



National Condom Distribution Service

Report of activities for 2020





About the National Condom Distribution Service

The National Condom Distribution Service (NCDS) was established by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) in October 2015 to help meet the strategic aims of the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015–2020,¹ to improve sexual health and wellbeing and reduce negative sexual health outcomes, such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and crisis pregnancies.

The NCDS functions as a central point for distributing free condoms and lubricant sachets to HSE services and other organisations working directly with individuals and groups who may be at increased risk of negative sexual health outcomes. The NCDS also supplies condoms and lubricant sachets to support sexual health promotional campaigns and educational initiatives. For more information on the NCDS, [please click here](#)

About this report

This report presents information on the activities of the NCDS from 1 January to 31 December 2020. The report contains information about the organisations that ordered condoms and lubricant sachets from the NCDS during this period; who they work with and how they distributed the products. Reports presenting information on the activities of the NCDS have been published annually since 2017. To view these reports, [please click here](#)

COVID-19 and the NCDS

Organisations registered with the NCDS include public STI clinics, third-level institutions, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), all of which were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health measures introduced in 2020. Examples of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic include:

- Service provision in public STI clinics temporarily ceased and operated at a more limited capacity.
- Third-level institution campuses were closed to the majority of students.
- NGOs providing outreach in social and community settings were restricted by venue closures, cancellation of events and festivals, and restrictions on face-to-face engagements.

This resulted in fewer organisations ordering condoms and lubricant sachets from the NCDS in 2020 compared to 2019. However, a number of services adapted their condom distribution approaches; establishing condom postal services and/or maintaining service provision at a reduced level. Furthermore, the SHCPP, in partnership with the Irish Pharmacy Union, launched the ‘Play it Safe!’ campaign to support young adults to protect their sexual health during the pandemic. This campaign involved making sexual health protection packs available at pharmacies nationwide; each pack contained an information leaflet and a free NCDS condom.

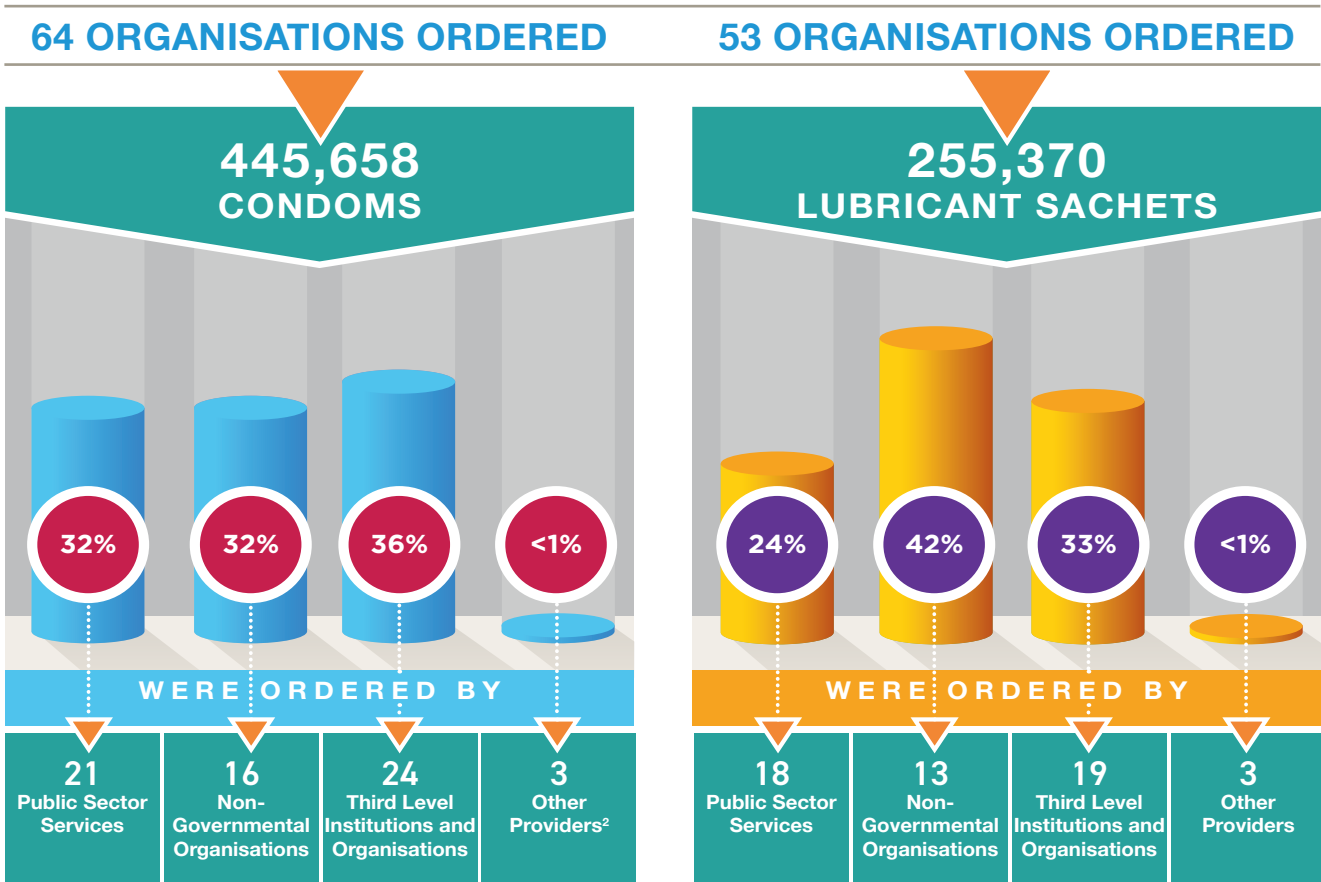
About the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme

