

A stylized, dark purple house icon with a large arched doorway and a four-pane window, set against a lighter purple background.

Focus on Homelessness

The South-East: Carlow, Kilkenny,
Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford

Eoin O'Sullivan
Aisling Reidy
Mike Allen

Challenging homelessness. Changing lives.

FOCUS
Ireland

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Figure 1: Adults in Emergency Accommodation	4
Figure 2: Adults in the Region as a Percent of all Adults in Emergency Accommodation	5
Figure 3: Households in Emergency Accommodation	6
Figure 4: Household Type	7
Figure 5: Families in Emergency Accommodation	8
Figure 6: Adult-Only Households.....	9
Figure 7: Child Dependants.....	10
Figure 8: Accommodation Type	11
Figure 9: Age Profile.....	12
Figure 10: Adults by Gender.....	13
Figure 11: New Presentations	14
Figure 12: Adult Exits to Housing	15
Figure 13: Adults in Emergency Accommodation for Over 6 Months	16
Figure 14: Section 10 Expenditure	17

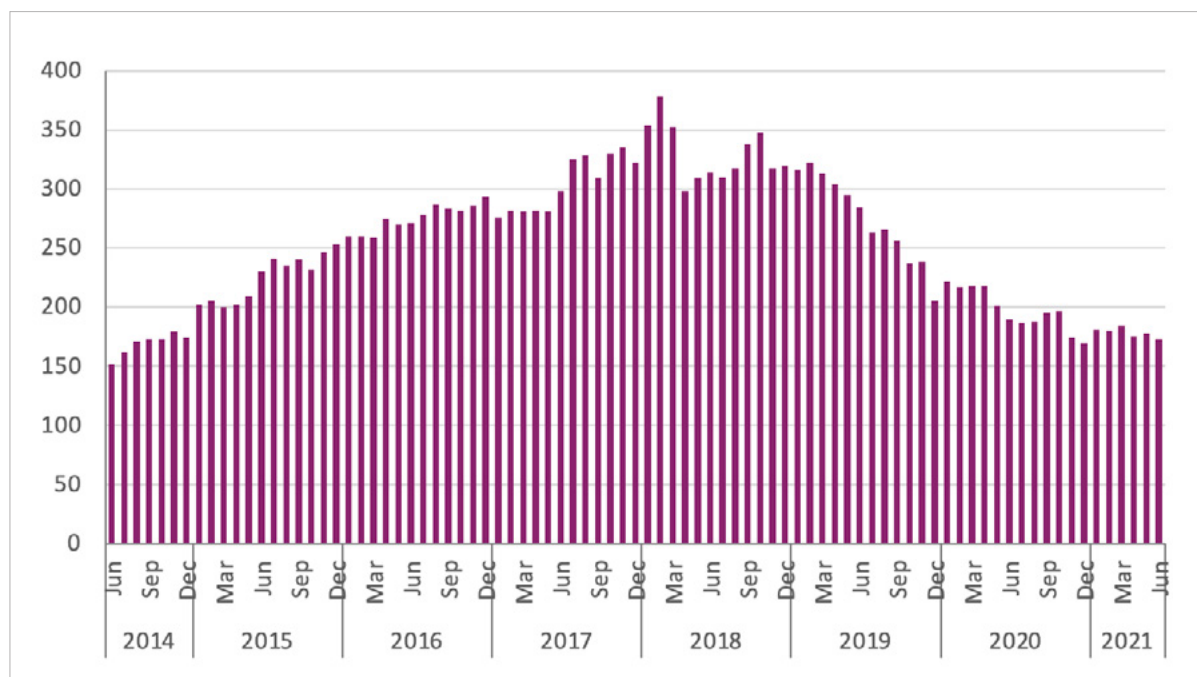
Introduction

Focus Ireland and the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin have collaborated for over a decade to bring high quality and up-to-date research on homelessness to a wider audience and into the core of public policy formation. Since 2014, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has published data on the number of adults and child dependents in Emergency Accommodation each month. In addition, over the same period, Quarterly Performance Reports and Financial Reports have contained data on the duration and cost of homelessness in Ireland. ‘Focus on Homelessness’ aims to make this substantial body of data available in an accessible and reliable format, and provides a detailed report on the extent, nature and duration of homelessness, in addition to the public expenditure on households experiencing homelessness in Ireland.

This new series in the Focus on Homelessness project will take a closer look at homelessness around the country by providing a detailed report for each region. There will be nine reports in total, following the nine regions under which the monthly data is published.

This report looks at homelessness in the South-East of Ireland. The South-East refers here to counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford.

¹ For a more detailed description of these data sources, see Eoin O’Sullivan, Aisling Reidy and Mike Allen (2021) Focus on Homelessness: Significant Developments in Homelessness 2014-2021 (Dublin: Focus Ireland) and Eoin O’Sullivan and Thadee Mustafiri (2020) Public Expenditure on Services for Households Experiencing Homelessness (Dublin: Focus Ireland).

