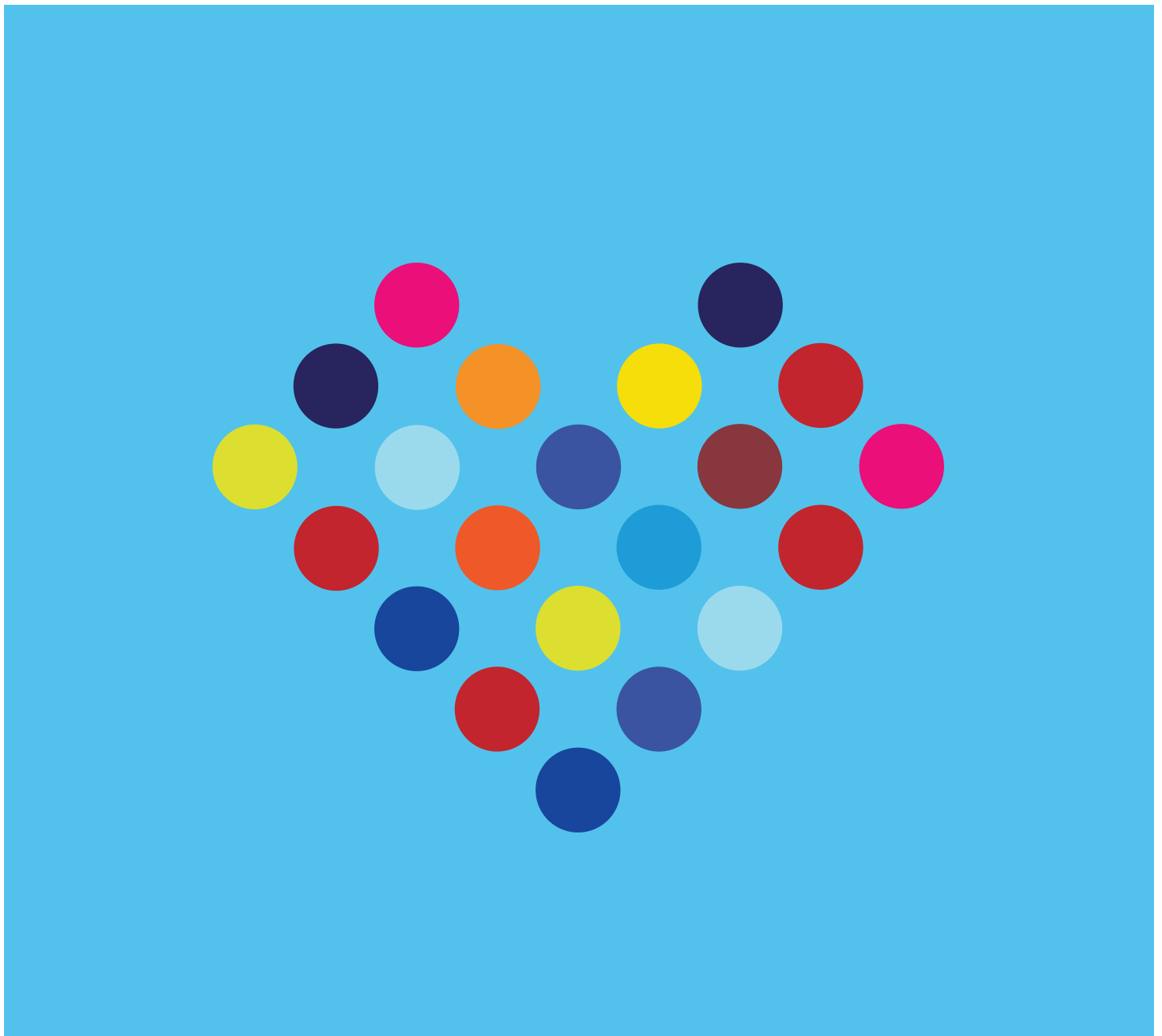




National Condom Distribution Service

Report of activities for 2022



About the National Condom Distribution Service

The National Condom Distribution Service (NCDS) distributes free condom and lubricant sachets to HSE services and other organisations working directly with individuals at increased risk of negative sexual health outcomes.

The HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) established the NCDS in October 2015. It was established to meet the aims of the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015-2020¹, to improve sexual health and wellbeing in Ireland, and to reduce negative sexual health outcomes such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

For more information on the NCDS, please [click here](#).

About the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme

The Health Service Executive (HSE) SHCPP is a national policy priority programme situated within Health and Wellbeing, HSE Strategy and Research. The SHCPP is responsible for implementation of the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015-2020². The SHCPP delivers a programme of research; funding initiatives including crisis pregnancy counselling services; education and training programmes; clinical initiatives; communications campaigns; and information provision.

About this report

This report describes NCDS activities from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022. It presents an overview of the NCDS activities in 2022, the number of condoms and lubricant sachets ordered, an overview of orders from 2019 to 2022, and a description of the type of organisations who have made orders throughout the year.

Annual reports have been published on NCDS activities since 2017. They are available to read [here](#).

A note on COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020 and continued throughout 2021. A range of public health measures were implemented which affected public services and other organisations. This included limitations on HSE service provision and the temporary closure of public-STI clinics; the closure of third-level institution campuses; a restriction on non-governmental organisations' (NGOs) public outreach; the cancellation of public and community events and festivals; and restrictions on the ability of individuals to meet face-to-face.

The 2020 and 2021 data presented in this report therefore reflects the lower demand for and opportunity to distribute condom and lubricant sachets because of the pandemic.

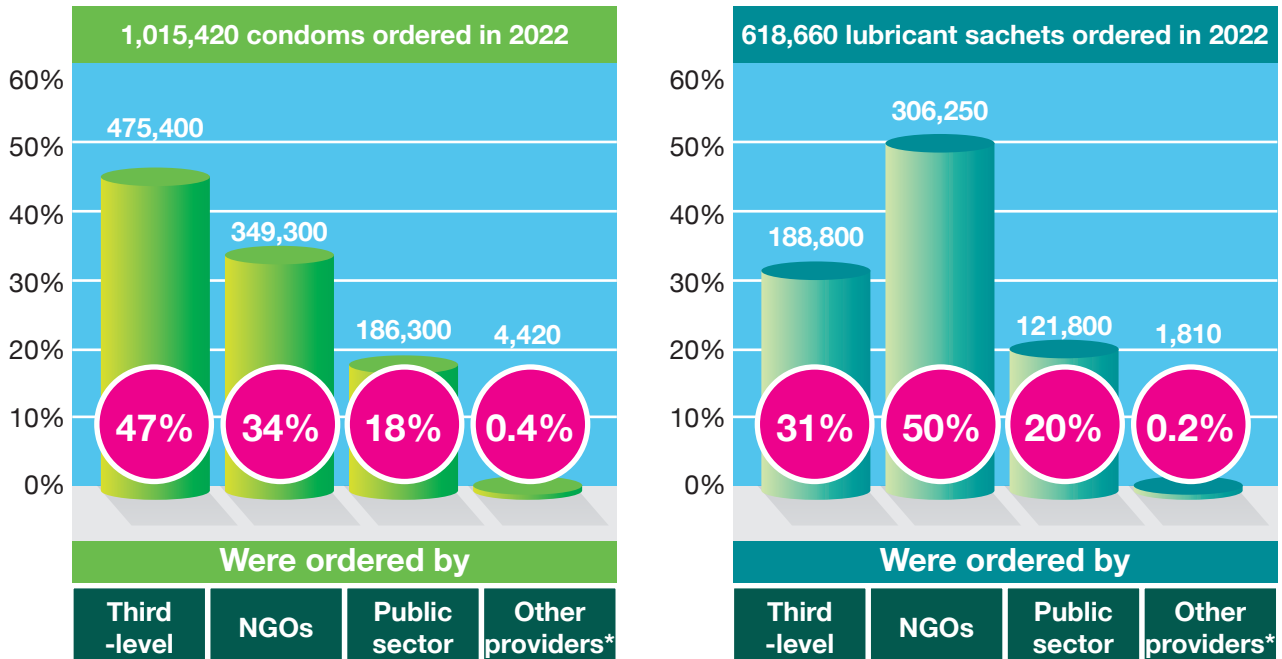
¹ Department of Health (2015). *National Sexual Health Strategy 2015–2020*. Dublin: Department of Health. <https://assets.gov.ie/7562/e5a5ac26eb22405aaf6538656564690a.pdf>