The SHCPP is a Policy Priority Programme in Health and Wellbeing, Strategy and Research, under the directorship of Healthcare Strategy in the HSE, and it is responsible for implementing the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015–2020. The SHCPP delivers a programme of research; funding initiatives, including crisis pregnancy counselling services; education and training initiatives; clinical initiatives; communications campaigns; and information provision.

¹ Department of Health (2015) *National Sexual Health Strategy 2015–2020*. Dublin: Department of Health. The lifetime of this strategy has been extended until the end of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Overview of NCDS Activities in 2020



WHERE ARE THESE ORGANISATIONS BASED?

Organisations were based in 17 counties	
Carlow	Limerick
Cavan	Louth
Cork	Mayo
Donegal	Monaghan
Dublin	Sligo
Galway	Waterford
Kerry	Wicklow
Kildare	Westmeath
Laois	

Some organisations operate on a local level and some operate on a national level.

2 Private STI services/healthcare providers approved to provide publicly reimbursed PrEP



WHO DID THEY REACH?



STI clinic patients	LGBTI+	Early school leavers
gbMSM ³	Migrant communities	Asylum seekers and refugees
People living with HIV	Young people out of care	People who sell sex
Young adults	Students	People living with hepatitis
Parents/carers	People experiencing addiction	Travelling Community
Professionals (trainers)	People experiencing homelessness	

HOW DID THEY REACH PEOPLE?



Condom and lubricant dispensers
Health promotion stands
Education and training sessions
Events (World AIDS Day, European Testing Week, LGBTQ Pride, SHAG Week ⁴)
One-to-one sessions
Outreach activities
Postal services
Sexual health protection packs

³ Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men

⁴ Sexual health awareness and guidance



WHERE DID THEY REACH PEOPLE?