Figure 1: Adults in Emergency Accommodation

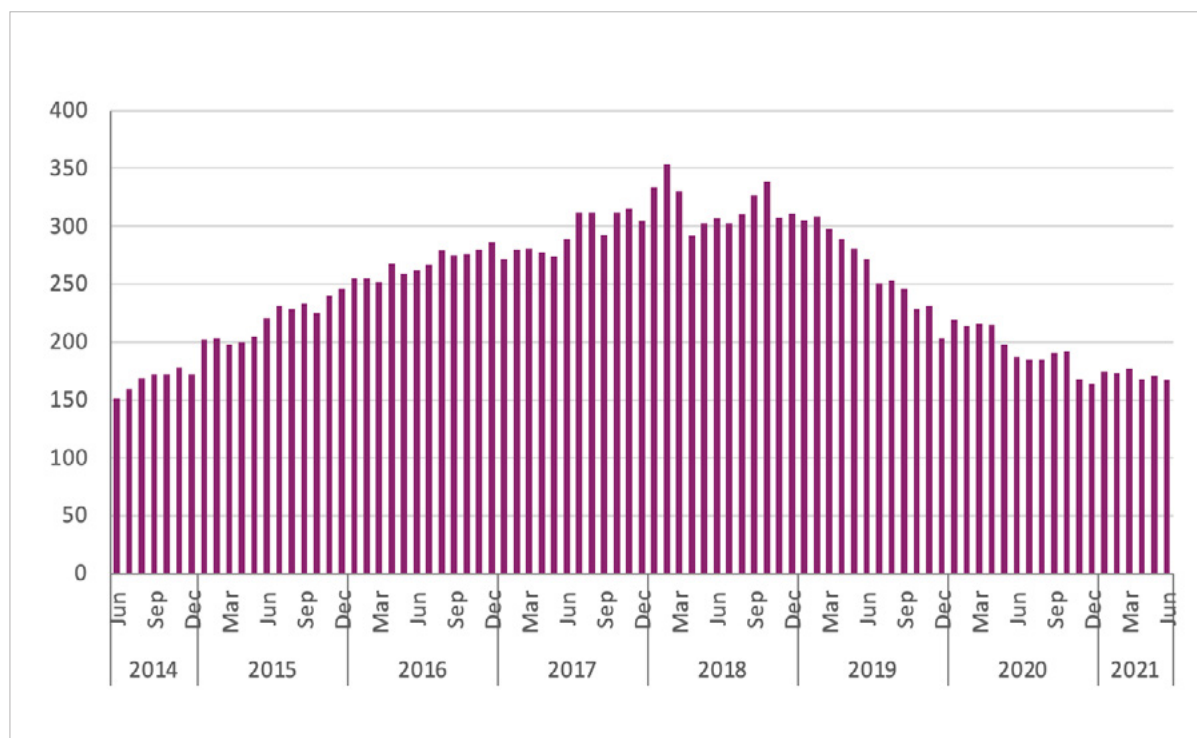
As of June 2021, there were 173 adults in emergency accommodation in the South-East. This number has fallen by 22% since January 2020. The peak was 378 adults in February 2018 and has since fallen back to the lowest levels since 2015.

Breaking this down by county, the majority of adults in emergency accommodation in the South-East are in Waterford, as this has the largest city in the region. On average, Waterford accounts for a third of adults in emergency accommodation in the region, Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary for 15-20% and Wexford for around 10%. Carlow has seen the biggest increase in adults in emergency accommodation since 2014, having increased rapidly particularly within the past three years.

This figure includes all adults, whether they are single or in a couple, and whether or not they are accompanied by children.

Figure 2: Adults in the Region as a Percent of all Adults in Emergency Accommodation

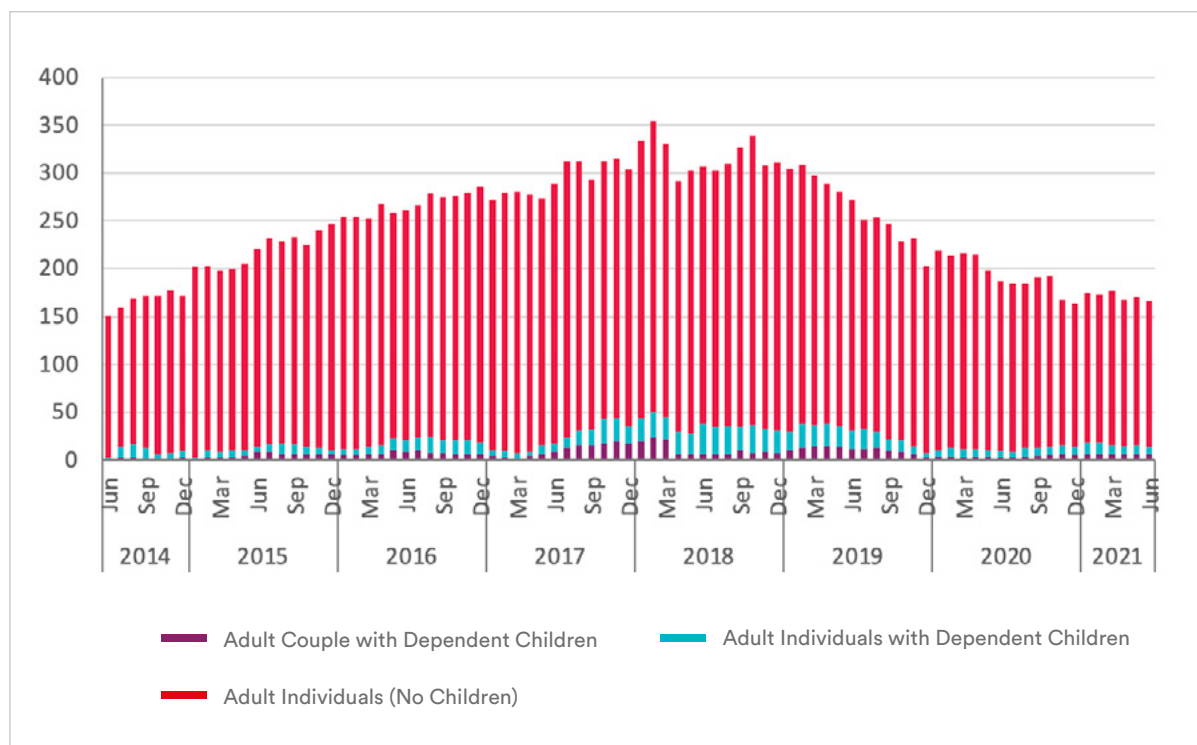
Comparing the South-East to the overall national figure, Figure 2 shows that the proportion of all adults in emergency accommodation who are in the South-East has fallen steadily over the past few years. This figure peaked at 7.3% in July 2015 and has fallen since as the number of adults in emergency accommodation in the South-East rose at a slower rate than the national figure. Since the beginning of 2020, this figure has stabilised around 3%.

