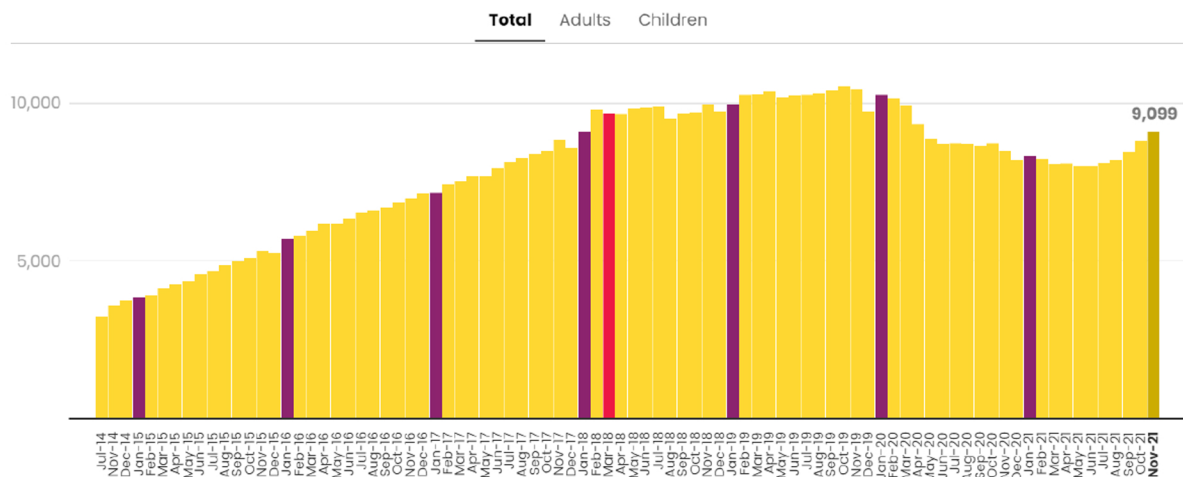


FOCUS Ireland

January Advocacy News

Number of people who are homeless and relying on emergency homeless accommodation



Featured News

New Figures Show Total of 9099 People Homeless

Focus Ireland said it is deeply concerned that the numbers homeless has risen for the 6th month in a row as figures published today show 9099 people homeless in November.

Figures from the Department of Housing show this is a rise of 269 from the 8830 people homeless in October 2021. There are now 1108 families homeless nationwide with 2548 children homeless within these families, most of whom faced a bleak homeless Christmas. This is an increase of 35 children and 26 families since October. Read the full press release [here](#).

Latest News

Overview of regional homelessness report and regional webinars

In December, Focus Ireland published an overview of [regional homeless data in all 9 regions](#) across Ireland, along with a discussion of the most significant features which emerge from the review. The report is part of the [Focus on Homelessness](#) series which draws on official data published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and presents it in accessible formats. The report covers the period from 2014 until June 2021 and demonstrates the surprisingly large variation in patterns of homelessness across the country during the crisis. The overview follows on from a number of regional webinars in the South East, Mid West and South West, where the local data were discussed by the lead researcher, Professor Eoin O'Sullivan, representatives of the regional homeless authority and local Focus Ireland staff. The Mid-West webinar can be watched on our YouTube channel [here](#). Further regional events are being planned.



Our Campaigns

Focus Ireland Lived Experience Ambassador Programme

In December, Dermot Kennedy played 4 sold out gigs in 3 arena to raise funds for Focus Ireland and Pieta. As part of this, Dermot asked to meet with a Focus Ireland customer to help him understand our work. We arranged for Scott Buckley (one of our LEAP ambassadors) to meet with Dermot in our High Street office. Scott is a talented artist and he and Dermot discussed how their art helped them through dark moments and was a great outlet to express emotions. Dermot spent time enjoying Scott's artwork and sharing his creative journey. Dermot made a video with Scott that was shown at the start of each gig. You can learn more about Scott's story in this short [video](#).

#FocusOnChildren

As part of our #FocusOnChildren campaign, we wanted to empower children to have their voices heard about homelessness. Please sign the petition to end child homelessness [here](#).

In November, our child support workers worked with children in homeless accommodation to prepare a book with their messages for the government. The children also produced beautiful artwork expressing what a home meant to them and in December, we opened a pop-up art gallery in Dublin's Wicklow Street displaying the children's work. Kelly Anne Byrne (LEAP ambassador) and her children helped launch the gallery. You can read more about the launch and the gallery [here](#).

Policy Update

A new Action Committee and Housing First plan announced

In November, the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien, announced a new [National Homeless Action Committee \(NHAC\)](#) and, in December, launched the [Second National Implementation Plan for Housing First](#) in December.

The NHAC is cross Departmental/cross agency group which will broadly fill the role of the National Consultative Committee/Cross Departmental Committee on Homelessness under previous homeless strategies, and will replace Minister O'Brien's more recently created High Level Task Force on Homelessness. The new Housing First plan aims to create 1,319 additional Housing First tenancies by 2026, with specific regional targets. The National Director of Housing First will be situated in the Housing Agency, rather than in Dublin City Council.

The Government's Housing First targets relate to new tenancies created rather than numbers currently housed. In August 2018, the first plan committed to adding 633 new tenancies to the 161 'active' tenancies then in place. In the event 722 new tenancies were created. Reasons for tenancies ending are not reported but range from death to eviction. At the time of publication of the second plan (December 2021) there were 647 individuals with a Housing First tenancy, [according to the Housing Agency](#).

Research News

Domestic Violence and Family Homelessness

Focus Ireland launched its Domestic Violence and Family Homelessness report on 6th December. This report, authored by Dr Paula Mayock (Trinity College Dublin) and Fiona Neary (Research Consultant), aimed to enhance knowledge and understanding of the relationship between domestic violence and family homelessness in Ireland. It also examines the potential for greater cross-sectoral collaboration in preventing homelessness among families affected by domestic violence. Read the report [here](#) and the executive summary [here](#). The report launch event can be watched on our Youtube channel [here](#).

December Lunchtime Talk

"It started at home": Prevention of Youth Homelessness, An Exploration of Mediation in Networks of Care and Place Attachment. Nia Rees from Cardiff University joined the lunchtime talk to present on her research evaluation of a youth mediation service preventing youth homelessness in Wales. Two mediators from Focus Ireland

Upcoming Webinars

January Lunchtime Talk- "Counting Homelessness in Belgium: Local Counts as an Advocacy Strategy"

Focus Ireland will be joined on the 19th of January by Dr Koen Hermans, who will present on a study that used the Norwegian and Danish methodology of national homelessness counts, in four cities (Leuven, Gent, Liège, Arlons) and 1 province (Limburg). The ETHOS typology of homelessness was used as a methodology and some of the findings from this study include, staying temporarily with friends is the largest group among the different ETHOS-categories. There were also a large number of children counted in both locations, but they are almost not at all in the streets or in night shelters.

Please register [here](#).

February Lunchtime Talk- "Generation Rent and Housing Precarity in 'Post Crisis' Ireland"

On the 16th February Dr Richard Waldron, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast will present on his paper that connects debates within the generation rent literature with more recent work on housing precarity, or the uncertainty arising from the experience of insecure, unaffordable and poor[1]quality housing. The article develops and applies a Housing Precarity Index (HPI) to data on private renters in Ireland to provide a nuanced account of the extent and severity of precarities in the Irish rental sector among differing sub-groups during a housing market crash and dubious "recovery" period.