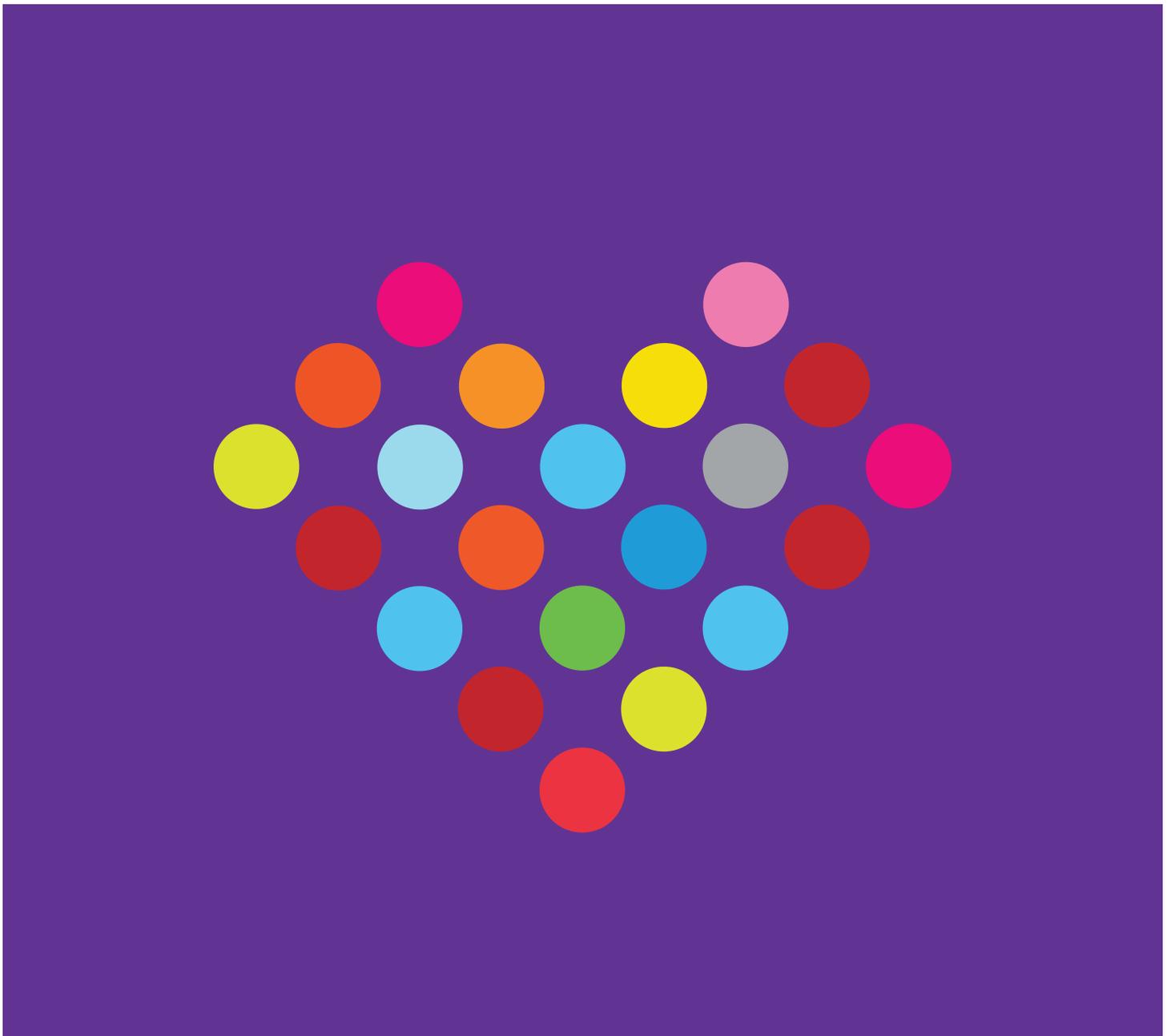




# National Condom Distribution Service

## Report of activities for 2021





## 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<sup>1</sup>: to improve sexual health and well-being 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 promotion 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 2021. It outlines the organisations that ordered condoms and lubricant sachets from the NCDS during this period, who they work with, and how they distributed the products.