Figure 3: Households in Emergency Accommodation

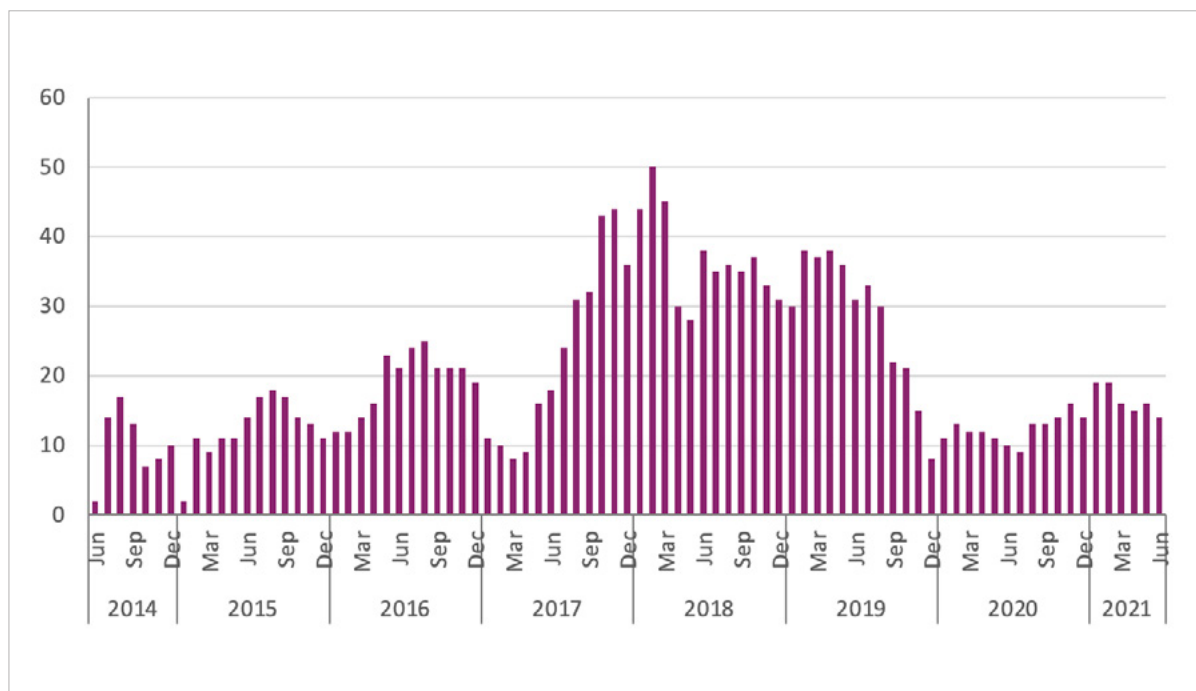
After increasing steadily since 2014, the number of households in emergency accommodation in the South-East reached a peak of 354 in February 2018, after which it began to steadily decline. In December 2020, this fell to the lowest number of households in emergency accommodation in the South-East during this seven-year period, at 164 households.

Presenting the scale of homelessness in terms of the number of households affected shifts the focus towards providing solutions to homelessness, which are homes. This gives the clearest indication of the number of dwellings required to meet the needs of households currently in emergency accommodation in the South-East.

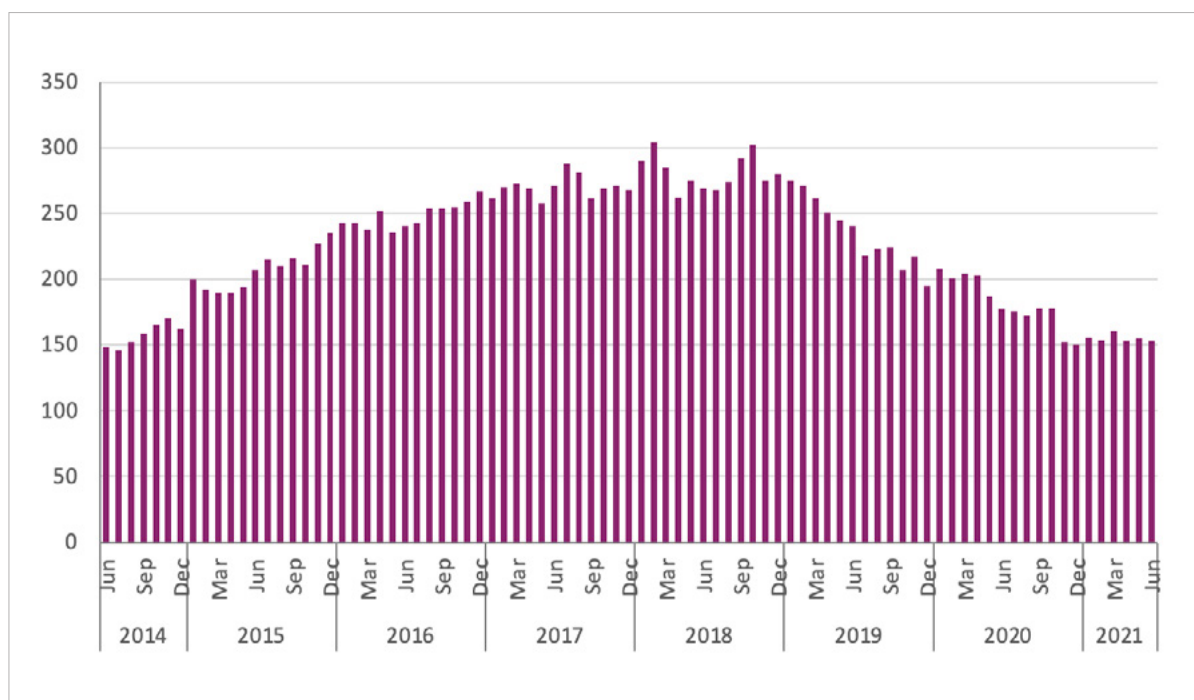
As of June 2021, there were 167 households in emergency accommodation in the South-East.