Public STI clinics and hospitals

Third-level institution campuses

Student residences

Direct provision centres

Reception and orientation centres

Rapid HIV Testing sessions

Pharmacies

Social and nightlife venues

Street outreach sessions

At home (postal services)

POSTAL SERVICES

Eight organisations registered with the NCDS established condom postal services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Athlone Institute of Technology

GOSHH

HIV Ireland

Northside Family Resource Centre

Sexual Health Centre

Sexual Health West

STI Clinic, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
(for registered PrEP patients)

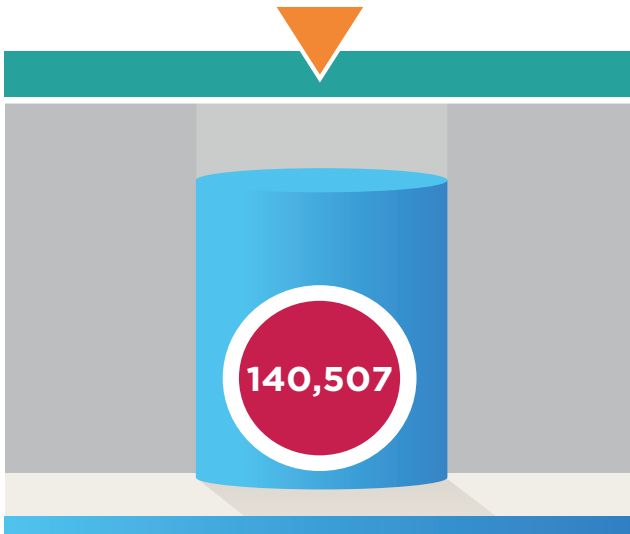
Ruhama



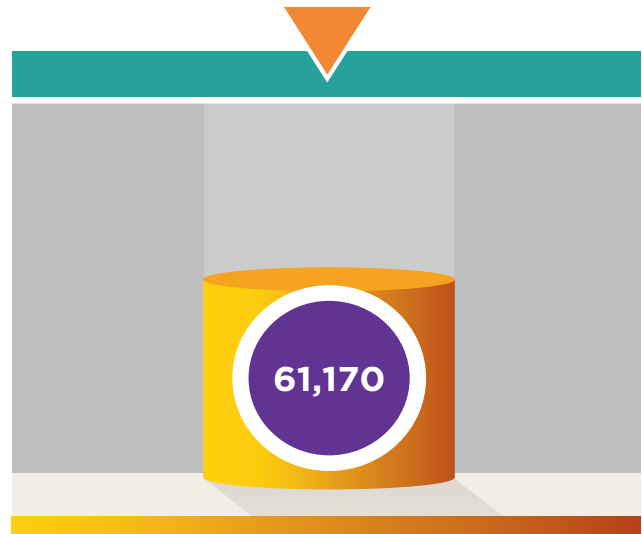


21 Public Sector Services

CONDOMS ORDERED IN 2020



LUBRICANT ORDERED IN 2020

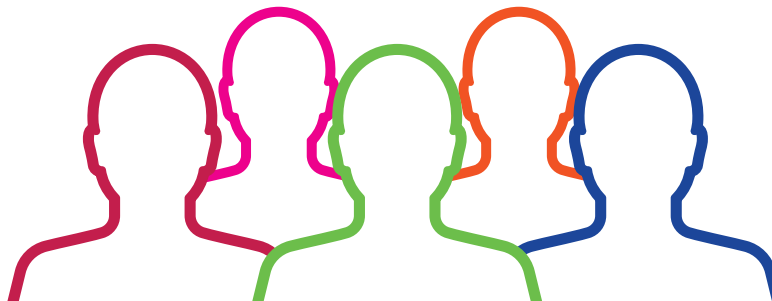


PUBLIC SECTOR SERVICES INCLUDED:



- STI clinics
- Educational organisations
- Hospitals
- Drug and alcohol treatment services
- Health promotion services

WHO DID THEY REACH?