The data sources for this report include: logistical information provided by the company responsible for dispatching orders on behalf of the HSE; a HSE database of orders; application forms submitted by organisations registered with the NCDS; and a monitoring report completed by organisations who ordered from the NCDS during 2021.

Reports on the activities of the NCDS have been published annually since 2017. To view these reports, [please click here](#)

## COVID-19 and the NCDS

The COVID-19 public health emergency that began in March 2020 continued through much of 2021. During this period, a range of subsequent public health measures affected services and organisations ordering from the NCDS. Examples of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on these organisations included:

- Limited service provision or temporary service closures at times among public STI clinics.
- Third-level institution campuses were closed to the majority of students until Autumn 2021.
- Non-Governmental Organisations (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.

As a result, 2021 demand continued to be lower than in 2019 and was in line with demand for 2020. However, the number of condoms ordered from the third-level sector increased as a result of students returning to campus in Autumn 2021.

## 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.

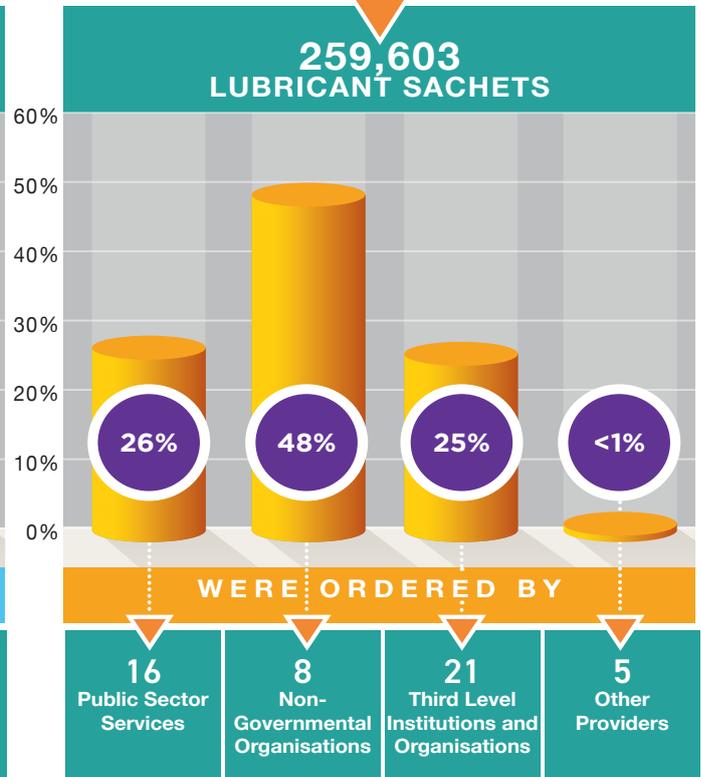
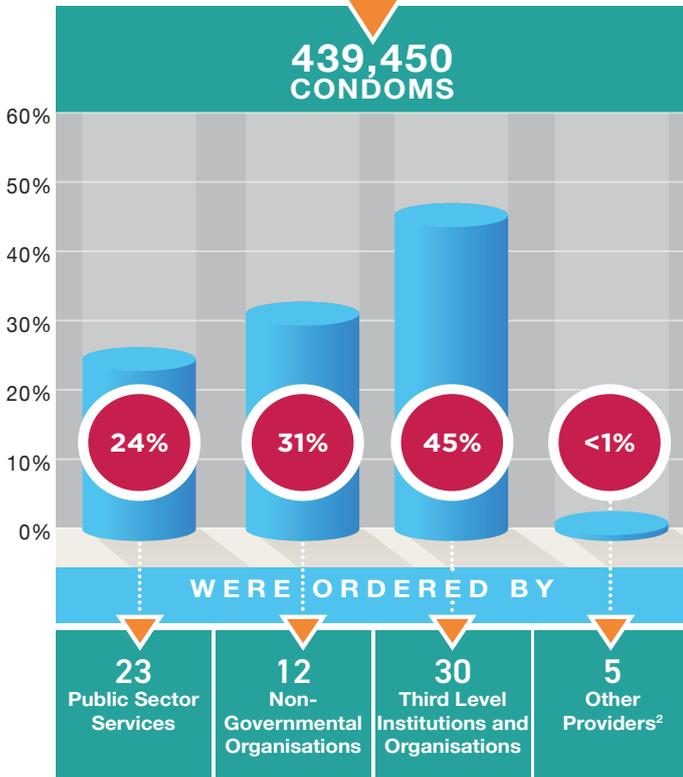
<sup>1</sup> Department of Health (2015) National Sexual Health Strategy 2015–2020. Dublin: Department of Health. The lifetime of this strategy has been extended until the end of 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Overview of NCDS activities in 2021