Figure 4: Household Type

Adult individuals without accompanying children (often referred to as single homelessness) make up the majority of homeless households in the South-East. Of the 167 households in emergency accommodation in the South-East in June 2021, 92% were adult individuals without accompanying children. Of the households with accompanying children, over half are single-parent families.

Figure 5: Families in Emergency Accommodation

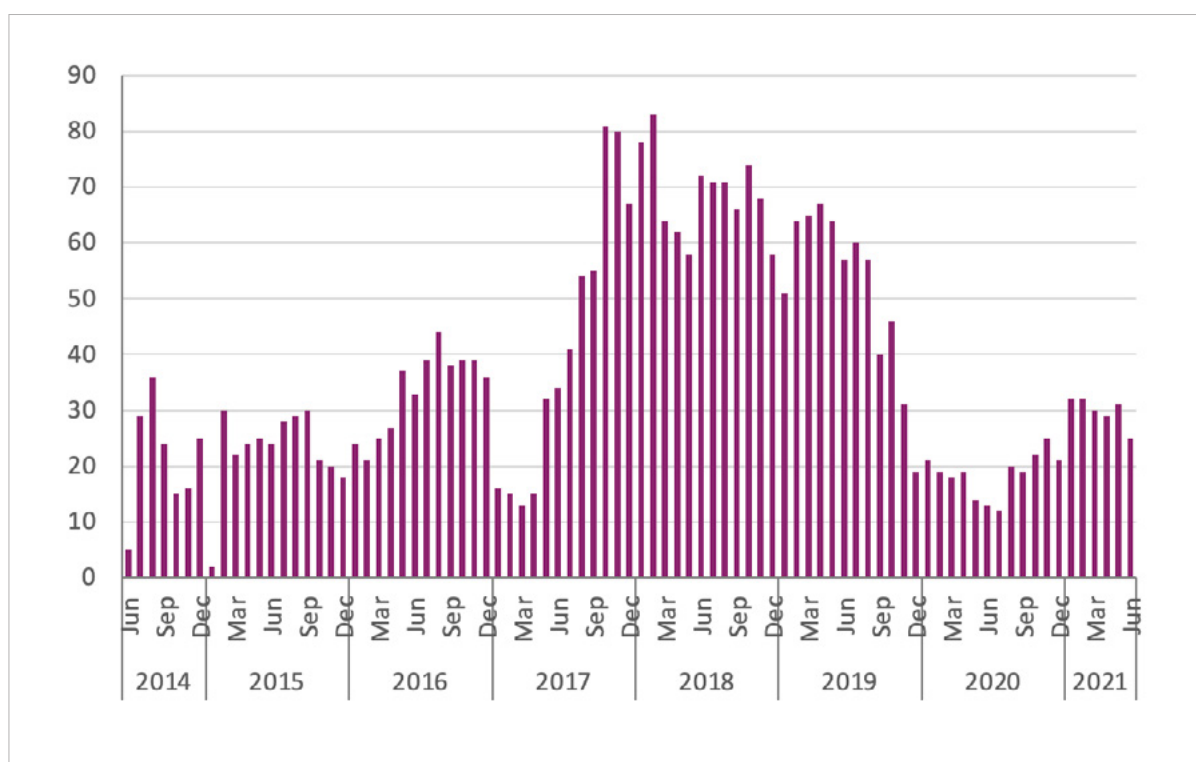
The number of families in emergency accommodation in the South-East reached a peak of 50 families in February 2018 and has since declined, reaching a low of 8 in December 2019. From mid-2020, this has slowly started to rise again, and as of June 2021 there were 14 families in emergency accommodation in the South-East.

Figure 6: Adult-Only Households

Adult-only households are either single adult individuals or adults in couples without accompanying children. As shown in Figure 6, after increasing steadily since June 2014, the number of adult-only households in the South-East peaked at 304 households in February 2018, and from early 2019 there was a steady decline during 2020, with the numbers remaining stable in the first half of 2021.