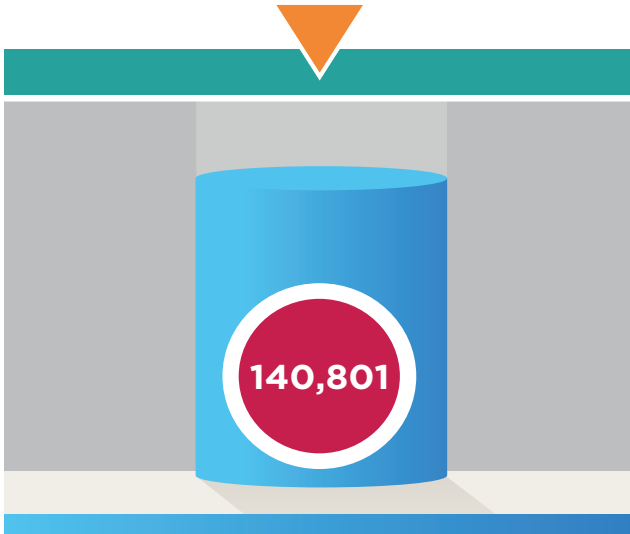


STI clinic patients	LGBTI+
gbMSM	People experiencing addiction
Young people	Early school leavers
People living with HIV	People who sell sex
Students	People living with hepatitis
Migrant communities	Professionals (trainers)
Travelling Community	Young people out of care

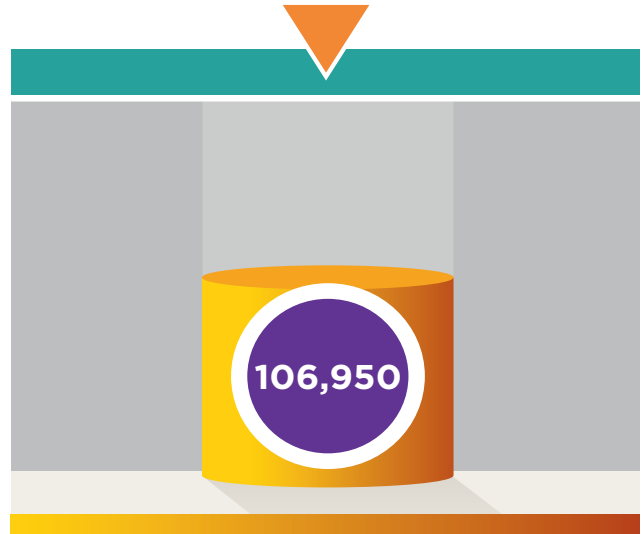


16 Non-Governmental Organisations

CONDOMS ORDERED IN 2020



LUBRICANT ORDERED IN 2020

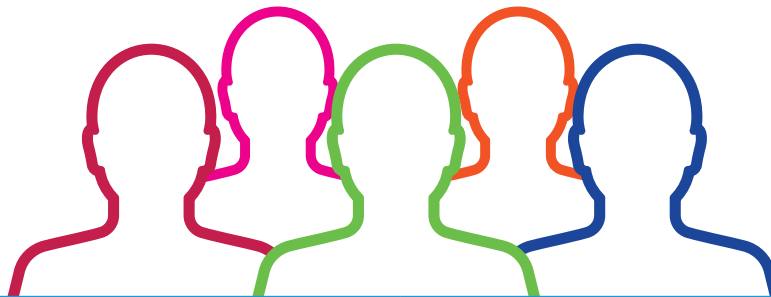


NGO AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS INCLUDED:



AkiDwA	Irish Family Planning Association
Ana Liffey Drug Project	Partnership for Health Equity Limerick
Cavan & Monaghan Rainbow Youth	Ruhama
Donegal Women's Centre	SAOL Project
Focus Ireland, Aftercare	Sexual Health Centre
Fusion CPL	Sexual Health West
GOSHH	SouthWest Counselling Centre
HIV Ireland	The Northside Family Resource Centre

WHO DID THEY REACH?