² The Strategy was extended to 2022 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic



Overview of NCDS Activities in 2022

Table 1 Number and percentage of condom and lubricant sachet orders according to sector in 2022

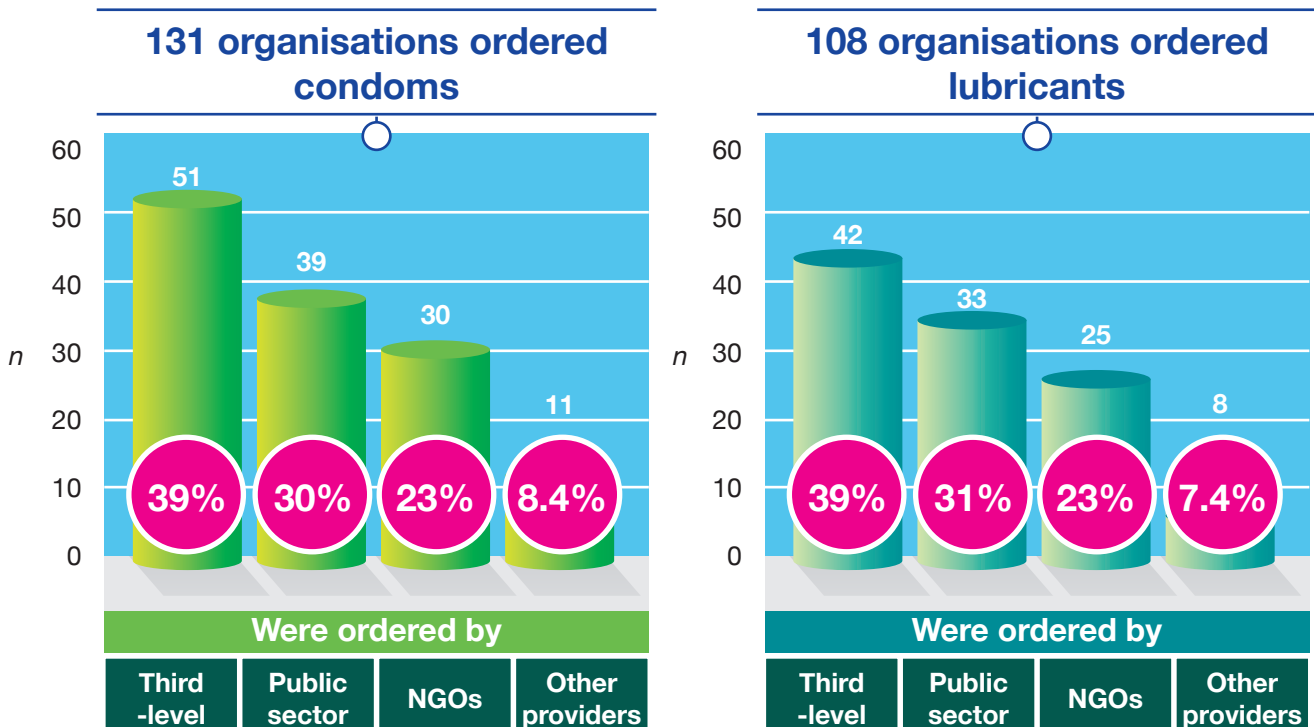


* Other providers of healthcare, health promotion, or social care services.

Of the organisations ordering from the NCDS in 2022, third-level institutions ordered the highest number of condoms, accounting for 46.8% of all condom orders.

