



MEN FROM AFAR 1: MSM Attending the GMHP Clinic 2005 and 2006: Presentation to GHF 4 June 2006



Introduction

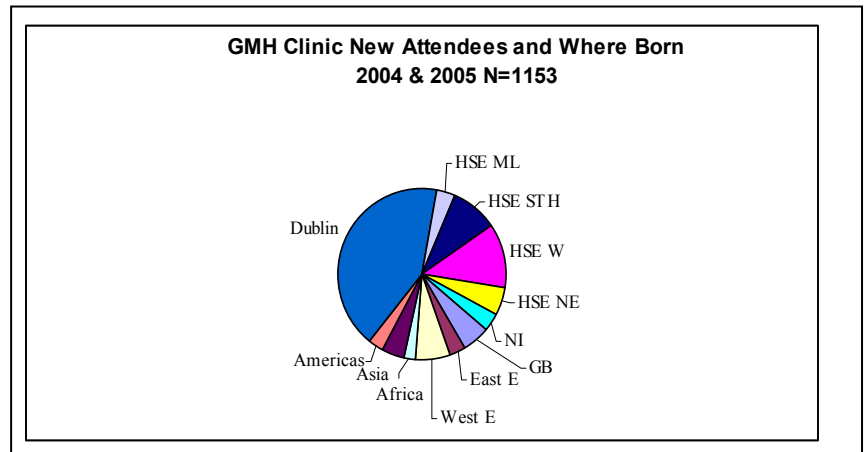
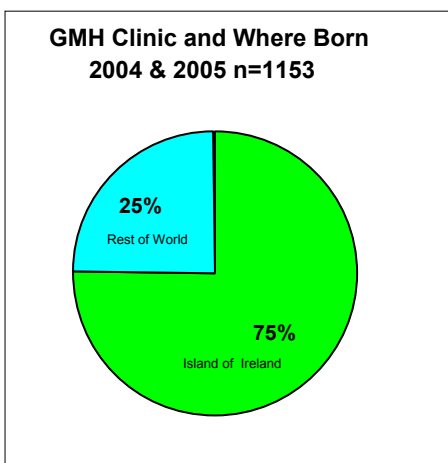
Ethnic and cultural diversity awareness is now part of the landscape for providing services in Ireland. In recent years this is due to migration and the influx of asylum seekers and workers from EU and other states.

Since 2002, the profile of persons diagnosed with HIV has also changed, with 80% of the females diagnosed from sub Saharan Africa. Importantly, 25% to 30% of Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) diagnosed with HIV were from other countries and had a more widespread representative than heterosexuals (ref www.ndsc.ie).

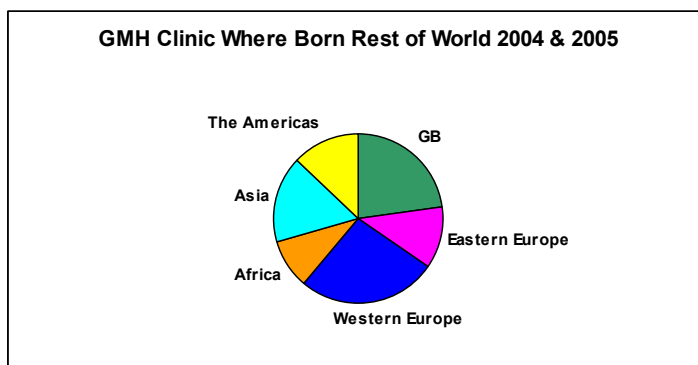
The Gay Men’s Health Project (GMHP) has also noticed this change with men attending for STI and other services representing a vast number of countries, ethnicity and languages. To research this we assembled the profiles of attendees for the two years 2004 and 2005 and these are presented below.

The number of new attendees registered at the GMHP clinic in 2004 was 634 and 617 for 2005. When looking at where born this was represented by the following n=587 (2004) and n=566(2005). There was no significant differences therefore both years are combined for the purpose of this report given a total number of 1,153 men.

Overall 286 (25%) men were born in forty nine countries (includes England, Scotland and Wales) and 867(75%) were born on the Island of Ireland. Interestingly less than half of the total 482 (42%) were born in Dublin and 385 (33%) Rest of Ireland –made up of; HSE Western (12%) HSE Southern (9%), HSE North East (5%) and HSE Mid-Leinster (4%) followed by Northern Ireland (3%). (For the purpose of this study Dublin is calculated separately from HSE North East and Mid Leinster see table 1).



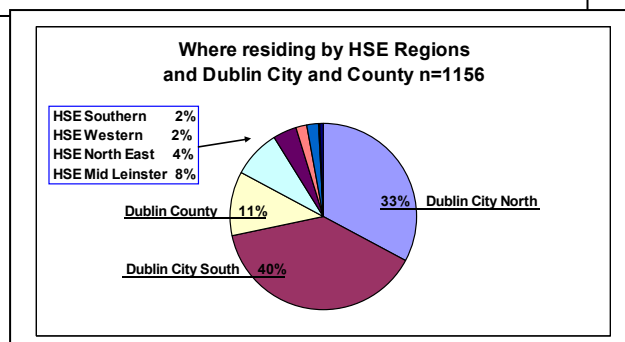
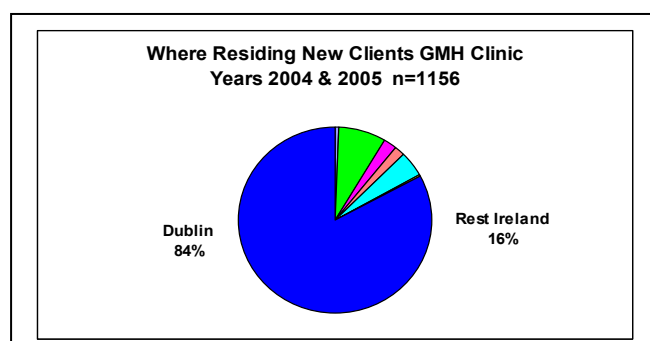
Of those born abroad, 175 men (16%) were born in Europe (made up of Western Europe (7%), GB (6%), Eastern Europe (3%) followed by Asia 47 (4%) the Americas 37 (3%) and Africa 27 (2%).



A significant number of men represented the following countries;
 Eastern Europe: Poland, Latvia and the Czech Republic
 Western Europe: France, Italy, Spain and Germany.
 Africa: South Africa and Zimbabwe.
 Asia/ Oceania: China, The Philippines, Australia and New Zealand.
 The Americas: USA, Brazil, Argentina

WHERE RESIDING

When looking at where residing, 84% of the new clients lived in Dublin City or County and 16% in the Rest of Ireland. Dublin City South (40%), North (33%) Dublin County 11% followed by HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster (8%), HSE Dublin North East (4%) HSE Southern and HSE Western 2%. Nevertheless over 180 men travelled from outside Dublin for services.



The changing face of Ireland is now engrained and this provides us with exciting challenges in service provision and to incorporate and celebrate the diversity of language, race and ethnicity,

Mick Quinlan Presentation to 4th All Ireland Annual Gay Health Forum (GHF4) June 2006