



# Focus on Homelessness

Mid-East

Eoin O'Sullivan  
Aisling McGovern  
Mike Allen

Challenging homelessness. Changing lives.

**FOCUS**  
Ireland



## Contents

Introduction.....	4
Prevention .....	5
Presentations to Emergency Accommodation.....	6
Drivers of Entries to Emergency Accommodation .....	7
Household Composition of those in Emergency Accommodation .....	8
Age Profile of those in Emergency Accommodation .....	11
Gender and Emergency Accommodation.....	12
Citizenship of those in Emergency Accommodation .....	13
Emergency Accommodation providers.....	14
Exits from Emergency Accommodation to Housing .....	15
Duration in Emergency Accommodation .....	17
Housing First .....	19
Expenditure on Homeless services in the Mid-East .....	20

## 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. This series 'Focus on Homelessness' aims to build on the success of our research partnership by making the now substantial body of data published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and other State Agencies working in the area of Housing and Homelessness, available in an accessible format.

Since 2020, Focus on Homelessness has provided an overview of key trends in the number of households experiencing homelessness in Ireland in recent years, the number of entries into and exits from emergency accommodation, length of stay in emergency accommodation and the expenditure on these services. Special editions of Focus on Homelessness have examined Adult-Only Homelessness, Gender and Homelessness, patterns of homelessness in each of the nine regions and 'A Decade of Homelessness' data. All previous editions of Focus on Homelessness can be found [here](#).

This Focus on Homelessness edition will take a closer look at homelessness around the country by providing a detailed report for each of the nine Local Authority administrative regions that organise homelessness services, covering the period from mid-2014 to mid-2025. A combined report will also be published which will draw general observations on trends in homelessness in Ireland over this eleven-year period.

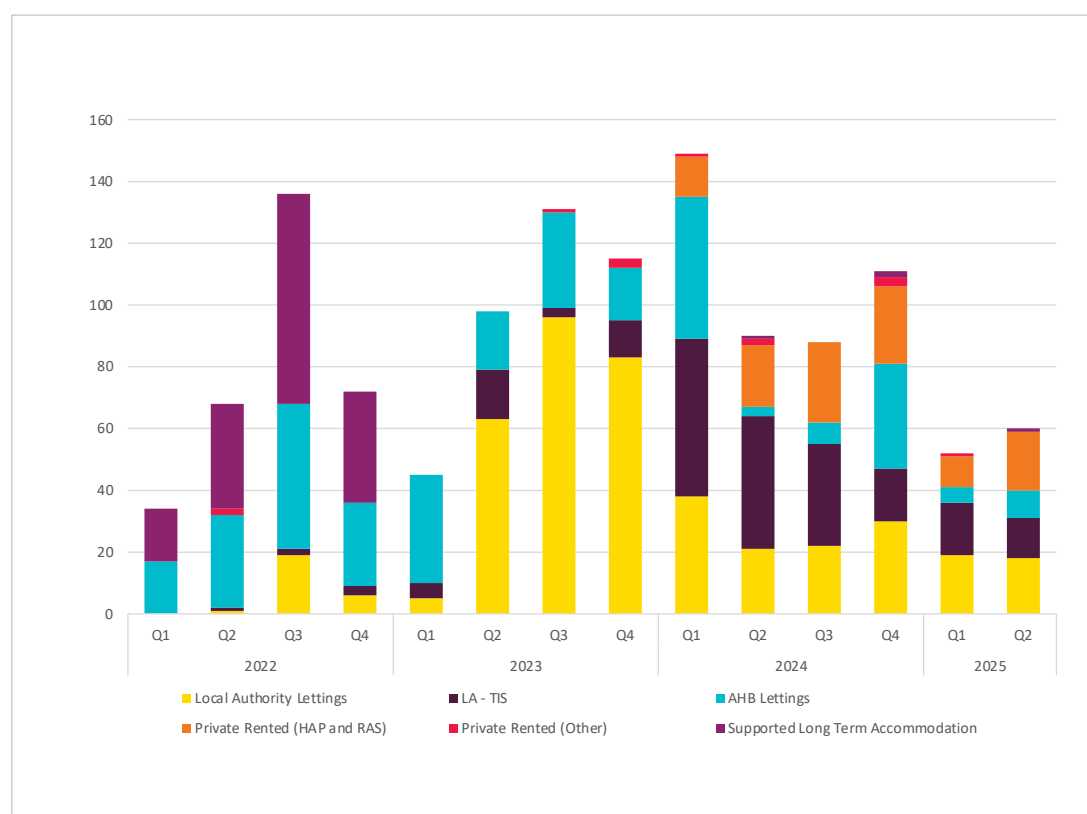
This is the second iteration of regional analysis of homelessness in the Focus on Homelessness series. The previous Focus on Homelessness edition on regional trends analysed the changes between 2014 and 2021. This iteration will compare figures in 2025 to both 2021 and 2014. Current figures are compared to two separate points in time as it shows how the introduction and subsequent ending of certain COVID-19 policies have impacted homelessness<sup>1</sup>. This edition will also analyse a number of new data trends around aspects of homelessness that have become available since 2022.

This report looks at homelessness in the Mid-East region of Ireland, which includes Wicklow, Kildare and Meath.

<sup>1</sup> The two most relevant temporary measures were a moratorium on evictions and a rent freeze. The moratorium on the termination of rental tenancies on all grounds was in place between March and August 2020. Evictions were permitted under limited circumstances during the 2nd and 3rd lockdowns, from October 2020 to November 2020 and from January 2021 to April 2021 respectively.

## Prevention<sup>2</sup>

Figure 1 shows the number of adults who were assessed<sup>3</sup> as homeless under Section 2 of the *Housing Act, 1988* by the three Mid-East Local Authorities, but were provided with other housing options and so were prevented from entering emergency accommodation between 2022 and 2025. The average number of preventions per quarter in the first half of 2025 was 56 – a 49.1% reduction from 2024’s quarterly average of 110 and marking the lowest average number of preventions since the start of data collection in 2022. While there is a large amount of variance, in 2025 the majority of preventions have been from a relatively even split between Local Authority (LA) lettings, LA Tenant-in-Situ (TIS) and the Private Rented Sector (PRS). In Q2 2025, 31.7% (n=19) of preventions have been through the PRS, followed by LA Lettings (30%, n=18), LA TIS (21.7%, n=13), AHB Lettings (15%, n=9) and Supported Long Term Accommodation (1.7%, n=1).



**Figure 1: Adult Preventions from Entering Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East, Q1 2022-Q2 2025**

<sup>2</sup> Data on prevention is only available from Q1 2022 onwards.

<sup>3</sup> Note that legislation uses the term 'regarded ... as being homeless' rather than 'assessed'.