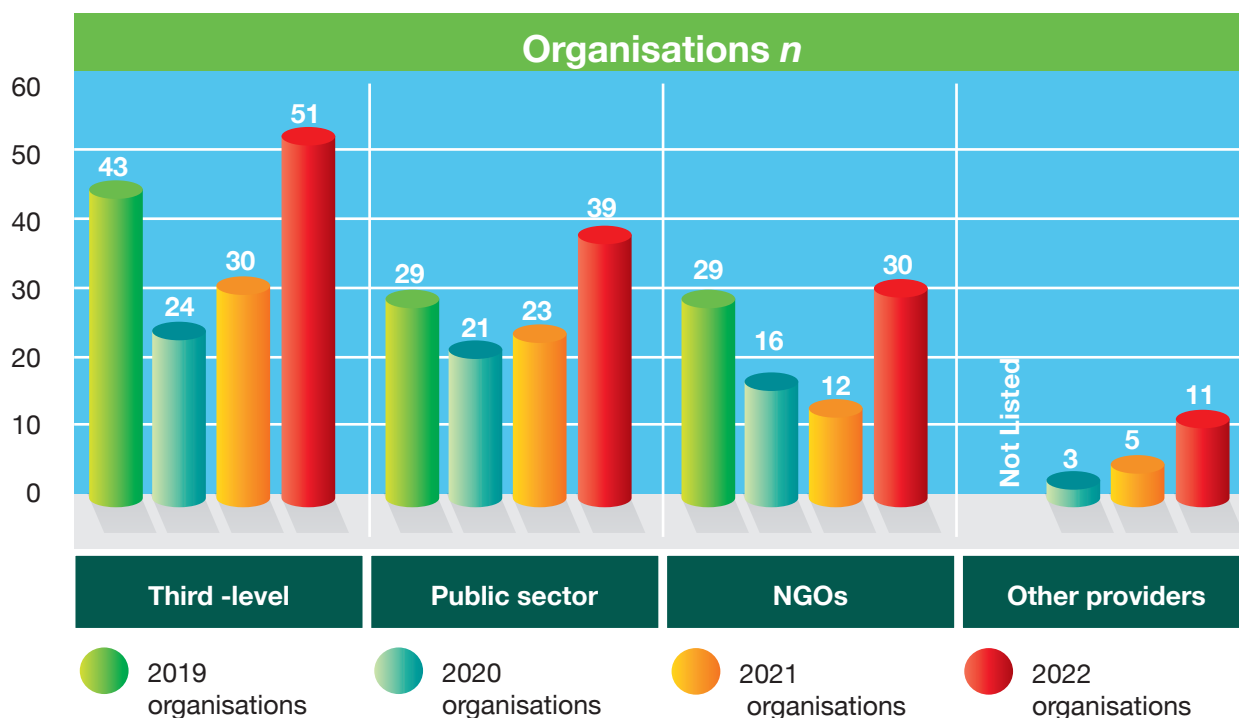
Of organisations ordering from the NCDS in 2022, NGOs ordered the highest number of lubricant sachets, accounting for nearly half (49.5%) of all lubricant sachet orders.

Table 2 Number and proportion of organisation types ordering condom and lubricant sachets in 2022



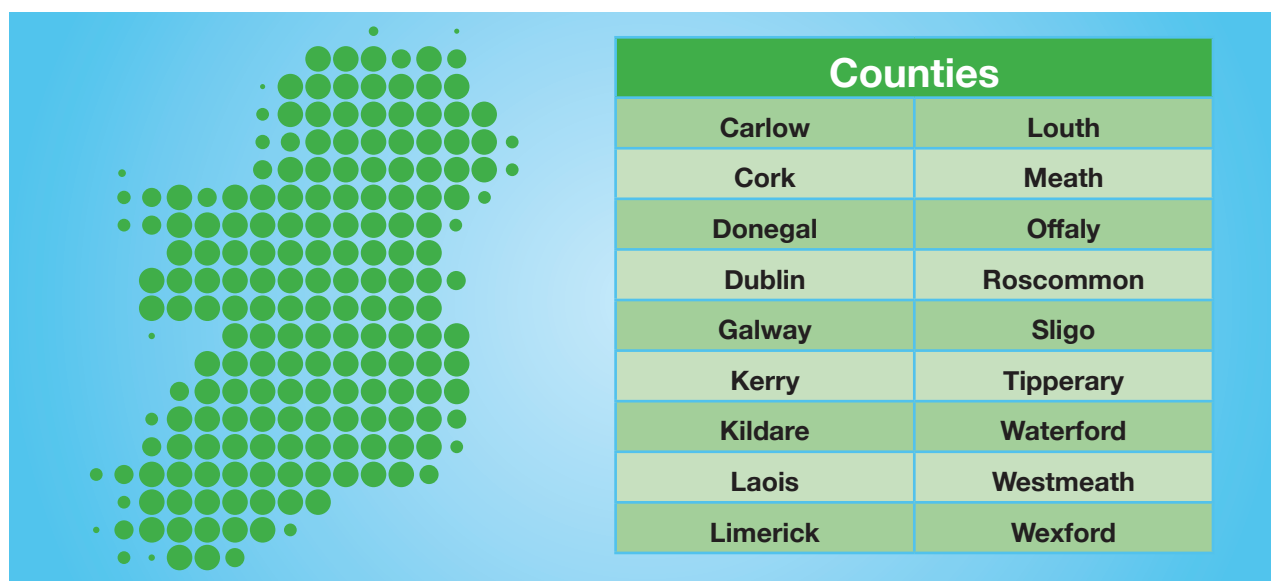
Third-level institutions represented the most frequent organisational NCDS user type in 2022, with 51 organisations ordering condoms and 42 organisations ordering lubricant sachets.

