

## Irish STIs from 1994 until 2004\*

Consistent with other Western European countries, the numbers and rates of bacterial and viral STIs in Ireland have been increasing since the mid-1990s.

**The total number of STIs in Ireland has increased more than 4 fold in ten years from 2,588 in 1994 to 10,695 in 2004.**

During that time, notification of **ano-genital warts has more than doubled to 4,174** and non-specific **urethritis has quadrupled to 2,746**. Cases of **gonorrhoea** rose nearly 3 fold to 270 cases in 2004.

**A thirteen-fold increase in syphilis** cases was recorded between 1994 and 2004, when 144 cases were notified.

However, the greatest increase was seen in the number of **chlamydia infections**, which soared **more than 20 fold** to 2,803 cases.

The rising trends in STIs reflect the continued deterioration in Irish sexual health, particularly amongst **young heterosexuals**.

People need to be informed of the risks.

**If you want to stay healthy, avoid sex until you are married, and then only have sex with your spouse!** Anything less will put your sexual health at risk. Condoms appear to offer little if any protection.

\*Figures for 2005 are not available at this time, Feb. 06

## Let's talk about sex!

"Sex will bring us closer"

- **THE AVERAGE TEENAGE RELATIONSHIP LASTS THREE WEEKS WHEN SEX IS INVOLVED**

"Sex will enhance our relationship"

- **NO SEX WILL BECOME THE CENTRE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AND CHOKE OUT EVERYTHING ELSE**

"If you really loved me you'd do it!"

- **IF YOU REALLY LOVED ME YOU WOULDN'T ASK**

"Just this once"

- **NO ONE WANTS SEX JUST ONCE**

"I want to give you something to remember me by"

- **SUCH AS PREGNANCY, HERPES OR HIV?**

"If you don't, I'll find someone who will"

- **GREAT! I HOPE THE TWO OF YOU HAVE A NICE LIFE**

**"Safe Sex" is a deadly game**

**"Saved Sex" until marriage is a healthy choice**

Check out

**Internet: [www.Savedsex.org](http://www.Savedsex.org)**

**E mail: [info@savedsex.org](mailto:info@savedsex.org)**

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## Safe Sex

Know the Facts.

2006

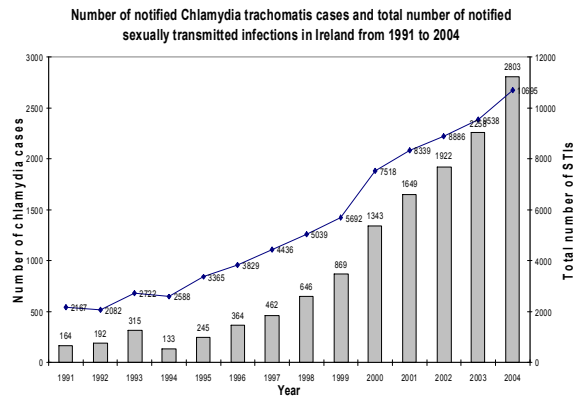


Condoms have not had any positive impact in reducing the rising incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Ireland or the rest of the western world. In fact, it could be convincingly argued that condoms are at least partly responsible for promoting an increase in the number of STIs we see today.

**[www.birdsandbees.ie](http://www.birdsandbees.ie)**

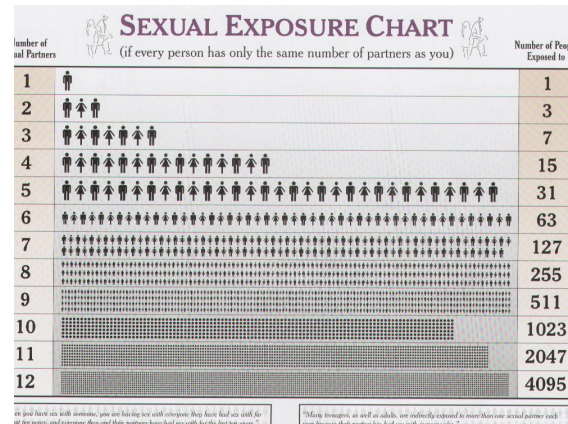
## Condom Availability and STIs

In 1993 the sale of condoms were deregulated, so they are now widely available in most Irish pubs, restaurants and shops. Despite this we have noticed an alarming increase in STIs in Ireland, coinciding with increased condom availability. If condoms were effective in reducing STIs we should have expected at least a halt in the increase, however the opposite has happened.



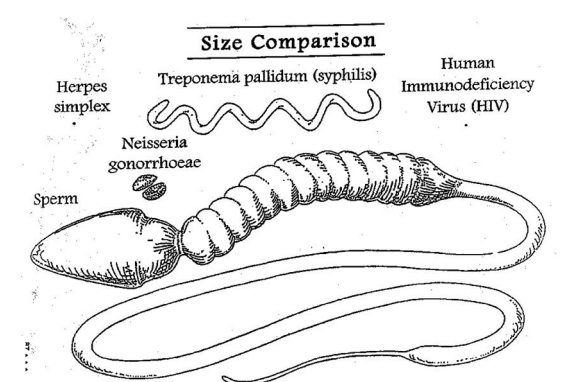
## SEXUAL EXPOSURE AND RISK OF STI

If you have had sex with more than one person (or if your partner has) you are at risk of contracting an STI which may have devastating effects on your future fertility and health. This is more likely if you are under 25, regardless of whether or not you have used condoms.



Sperm are much larger than the organisms that cause STIs  
(see diagram below)

If a condom is not effective in preventing pregnancy, how effective will it be in protecting against an STI ?



**Condoms do NOT prevent the spread of STIs !!!**

**"increased condom use will increase the number of transmissions that result from condom failure"**

Source: *Lancet* 2000; 355: 400-403  
John Richens, John Imrie, Andrew Copas

**Contraceptive failure rates**

**"..adolescent women who are not married but are cohabiting experience a pregnancy rate of about 31% in the first year of contraceptive use..."**

Source: *Fam Plann Perspect.* 1999 Mar-Apr ;31(2):56-63. Fu H, Darroch JE, Haas T, Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), New York, USA

**Contraceptive failure rates**

**"25% of the 2,157,473 conceptions due to contraceptive failure were aborted in the USA in 1995."**

Source: *Fam Plann Perspect.* 1999 Mar-Apr ;31(2):56-63. Fu H, Darroch JE, Haas T, Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), New York, USA