## Presentations to Emergency Accommodation

Figure 2 shows the number of adult individuals who were assessed as homeless under Section 2 of the *Housing Act, 1988* by the three Local Authorities in the Mid-East and *provided with emergency or temporary accommodation*. In 2024, an average of 124 adults were provided with emergency accommodation per quarter in the Mid-East, compared to 80 per quarter in 2021 and 68 per quarter in 2014. In the first half of 2025, 130 adults were provided with emergency accommodation on average per quarter.

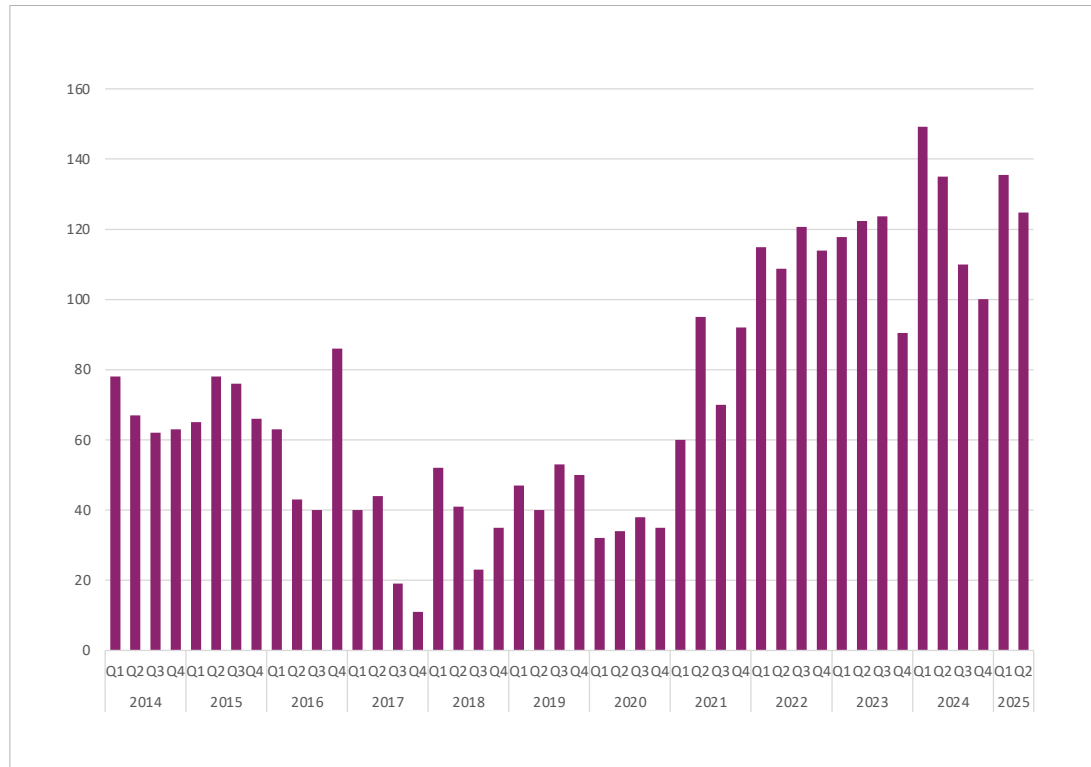
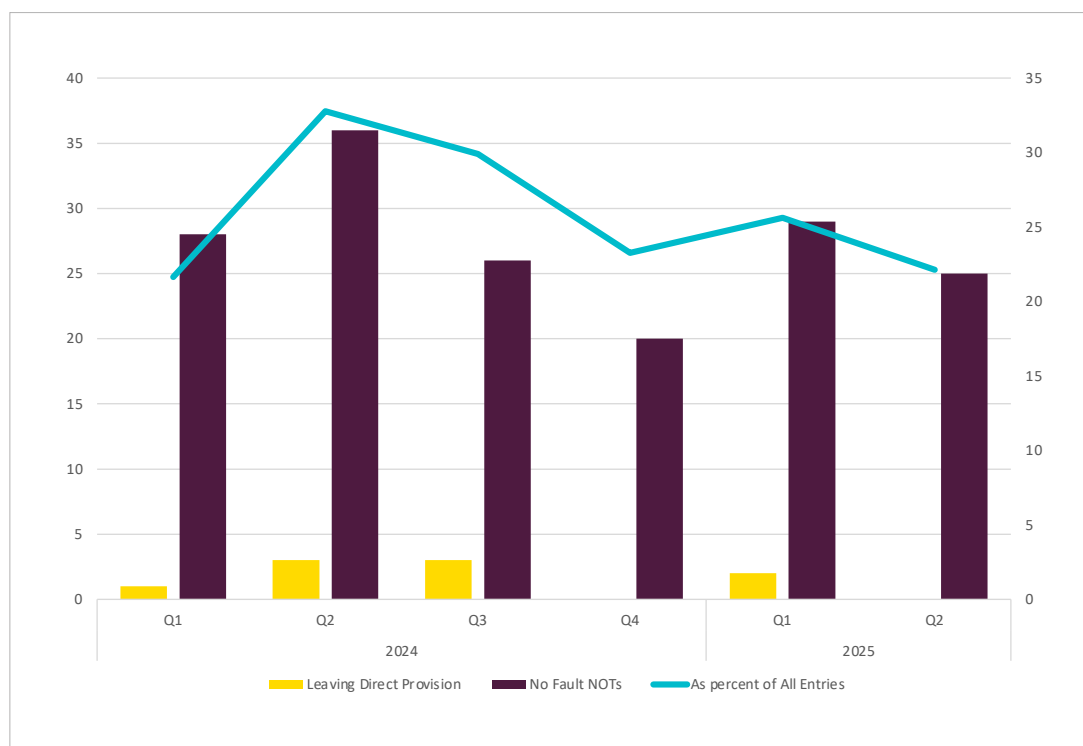


Figure 2: New Adult Presentation to Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

## Drivers of Entries to Emergency Accommodation

Figure 3 shows two explanations given by *households* for becoming homeless and entering emergency accommodation: Leaving Direct Provision and No-Fault Notices of Termination (NoTs)<sup>4</sup>. In Q2 2025, 25 households stated a No-Fault Notice of Termination (NoT) as their reason for presenting as homeless and entering emergency accommodation in the Mid-East, while no households stated it was due to Leaving Direct Provision.



**Figure 3: No Fault Terminations and Leaving Direct Provision as Reasons for Households Entering Emergency Accommodation, and as a Percentage of all Entries in the Mid-East, Q1 2024-Q2 2025<sup>5</sup>**

While the number of people entering emergency accommodation because of Leaving Direct Provision is very low in the Mid-East (highest was 3 in Q3 2024), No-Fault NoTs consistently represent around 20-30% of households entering emergency accommodation in the Mid-East (highest point was 30.3% in Q2 2024).