Table 3 Number of organisations, according to type, ordering from NCDS from 2019-2022



The year 2022 saw a recovery in the number of organisations from each sector ordering from the NCDS since the introduction and lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in 2020-2021. The number of organisations ordering from the NCDS in 2022 was higher within each sector compared to years 2019-2021³, including the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

Table 4 Organisations were based in 18 counties in Ireland



Organisations ordering from NCDS in 2022 were based in 18 counties in Ireland. In 2021, organisations making NCDS orders were based in 22 counties, in 2020, organisations were based in 17 counties, and in 2019, organisations were based in 21 counties. Please note some of the organisations operate on a national level.

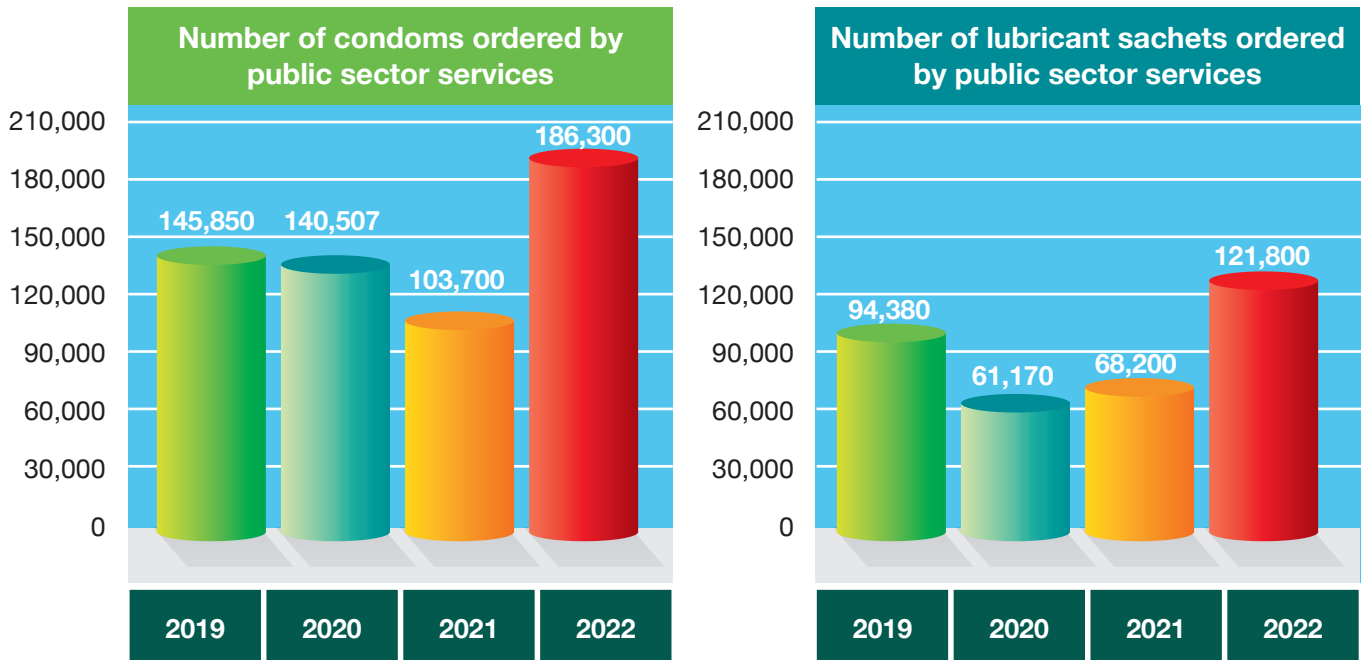
³ Please note 'other providers' were not categorised in 2019 so cannot be compared



Public sector organisations

39 public sector organisations ordered from the NCDS in 2022

Table 5 Number of condoms and lubricant sachets ordered by public sector organisations, 2019-2022



2022 saw the largest number of condom and lubricant orders by public sector service of any year since 2019.