70 organisations ordered

50 organisations ordered



## Where are these organisations based?



Counties	
Carlow	Louth
Clare	Mayo
Cork	Meath
Donegal	Monaghan
Dublin	Roscommon
Galway	Sligo
Kerry	Tipperary
Kildare	Waterford
Kilkenny	Westmeath
Laois	Wexford
Limerick	Wicklow

Organisations were based in 22 counties in 2021, compared to 17 counties in 2020. Some organisations also operate on a national level.

2 Private providers of health care, health promotion, or social care services



## Who did the condoms and lubricant sachets reach in 2021?



STI clinic patients	Migrant communities	People living with HIV	People experiencing and/or recovering from addiction
Asylum seekers and refugees	People who sell sex	Roma community	People experiencing homelessness
Gay bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM)	People who use drugs	Students	Traveller community
LGBTQ+ people	People living with hepatitis	Young people	Parents/carers

## How did they distribute condoms and lubricant in 2021?

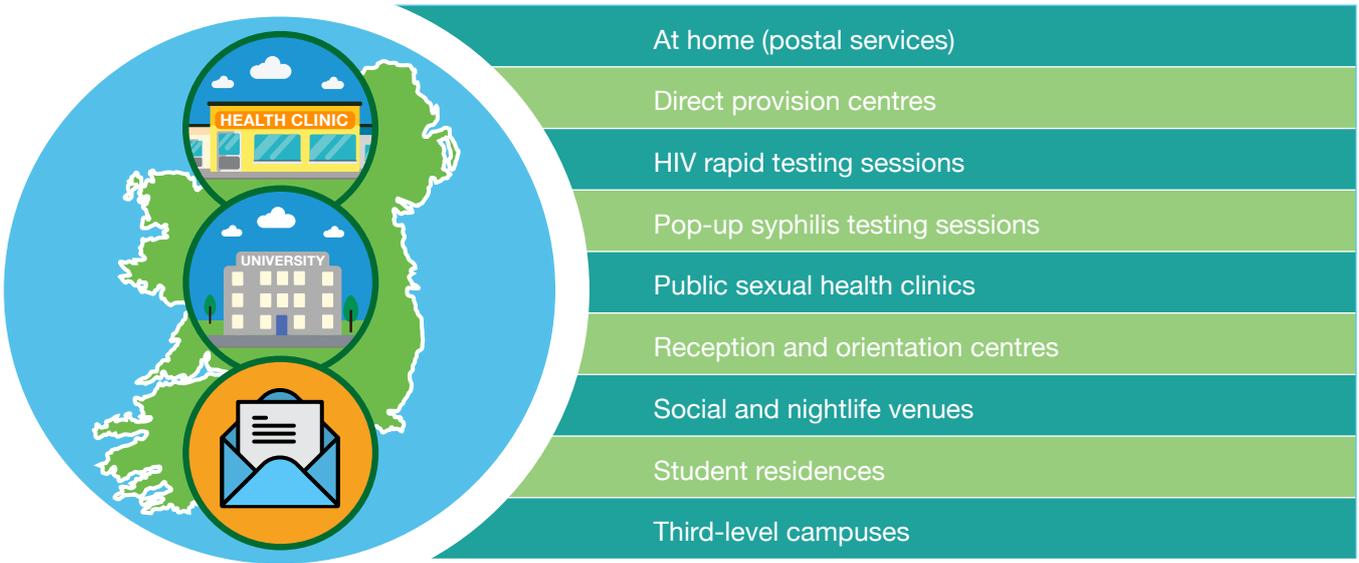


- Condom and lubricant dispensers
- Education sessions
- Health promotion stands
- Group sessions
- Key events (World AIDS Day, Irish AIDS Day, LGBTQ+ Pride events, SHAG<sup>3</sup> week)
- Making condoms available for collection
- Making condoms available upon request
- One-to-one sessions
- Outreach activity
- Postal services
- Sexual health protection packs