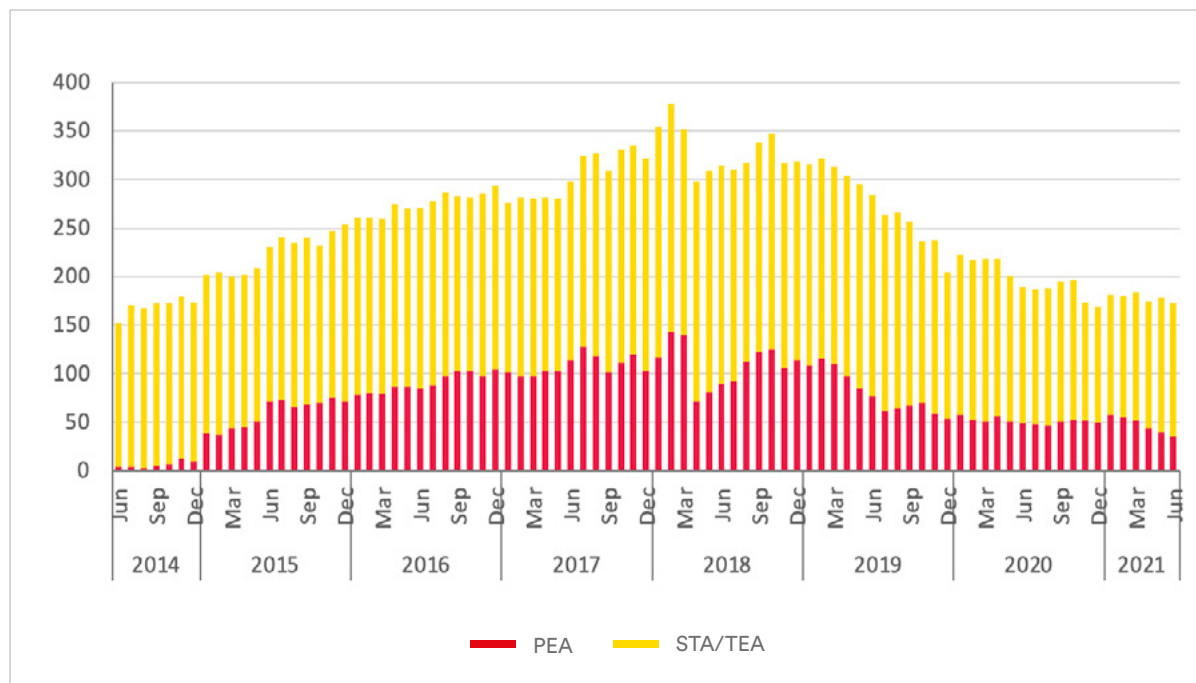
As of June 2021, there were 153 adult-only households in emergency accommodation in the South-East.

Figure 7: Child Dependants



The number of children in Emergency Accommodation follows the trend of families in Emergency Accommodation as shown in Figure 5. In the South-East, there were 25 children in emergency accommodation in June 2021.

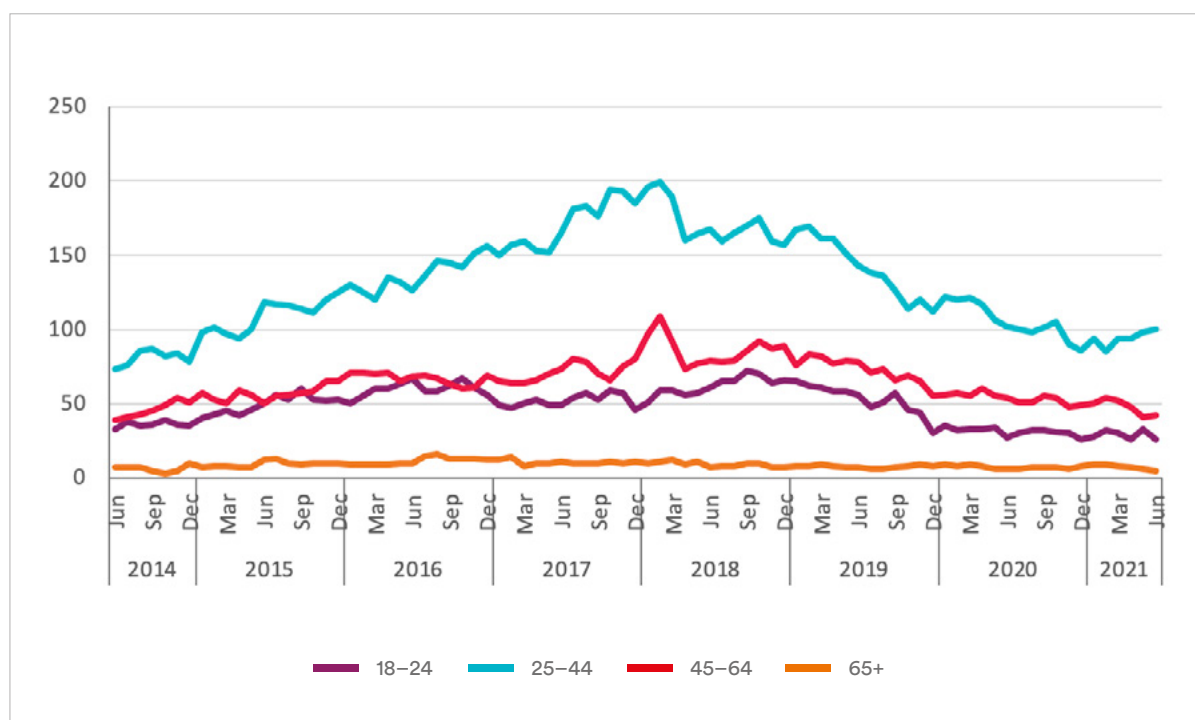
The highest number was reached in February 2018, with 83 children in emergency accommodation in the South-East. Since then, the number has fallen, reaching its lowest point in five years (12 children) in June 2020. It has since started to increase again.

Figure 8: Accommodation Type

There are three types of Emergency Accommodation reported in the monthly reports. Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA) includes hotels, B&Bs and other residential facilities that are privately owned and are being used on an emergency basis. Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) is Emergency Accommodation, primarily congregate shelters and Family Hubs, with onsite professional support, and operated by Non-Government Organisations fully or partially funded by Section 10 funding via the relevant local authority. Temporary Emergency Accommodation (TEA) is the smallest category and includes emergency accommodation with no (or minimal) supports, TEAs are operated both by NGOs and private operators. In the South-East, the number of TEA is very low and so has been combined with STA.