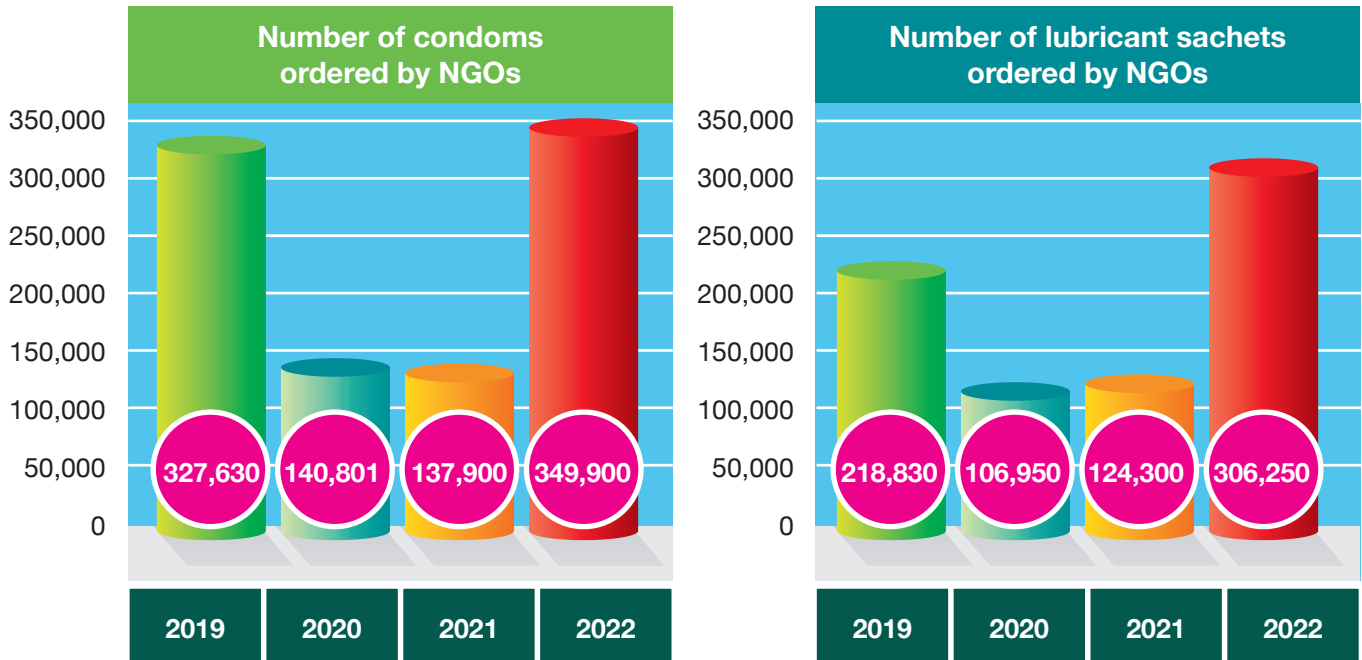
Types of public sector organisations who ordered from the NCDS in 2022 included:



Non-governmental organisations

30 NGOs ordered from the NCDS in 2022

Table 6 Number of condoms and lubricant sachets ordered by NGOs, 2019-2022



The year 2022 saw the largest number of condom and lubricant orders by NGOs of any year since 2019.

