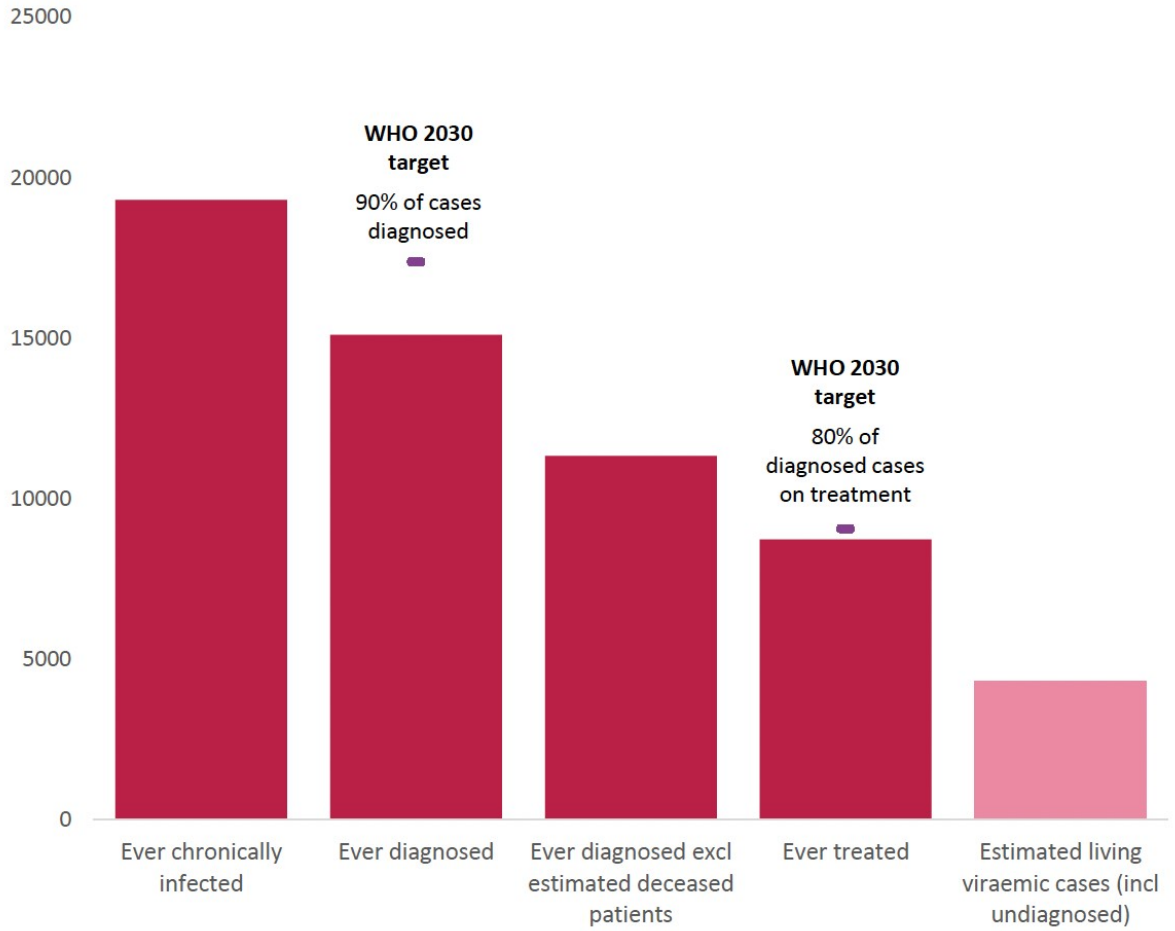
hpsc.ie

Hepatitis C



- 54% decline in notifications since 2012
- Relatively static since 2020
- 35% born outside Ireland (42% no data on country of birth)
- Significant amount from Eastern Europe
- Median age at diagnosis rising