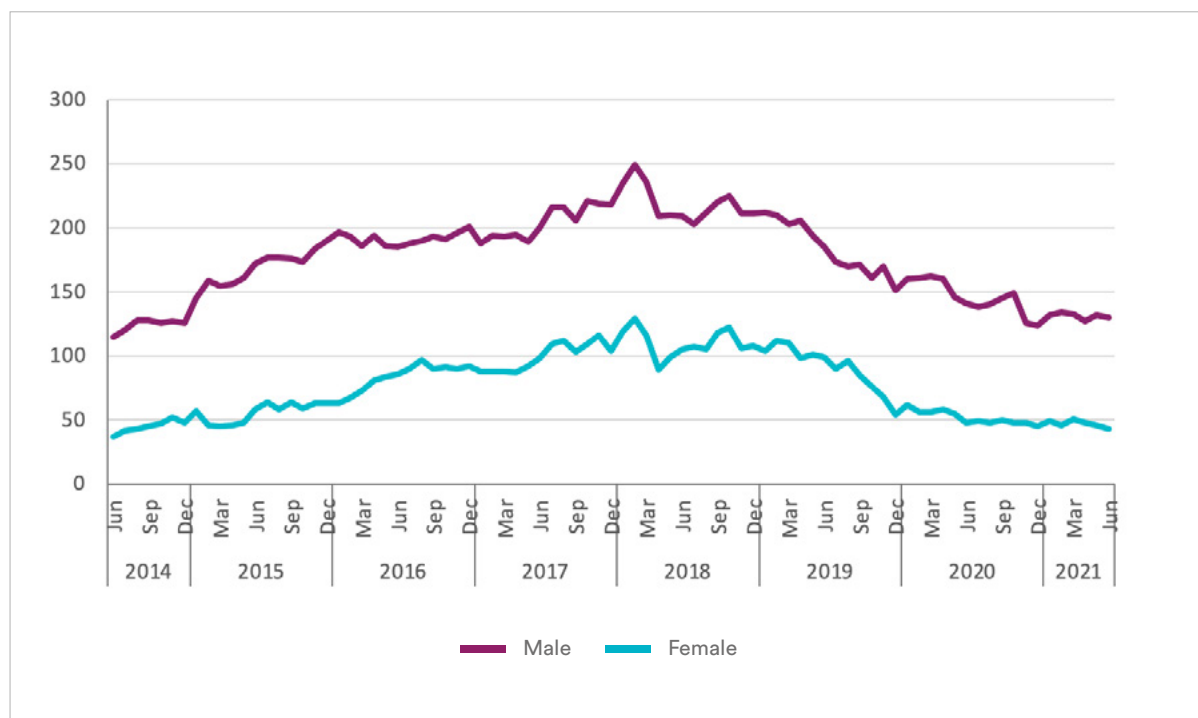
STA/TEA has remained the most common accommodation type throughout the period shown on Figure 8. On average, 72% of people in emergency accommodation in the South-East have stayed in STA/TEA.

PEA tends to be predominantly allocated to families, hence the decrease in the numbers here as family homelessness began to fall after February 2018, as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 9: Age Profile

25–44-year-olds make up the majority of the number of adults in emergency accommodation in the South-East, at around 52%. The next largest group is 45–64-year-olds (25%), followed by young adults aged 18–24 (20%). People aged over 65 years make up 4% of all adults in Emergency Accommodation.

Both the youngest and oldest age groups are at lower levels now than in 2014. The number of 45–64-year-olds in emergency accommodation has risen by 8% over this period, and the number of 25–44-year-olds is now 37% higher than in 2014.

Figure 10: Adults by Gender

As of June 2021, there are 130 adult men in emergency accommodation in the South-East and 43 adult women, a ratio of 75:25. The ratio of men to women in the South-East has remained fairly consistent throughout this period.

At the peak in February 2018, there were 249 men and 129 women in emergency accommodation in the South-East.

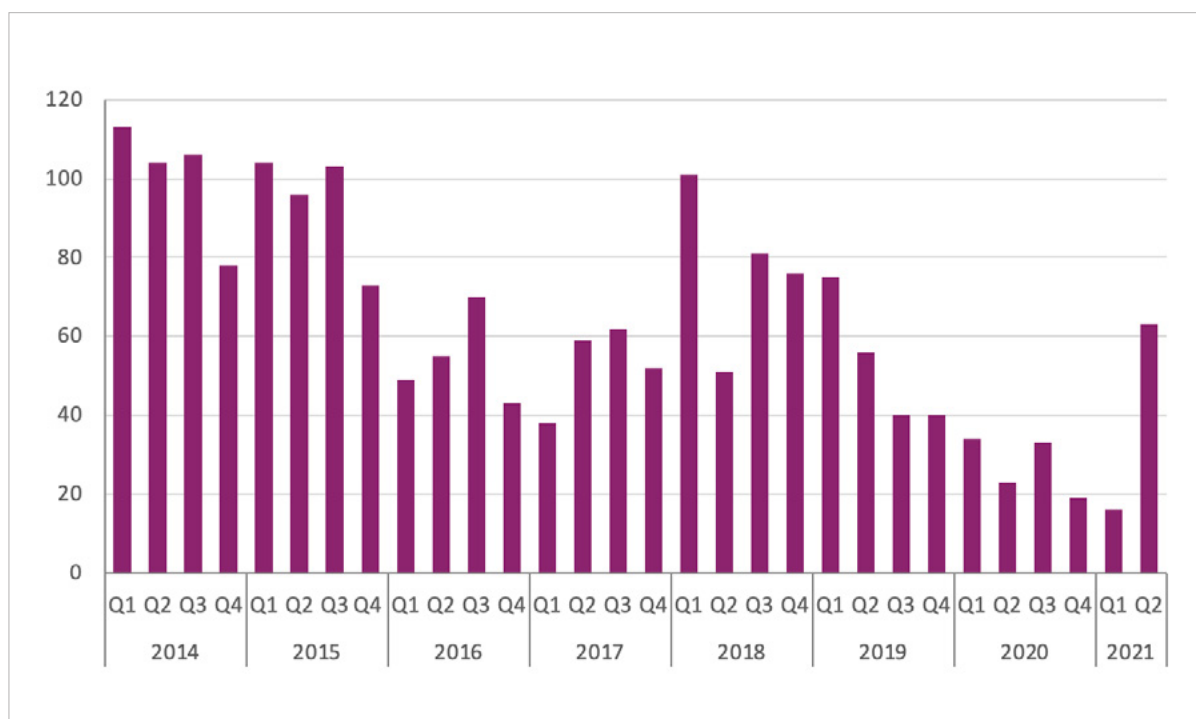
Figure 11: New Presentations

Figure 11 shows the number of adult individuals presenting as homeless to Local Authorities in the South-East and provided with emergency accommodation each quarter since Quarter 1 2014. This has gradually declined over the past seven years, with sudden spikes in Q1 2018 and Q2 2021. At its highest, 113 individuals presented as homeless in Q1 2014.