Types of NGO organisations who ordered from the NCDS in 2022 include:





Third-level sector

51 third-level institutions and organisations ordered from the NCDS in 2022

Table 7 Number of condoms and lubricant sachets ordered by the third-level sector, 2019-2022

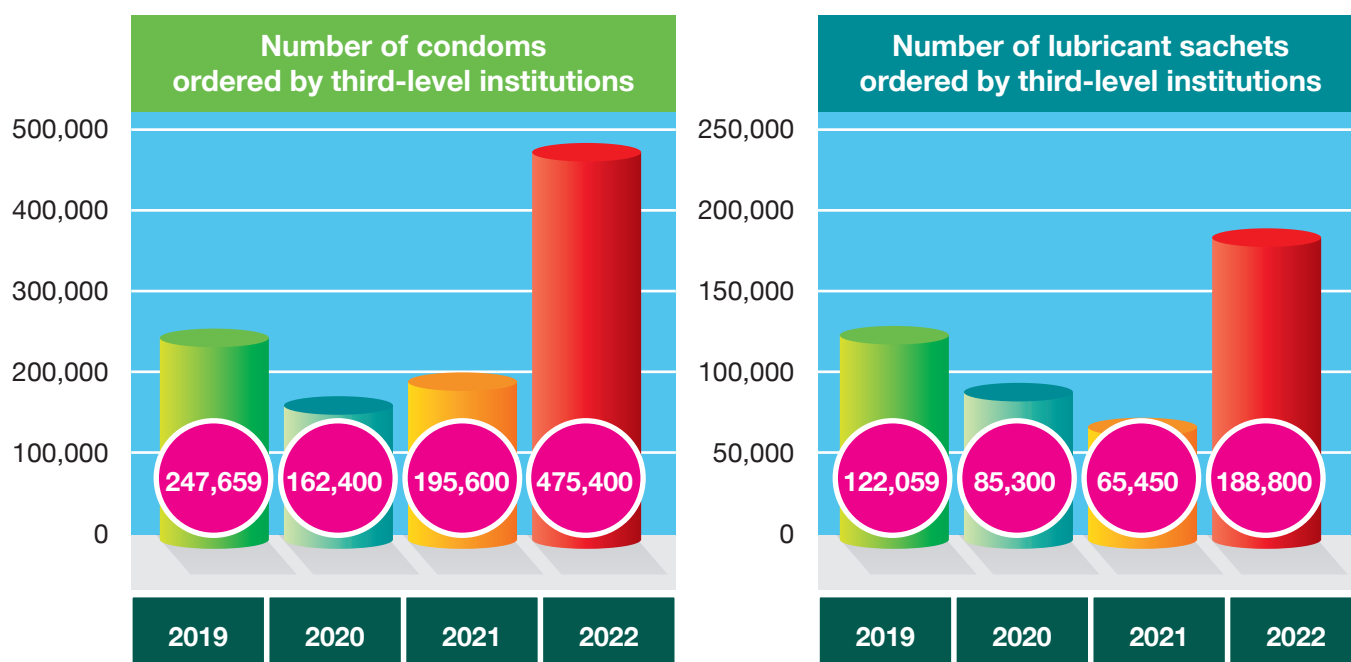


Table 8 List of third-level institutions and organisations who ordered from the NCDS in 2022⁴



Atlantic Technological University	Carlow College	Cork College of Commerce	Dorset College
Dublin City University	Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute	Dundalk Institute of Technology	Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dún Laoghaire
Marino Institute of Education	Maynooth University	Munster Technological University	National College of Art and Design
National College of Ireland	O Fiacich Institute of Further Education	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Royal Irish Academy of Music
South East Technological University	St Angela's College	Technological University Dublin	Technological University Shannon
Trinity College Dublin	Union of Students in Ireland	University College Cork	University College Dublin
	University of Galway	University of Limerick	

⁴ Different bodies within these institutions may place orders to the NCDS. The above list of 26 organisations represents a total of 15 student health centres, 26 student unions, and eight health promotion initiatives across different campuses.

Conclusions

Between 2021 and 2022, there has been a:



Increases in condom and lubricant orders took place in the context of the removal in 2022 of most COVID-19 restrictions, the roll-out of free contraception for 17-26 year olds in September 2022 (although condoms are not included in this scheme), and the roll-out of a free online STI testing service in October 2022. Orders to the NCDS by each sector have seen increases in demand compared to 2019, prior to the onset COVID-19.

3.6 million condoms and over 2.1 million lubricant sachets have been ordered by organisations working to promote the sexual health and wellbeing of their service users since 2015.



The NCDS continues to support the sexual health promotion needs of people living in Ireland.

For information on how organisations can order free condoms and lubricant sachets from the NCDS, please see [here](#).