<sup>4</sup> While there are a number of reasons given for entering emergency accommodation, we are highlighting Leaving Direct Provision and No-Fault NoTs as these are objective explanations and are not themselves the result of other longer-term issues – e.g. a household may cite family circumstances as a reason for entering emergency accommodation, but they may have been staying with family for some time before contacting homeless services as a result of a No Fault NoT.

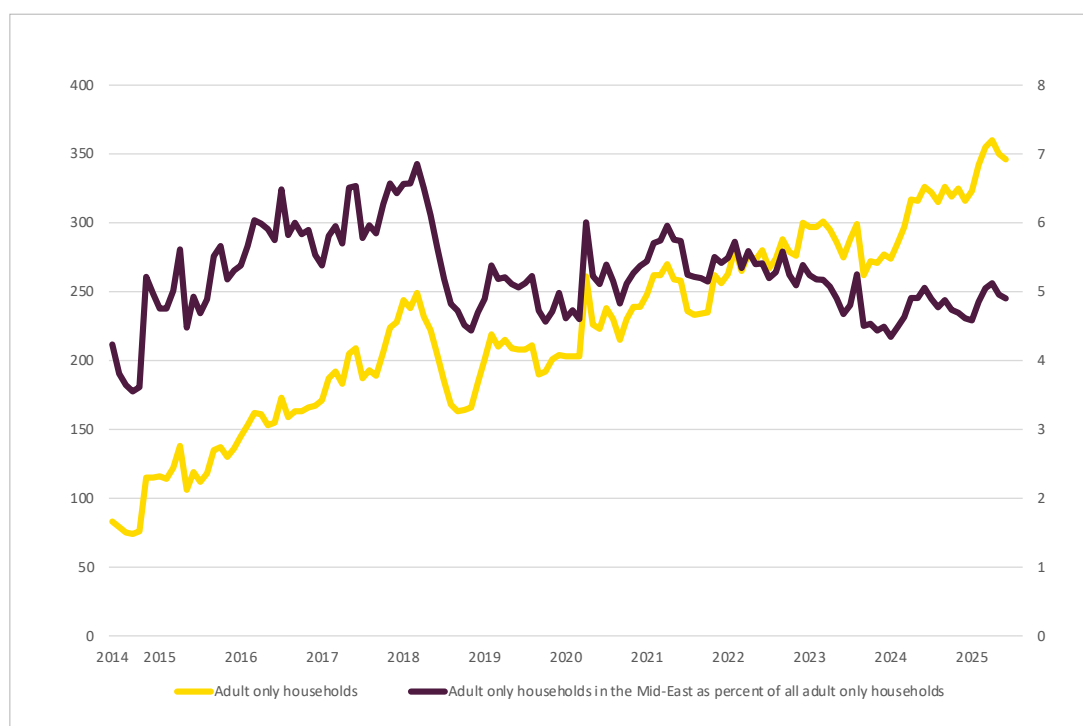
<sup>5</sup> Data is only available from Q1 2024 onwards.

## Household Composition of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 4 shows the number of *adult-only households* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East at a point-in-time (the third week of each month), and as a percentage of all homeless adult-only households in Ireland. The number of adult-only households in emergency accommodation has increased since 2014, although there have been multiple (brief) periods of decrease – most notably in 2018-2019. There has been a very small decrease since the peak in April 2025 (n=360).

The number of adult-only households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East has increased by 34.1% since June 2021 (n=258) and by 316.9% since June 2014 (n=83). There were 346 adult-only households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East in June 2025.

Adult-only households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East make up 4.9% of all adult-only households in Ireland as of June 2025. This is a slight decrease from 2021 (5.7%) but an increase from June 2014 (4.2%).



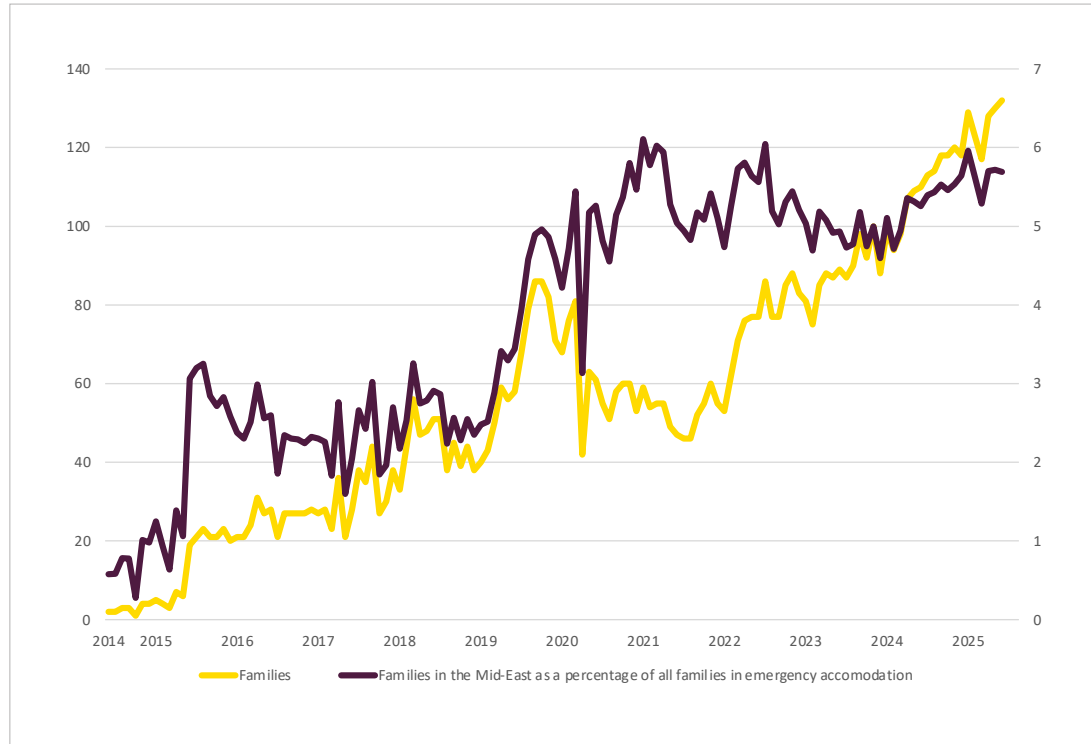
**Figure 4: Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East and as a Percentage of all Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025**

Figure 5 shows the number of *families* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East, as well as homeless families in the Mid-East as a percentage of all families in emergency accommodation in Ireland. The number of families in homeless services has risen since 2014, but experienced a decline and subsequent stagnation of figures 2020-2021 (with the decline starting prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the stagnation mostly occurring during the period when pandemic protection measures were in place<sup>6</sup>, before experiencing a relatively consistent increase since 2021).