On average in 2014, 7.7 individuals presented as homeless each week in the South-East. This has fallen to an average of 2.1 individuals per week in 2020, and 3 per week in the first half of 2021.

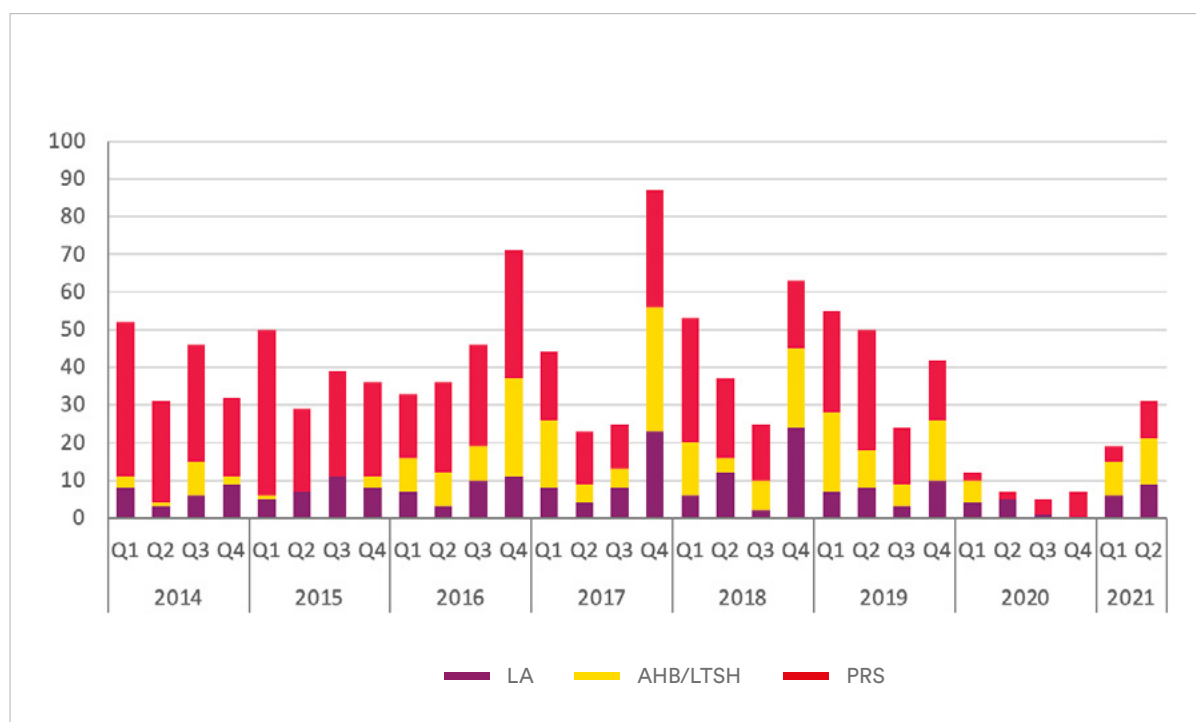
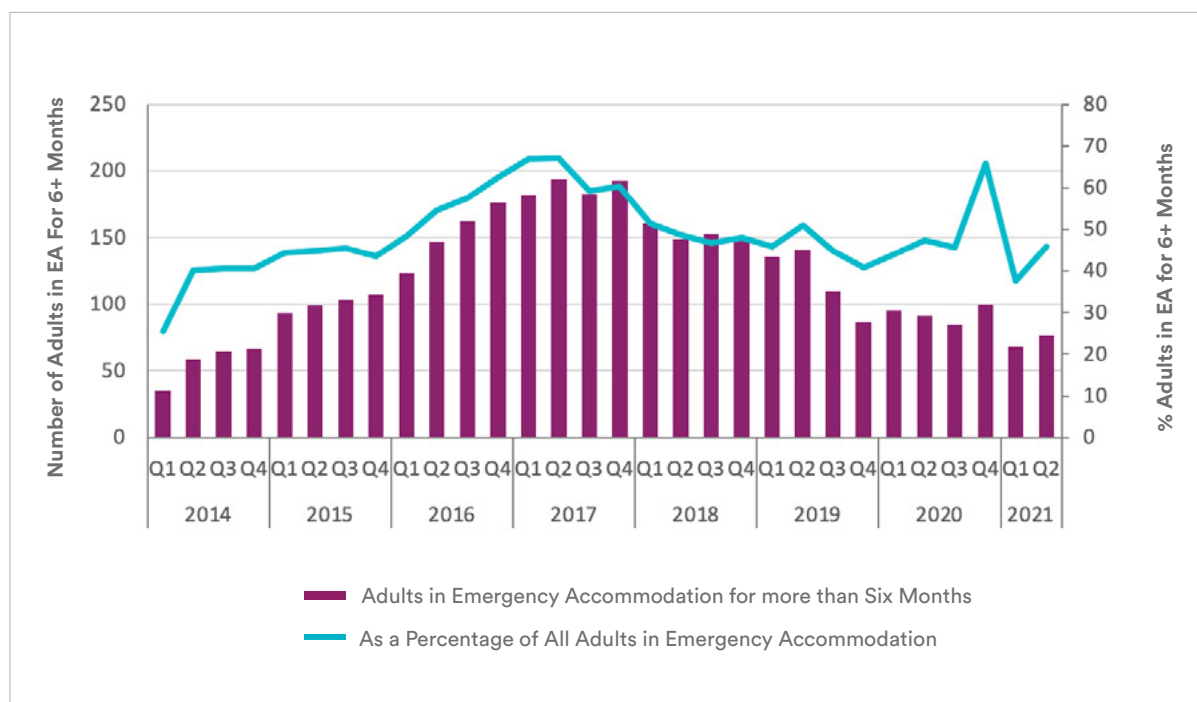
Figure 12: Adult Exits to Housing