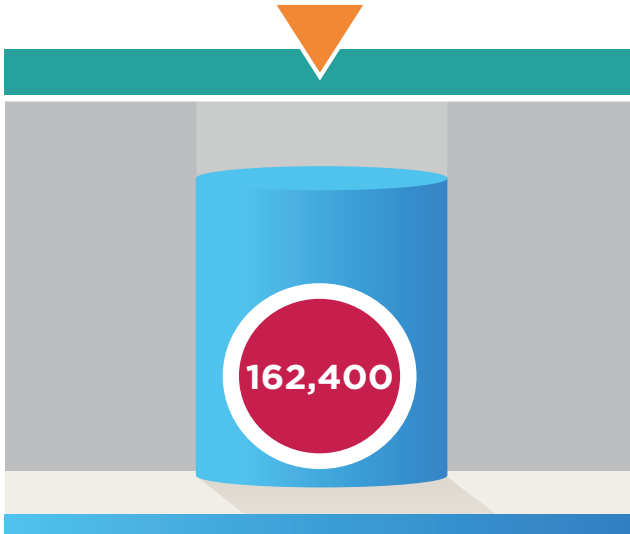


Asylum seekers and refugees	LGBTI+
People who sell sex	Travelling Community
People experiencing addiction	Young people
Students	People living with HIV
People living with hepatitis	People experiencing homelessness
gbMSM	Migrant communities
Parents/carers	Young people out of care



24 Third-Level Institutions and Organisations

CONDOMS ORDERED IN 2020



LUBRICANT ORDERED IN 2020



THIRD-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS INCLUDED:⁵

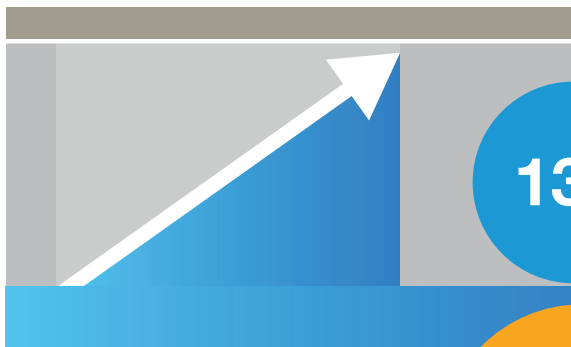


Athlone Institute of Technology	Maynooth University
Dublin City University	National College of Art and Design
Dundalk Institute of Technology	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	Institute of Technology Sligo
IADT, Dun Laoghaire	NUI Galway
Institute of Technology Carlow	Technological University Dublin
Munster Technological University	University College Dublin
Letterkenny Institute of Technology	University of Limerick
Limerick College of Further Education	Union of Students in Ireland
Limerick Institute of Technology	

⁵ Representing 18 third-level institutions and the Union of Students in Ireland

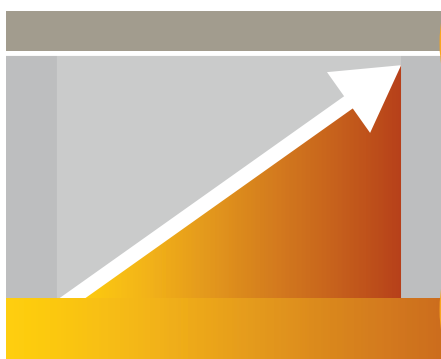


NCDS over 5-year period 2015–2020



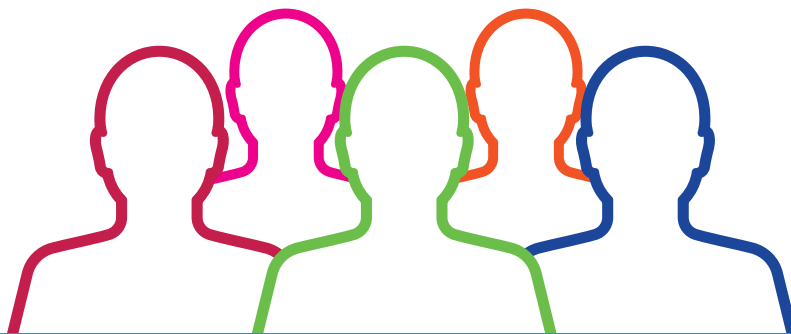
132

organisations have registered with the NCDS since 2015, and registration continues to increase year on year.



2.2 million condoms
&
1.25 million lubricant sachets

have been ordered by organisations working to promote and support the sexual health of their service users



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