The number of families in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East has increased by 180.9% since June 2021 (n=47) and by 6500% since June 2014 (n=2). There were 132 families in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East in June 2025.

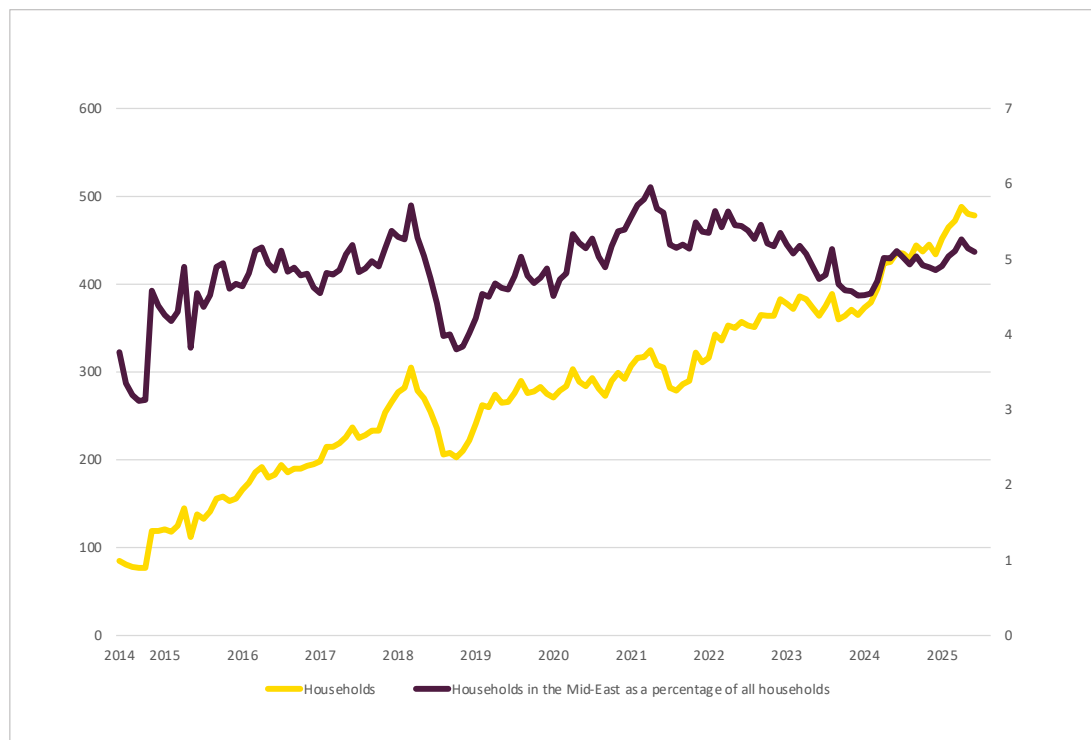
<sup>6</sup> See the previous iteration of Focus on Homelessness: regional trends for further discussion.





**Figure 5: Families in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East and as a Percentage of all Families in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025**

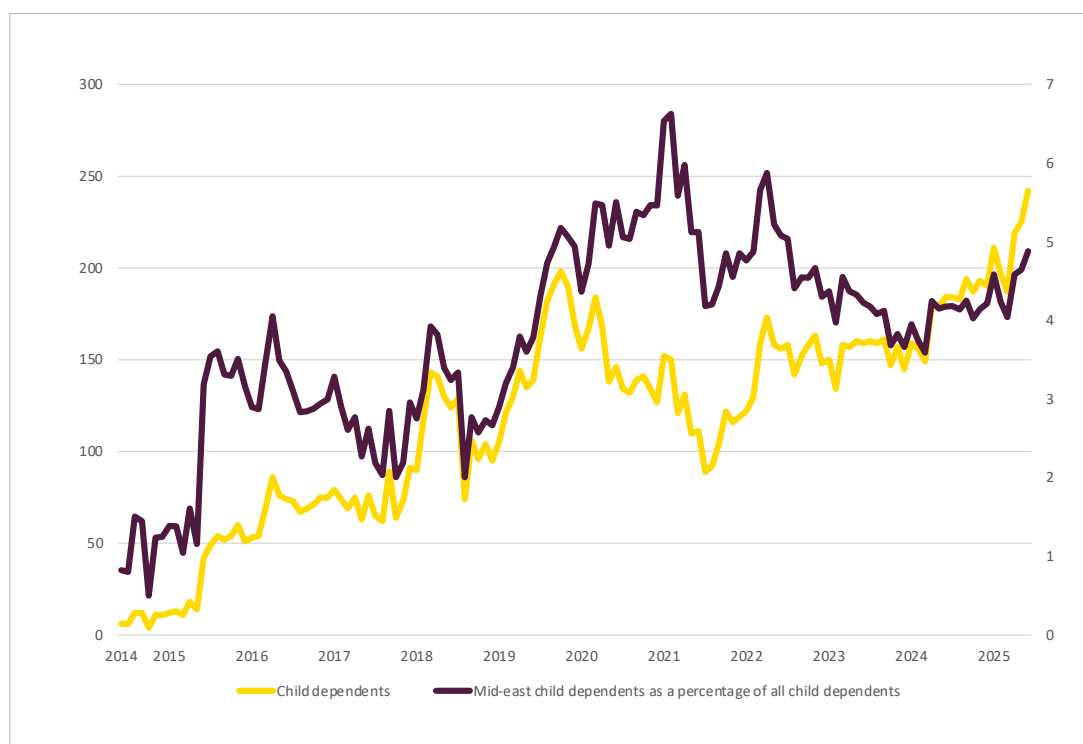
Families in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East make up 5.7% of all families in emergency accommodation nationally as of June 2025. This is a higher proportion than in June 2021 (0.6%) but a slightly lower proportion than in June 2014 (5.8%).



**Figure 6: Households in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East and as a Percentage of all Households in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025**

Figure 6 shows the total number of *all households* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East, and the number of households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East as a percentage of all households in emergency accommodation in Ireland. Household numbers experienced a small reduction 2020-2021 (largely due to the temporary reduction in families as noted above) but have seen increases since then.

The number of households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East has increased by 56.7% since June 2021 (n=305) and by 462.4% since June 2014 (n=85). There were 478 households in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East in June 2025.



**Figure 7: Child Dependents in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East and as a Percentage of all Child Dependents Nationally, 2014-2025**

Households in the Mid-East make up 5.1% of the total households in emergency accommodation nationally as of June 2025. This is a slight decrease from June 2021 (5.6%) but an increase from June 2014 (3.8%).