3 Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance Week, typically held on third-level campuses annually

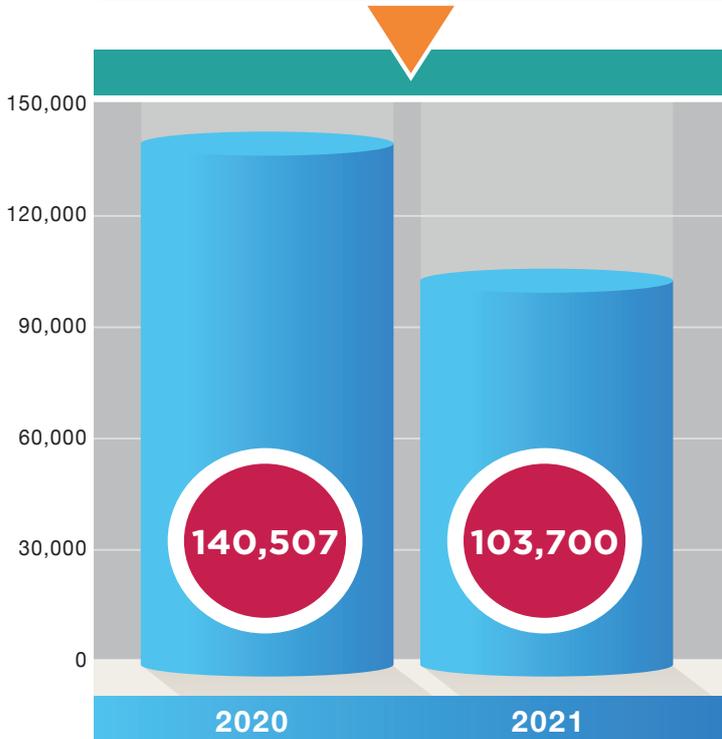


## Where did they reach people in 2021?

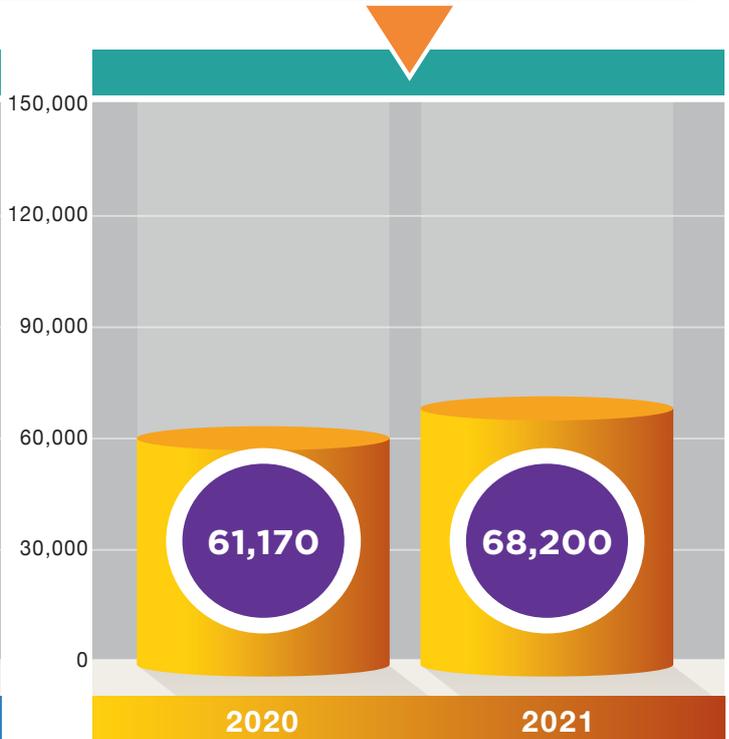


## 23 public sector services ordered from the NCDS in 2021

Number of condoms ordered by public sector services



Number of lubricant sachets ordered by public sector services





**Public sector service types in 2021 included:**

	Accommodation centres
	Drug & alcohol services
	Education organisations
	Health Promotion & Improvement services
	Public STI clinics
	Sexual assault treatment units