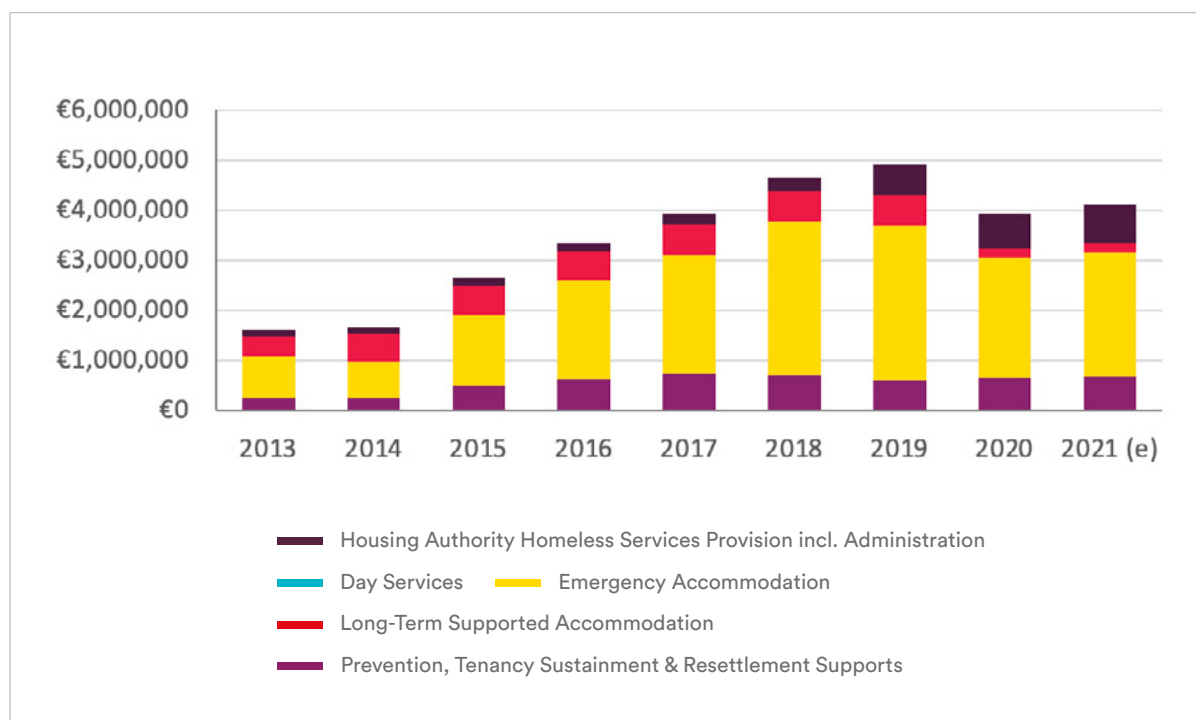
Figure 12 presents the number of adults exiting emergency accommodation in the South-East each quarter and their destination. LA is exits to Local Authority housing, AHB/LTSA is for housing provided by Approved Housing Bodies and PRS is exits to the Private Rented Sector, which are largely supported by HAP payments.

The highest number of exits in one quarter was 87 in Q4 2017. When compared with the data on presentations in Figure 11, there have been 5 quarters since 2014 where more people exited.

Overall during the period Q1 2014 – Q2 2021, there were 1,110 adult exits from emergency accommodation to housing in the South-East: 56% to the PRS, 23% to AHB housing and 21% to Local Authority housing.

Figure 13: Adults in Emergency Accommodation for Over 6 Months

The number of adults experiencing long-term homelessness, defined as over 6 months, is shown in Figure 13. 45.8% of all homeless adults in the South-East have now been in emergency accommodation for over 6 months. This reached its highest point in Q2 2017 at 67.1%, when the number of adults in emergency accommodation was also at its highest point at 194.

Figure 14: Section 10 Expenditure

Actual expenditure by central (DHLGH) and local government on services for households experiencing homelessness in the South-East increased from €1.6 million in 2013 to €3.9 million in 2020. The South-East estimates that it will spend €4.1 million in 2021.

In 2020, expenditure on emergency accommodation in the South-East was €2.4 million, or 61% of total expenditure. Housing Authority services accounted for 18%, Prevention for 16% and LTSA for 5%.

Between 2013 and 2019, 60% of total expenditure in the South-East was on emergency accommodation. Housing Authority services is the category which has seen the biggest increase, with over five times as much spent in this category in 2020 than in 2013. The only category in which spending has decreased is LTSA, which has decreased by 48% since 2013. There was no expenditure on Day Services in the South-East during this period.

Eoin O’Sullivan is Professor in Social Policy at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.

Aisling Reidy is Policy Officer in Focus Ireland.

Mike Allen is Director of Advocacy in Focus Ireland.

FOCUS
Ireland



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

ISBN: 978-1-9996896-4-3

Publication date: August 2021

focusireland.ie

Head Office
9 – 12 High Street,
Christchurch, Dublin 8
D08 E1W0

T 01 881 5900
LoCall 1850 204 205
F 01 881 5950
E info@focusireland.ie

Registered Charity
CHY 7220

FOCUS
Ireland