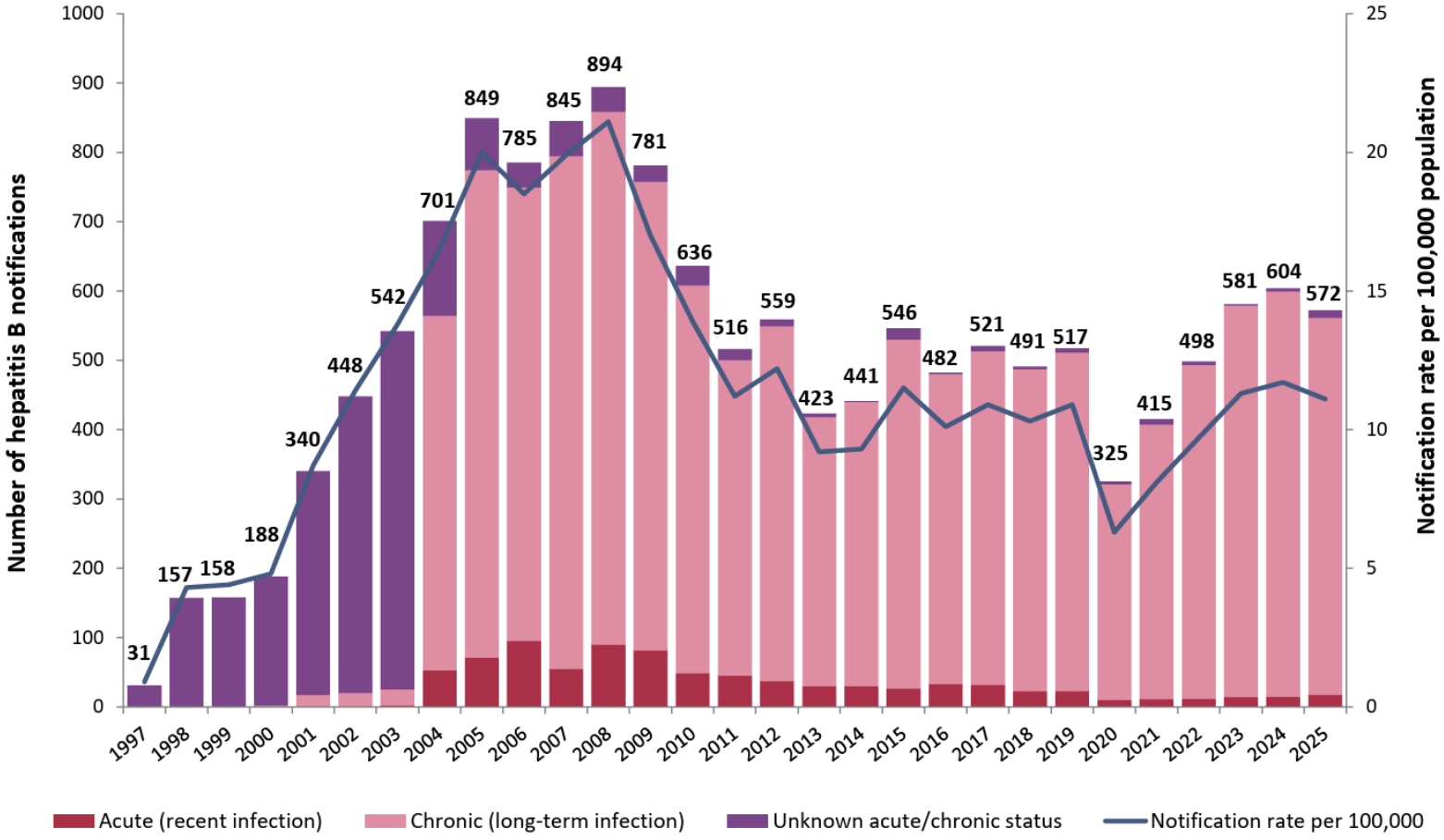
Hepatitis C - Cascade



- Treatment provided at hospitals and drug treatment centres
- Prevalence of viraemic cases modelled at approximately 0.1%
- Approximately 5,000 viraemic cases living in Ireland untreated
- Elimination now dependent on case-finding and care linkage