**Who did public sector services distribute condoms and lubricant sachets to in 2021?**

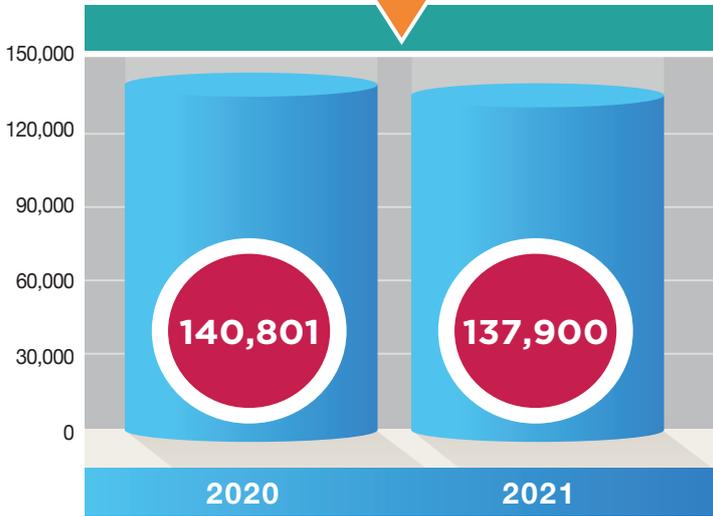


gbMSM	People living with HIV
LGBTQ+ people	Refugees and asylum seekers
Migrant communities	STI clinic patients
People experiencing addiction	Traveller community
People experiencing homelessness	Young people

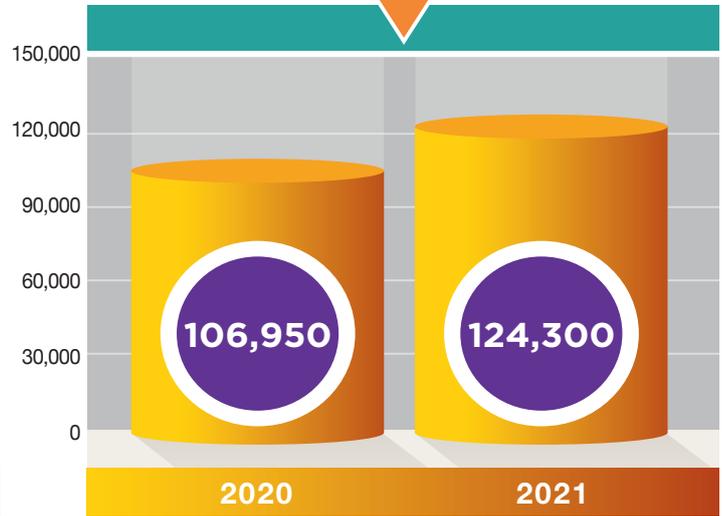


# 12 Non-Governmental Organisations ordered from the NCDS in 2021

Number of condoms ordered by NGOs



Number of lubricant sachets ordered by NGOs



## NGOs in 2021 included:

	Akidwa	Peter McVerry Aftercare Service
	Coolmine	Ruhama
	Finglas Addiction Support Team	Sexual Health Centre
	Gender, Orientation, Sexual Health, HIV (GOSHH) Limerick	Sexual Health West
	HIV Ireland	Tralee International Resource Centre
	Loughboy Area Resource Centre	Donegal Youth Service

## Who did NGOs distribute condoms and lubricant sachets to in 2021?



Asylum seekers	People who sell sex
gbMSM	People who use drugs
LGBTQ+ people	Students
Migrant communities	Refugees
People experiencing and/or recovering from addiction	Roma community
People experiencing homelessness	Residents of direct provision centres
People living with hepatitis	Parents/carers
People living with HIV	Young people