Figure 7 shows the number of child dependents in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East and the number of child dependents in the Mid-East as a percentage of all child dependents in emergency accommodation in Ireland. The trend of child dependents follows a similar pattern to families, with decreases occurring 2020-2022 and subsequent increases since then.

The number of child dependents in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East has increased by 118% since June 2021 (n=111) and 3933.3% since June 2014 (n=6). There were 242 child dependents in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East in June 2025.

Child dependents in the Mid-East make up 4.9% of child dependents in emergency accommodation nationally. This is a slight decrease from June 2021 (5.1%) but an increase since June 2014 (0.8%).

## Age Profile of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 8 shows the age profile of *all adults* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East. 25-44 year olds make up the largest proportion of adults in emergency accommodation in the mid-east at 49% in June 2025, a slight decrease from June 2021 (50.9%). While the number of adults aged 25-44 has increased consistently since 2024, other age categories have experienced decreases in their numbers – most notably those aged 18-24.

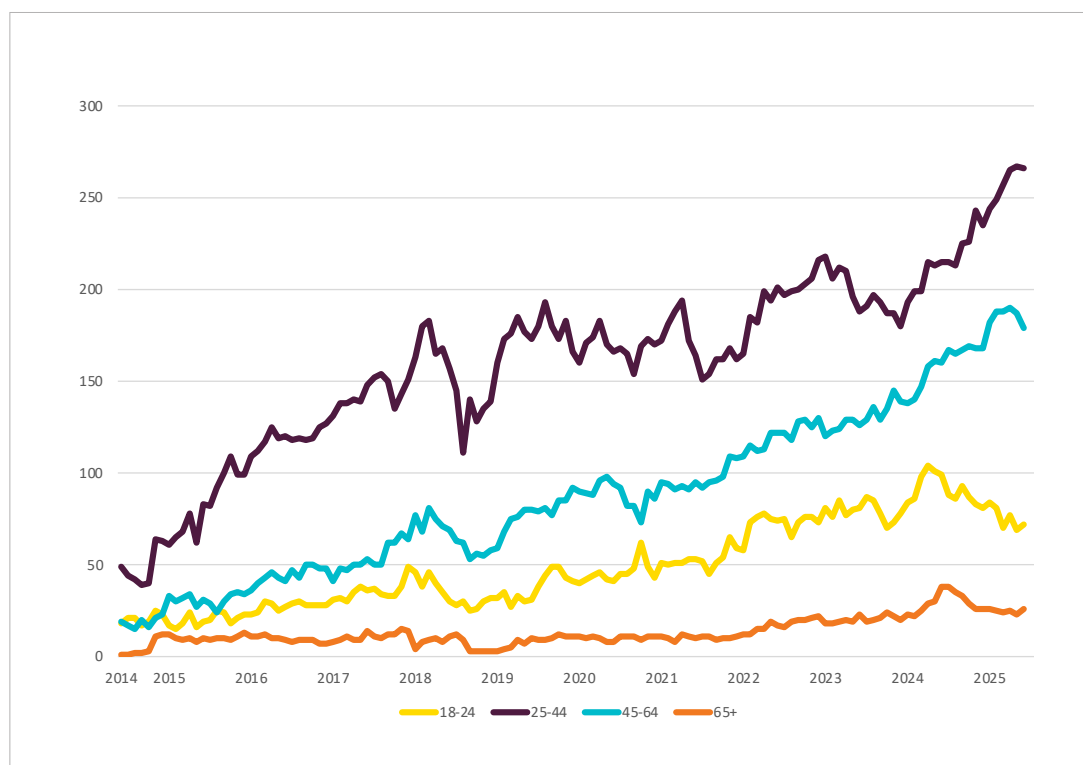


Figure 8: Age Profile of Adults in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East, 2014-2025

The number of **18-24 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 72 in June 2025 – an increase of 35.8% since June 2021 (n=53) and 300% since June 2014 (n=18).

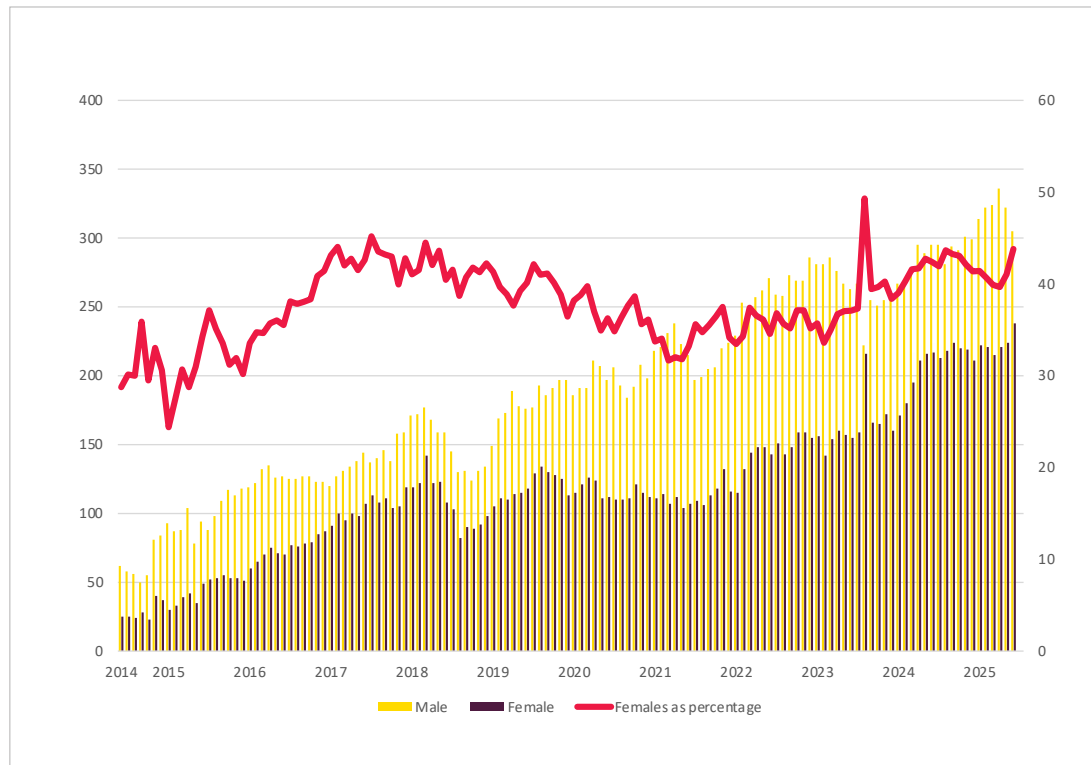
The number of **25-44 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 266 in June 2025 – an increase of 62.2% since June 2021 (n=164) and 442.9% since June 2014 (n=49).