UCD DUBLIN
Infection Research Ireland
Science · Health · Community

Hepatitis B

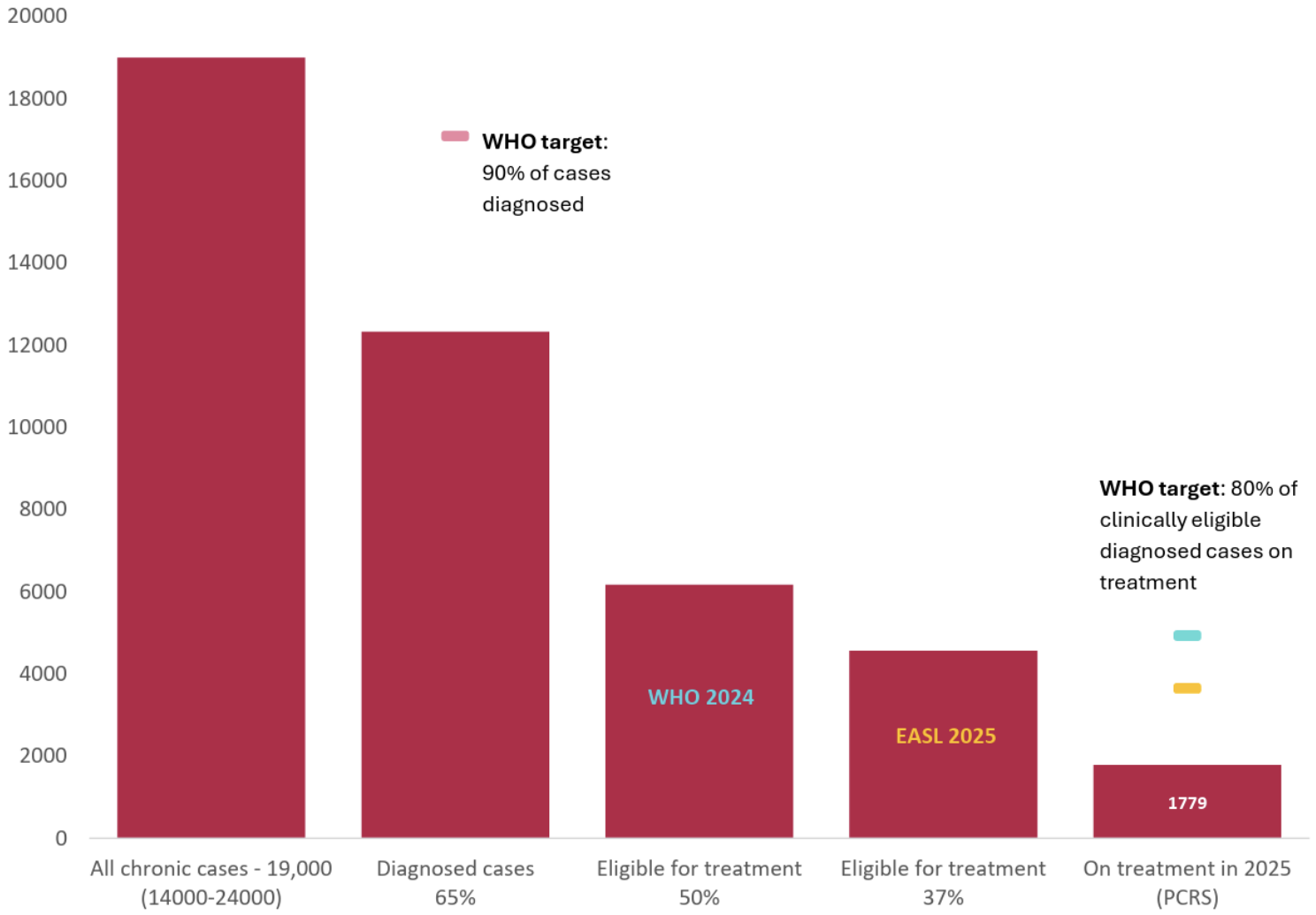


- Prevalence estimated ~ 0.4%
- Relatively stable notifications since 2011
- Majority (96%) new cases chronic infections
- 88% of chronic infections were born outside Ireland (significant missing data)

hpsc.ie

Infection Research Ireland
Science · Health · Community

Hepatitis B - Cascade



- 19,000 cases
- 65% diagnosed
- Newer treatment guidelines (EASL 2025 / WHO 2024) may take time to filter through to practice

UCD DUBLIN
Infection Research Ireland
Science · Health · Community

Summary

- Progress made on testing, diagnosis and prevention
- Significant gaps remain
- 3 priorities
  - Opt-out testing in EDs and normalise routine BBV testing
  - Expand PrEP capacity and access to injectables
  - Close the care cascade



Thank you!