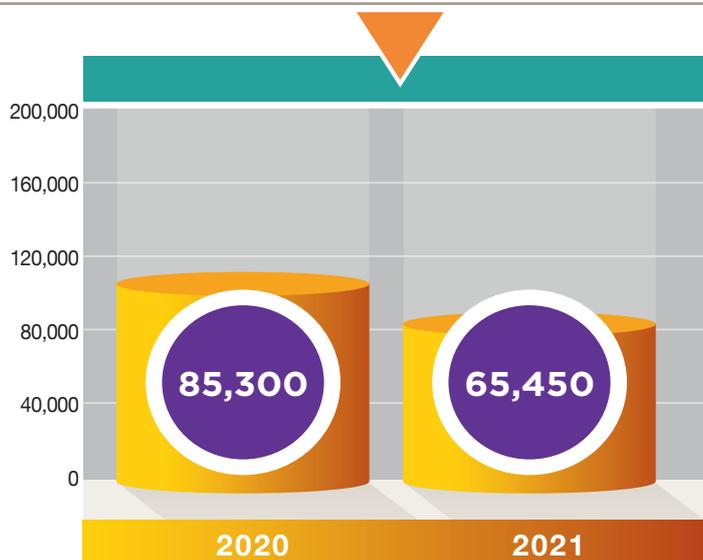


## 30 Third-Level Institutions and Organisations ordered from the NCDS in 2021

Number of condoms ordered by third level organisations in 2021



Number of lubricant sachets ordered by third level organisations in 2021



Third-level institutions and organisations in 2021 included:<sup>4</sup>

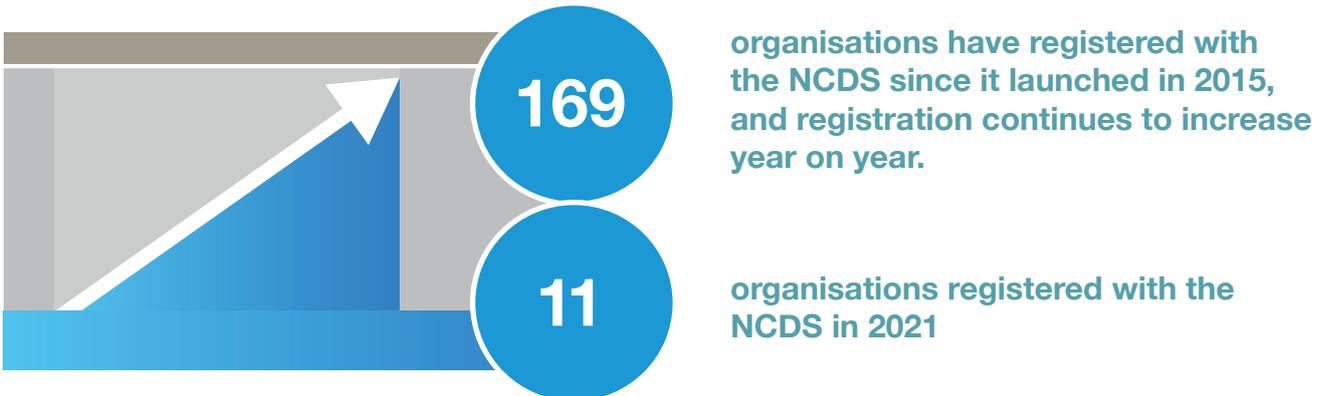


Atlantic Technological University	NUI Galway
Carlow College	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Dublin City University	South East Technological University
Dundalk Institute of Technology	St Angela's College
Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute	Technological University Dublin
Drogheda Institute of Further Education	Technological University Shannon: Midlands Midwest
Griffith College	Trinity College Dublin
Institute of Art, Design and Technology Dún Laoghaire	University College Cork
Marino Institute of Education	University College Dublin
Maynooth University	University of Limerick
Munster Technological University	Union of Students in Ireland
National College of Ireland	

<sup>4</sup> Representing 27 campuses across 21 third-level institutions and the Union of Students in Ireland, inclusive of student unions, student health centres, health promotion services, and other departments



# Overview of NCDS from 2015 to 2021



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