The number of **45-64 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 179 in June 2025 – an increase of 88.4% since June 2021 (n=95) and 842.1% since June 2014 (n=19).

The number of **65+** in emergency accommodation was 26 in June 2025 – an increase of 160% since June 2021 (n=10) and 2500% since June 2014 (n=1).

## Gender and Emergency Accommodation

Figure 9 shows the gender breakdown of *all adults* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East. As of June 2025, there were 305 men and 238 women in emergency accommodation, which is a ratio of 56:44. The proportion of women in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East was higher in June 2025 (43.8%) than in June 2021 (33.2%) and June 2014 (28.7%).



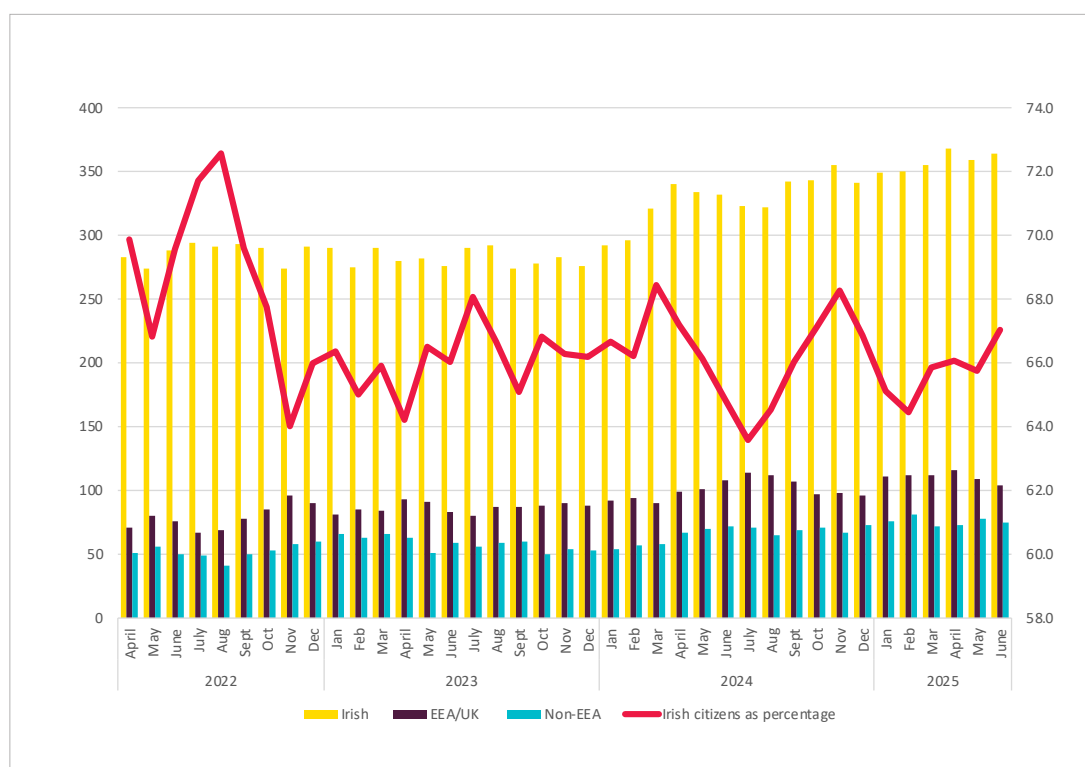
**Figure 9: Adults in Temporary and Emergency Accommodation by Gender, and Females as a Percentage of all Adults in the Mid-East, 2014-2025**

The number of men in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East has increased by 41.9% since June 2021 (n=215) and 391.9% since June 2014 (n=62). In comparison the number of women in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East has increased by 122.4% since June 2021 (n=107) and 852% since June 2014 (n=25).

## Citizenship of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 10 shows the citizenship breakdown of *all adults* in emergency accommodation between April 2022 and June 2025<sup>7</sup>. In June 2025 there were 364 Irish citizens (67%), 104 UK/EEA citizens (19.2%) and 75 non-EEA citizens (13.8%) in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East.

Non-EEA citizens have seen the largest increase, from 51 in April 2022 to 75 in June 2025 – a 47.1% increase in 3 years.

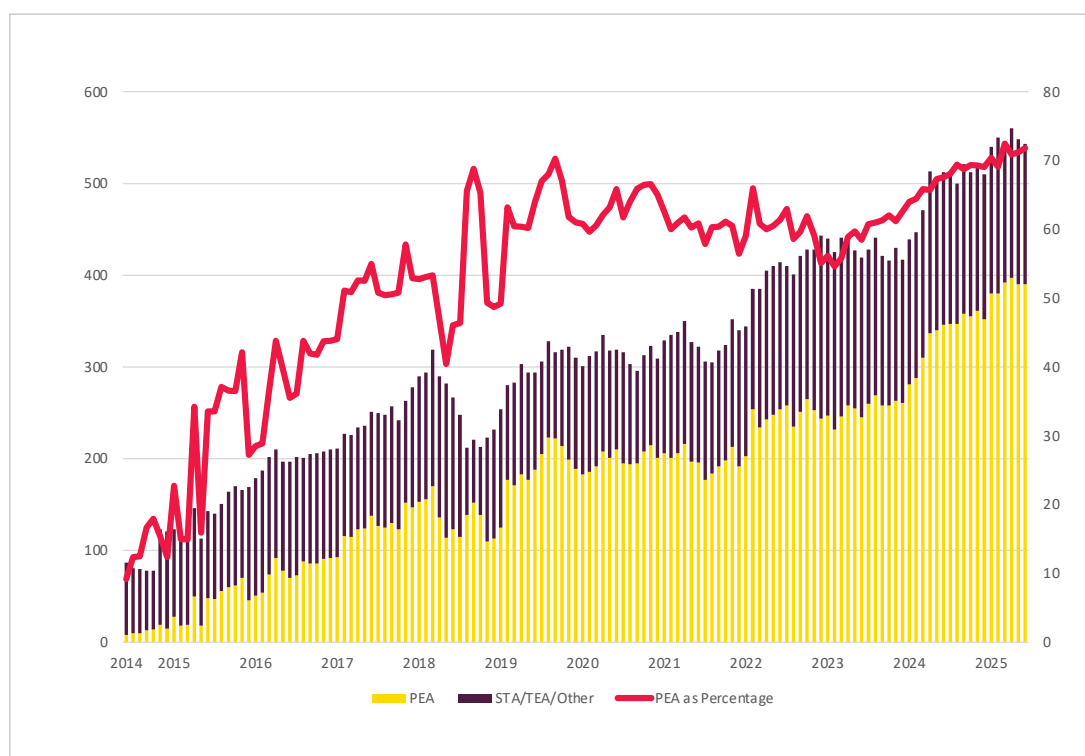


**Figure 10: Citizenship of Adults in Local Authority Funded Emergency and Temporary Accommodation in the Mid-East, April 2022-June 2025**

<sup>7</sup> Data only available from April 2022 onwards.

## Emergency Accommodation providers

Figure 11 shows the types of emergency accommodation in use in the Mid-East. There are three types<sup>8</sup> of emergency accommodation reported. *Private Emergency Accommodation* (PEA) includes hostels, B&Bs and other residential facilities that are privately owned and have been contracted by local authorities on a temporary or long-term basis to be used as emergency accommodation. *Supported Temporary Accommodation* (STA) primarily comprises of congregate shelters and Family Hubs, which have onsite professional support and are operated by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), and are wholly or partially funded by Section 10 funding via the relevant local authority. *Temporary Emergency Accommodation* (TEA) includes emergency accommodation with minimal to no supports and are operated both by NGOs and private operators. The recorded use of TEA is low and so is included in the graph along with the STA figure.



**Figure 11: Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East, and PEA as a Percentage of all Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East, 2014-2025**

Figure 11 shows that since 2019 PEA has made up the majority of emergency accommodation in the Mid-East and is consistently increasing its proportion. As of June 2025, PEA makes up 71.8% (n=390) of the total emergency accommodation beds in the Mid-East, compared to 60.9% in June 2021 (n=196) and 9.2% in June 2014 (n=8). PEA accommodation beds in the Mid-East have increased by 99% since June 2021 and 4775% since June 2014. In comparison, STA/TEA/Other has increased by 21.4% since June 2021 (n=126) and 93.7% since June 2014 (n=79).

<sup>8</sup> There is a very small number of housing under the 'Other' category, which is included in the STA/TEA group for the purposes of this analysis.

## Exits from Emergency Accommodation to Housing

Figure 12 shows the number of adults exiting emergency accommodation to housing in the Mid-East in each quarter since 2014. LA refers to *Local Authority housing*, AHB/LTSA is for housing provided by *Approved Housing Bodies* and PRS refers to exits to the *Private Rented Sector*, largely supported by HAP payments.

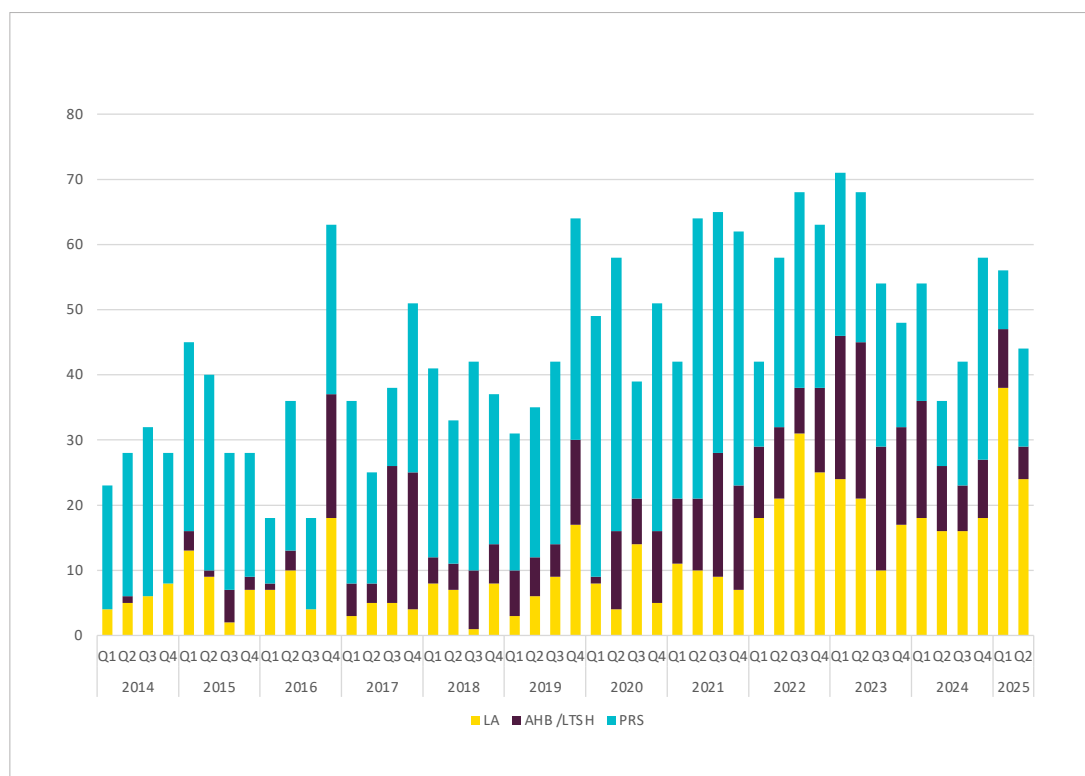


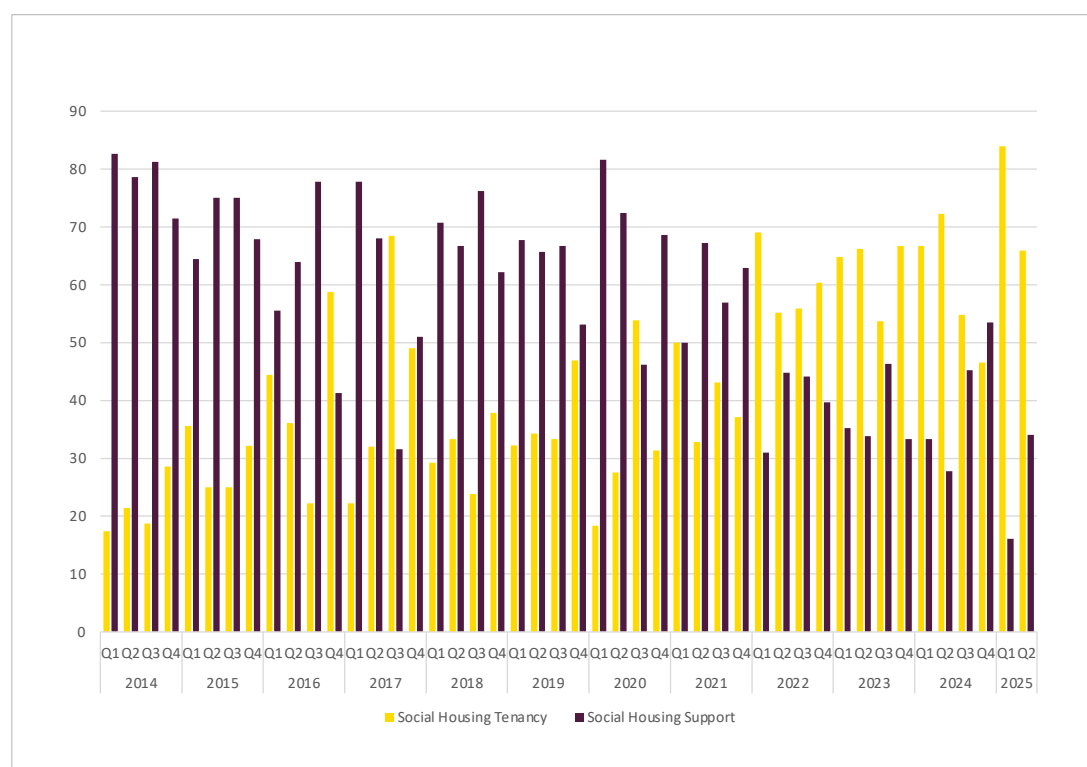
Figure 12: Adult Exits to Housing from Emergency Accommodation by Type in the Mid-East, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

In Q2 2025 24 households (54.5%) exited into LA housing, 5 (11.4%) into AHB/LTSA and 15 (34.1%) into the PRS. The number of exits into the PRS has reduced significantly since 2014, and that pattern has continued between 2021 and 2025. In Q2 2021 67.2% (n=43) of exits were into the PRS, which fell to 34.1% in 2025.

Between Q3 2021 and Q2 2025 there were 889 adult exits from emergency accommodation to housing in the Mid-East: 35.2% to LAs (n=313), 24.2% to AHB/LTSA (n=215) and 40.6% into the PRS (n=361). Between Q1 2014 and Q2 2025 there were 2,054 adult exits from emergency accommodation to housing in the Mid-East: 26% to LAs (n=534), 19.8% to AHB/LTSA (n=406) and 54.2% to the PRS (n=1114). Compared to the last iteration of this paper, exits are more evenly spread between the three categories.

Figure 13 shows the breakdown of exits to Social Housing Tenancies (Local Authority and Approved Housing Bodies) *versus* Social Housing Support (Private Rental Tenancies supported by rent subsidies such as HAP and RAS).

In Q2 2025 there was a 66:34 ratio of Social Housing Tenancy to Social Housing Support. This is essentially a reversal in the proportion of both Social Housing Tenancy and Support compared to Q2 2021, which had a 33:67 ratio of tenancies to support.



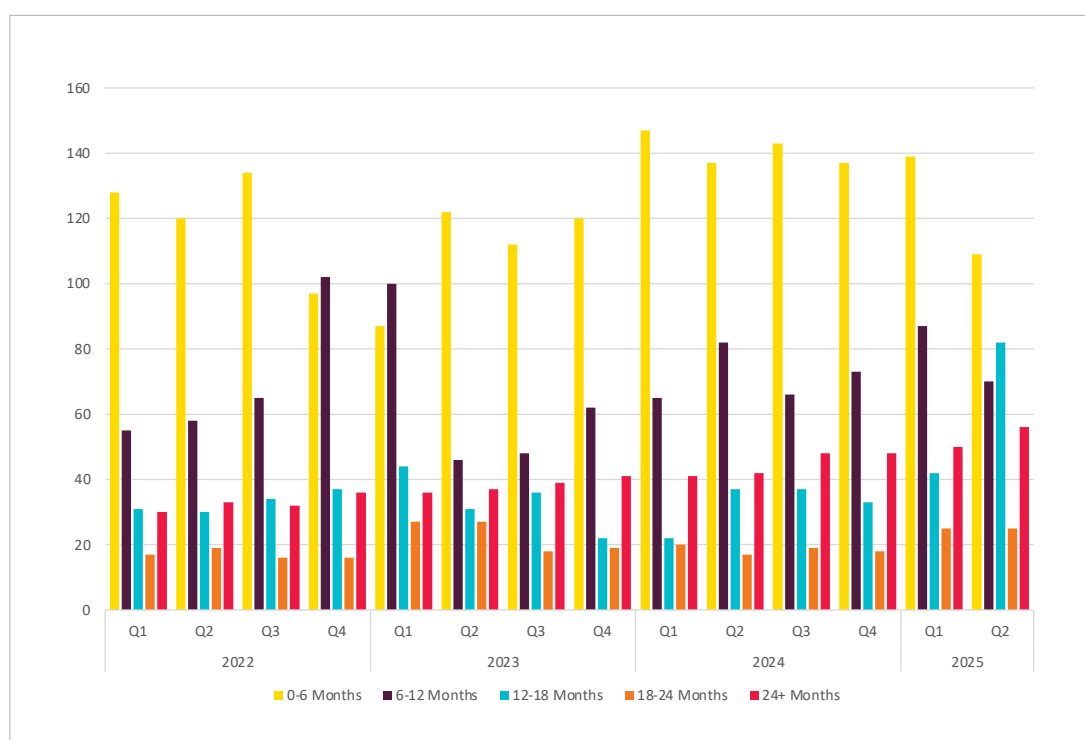
**Figure 13: Adult Exits from Emergency Accommodation by Tenancy/Support in the Mid-East, Q1 2014-Q2 2025**



## Duration in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 14 shows the average duration of stay in emergency accommodation for *adult-only households* between Q1 2022 and Q2 2025<sup>9</sup>. In Q2 2025 31.9% of adult-only households stayed in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months (n=109); 20.5% for 6-12 months (n=70); 24% for 12-18 months (n=82); 7.3% for 18-24 months (n=25) and 16.4% for 24+ months (n=56). The number of adult-only households staying in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months represents a smaller proportion of the population than in Q1 2022, where 49% (n=128) were in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months.

In Q2 2025 47.7% of adult-only households were in emergency accommodation for 12+ months (n=163). In Q1 2022 this was 29.9% (n=78).



**Figure 14: Duration of Stay by Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East, Q1 2022-Q2 2025**

Figure 15 shows the duration of stay for *families* in emergency accommodation in the Mid-East. In Q2 2025 34.4% of families stayed in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months (n=45); 18.3% for 6-12 months (n=24); 30.5% for 12-18 months (n=40); 8.4% for 18-24 months (n=11) and 8.4% for 24+ months (n=11). There is a much lower proportion of families staying in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months now than in Q2 2022 (59.5%, n=44).

In Q2 2025, 47.3% (n=62) of families were staying in emergency accommodation for over 12 months. In Q1 2022 this was 20.3% (n=15).

<sup>9</sup> Figures are shown from 2022 onward, as the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage changed the presentation of the length of stay options from <6 months or >6 months to 0-6 months, 6-12 months, 12-18 months, 18-24 months, and 24+ months.

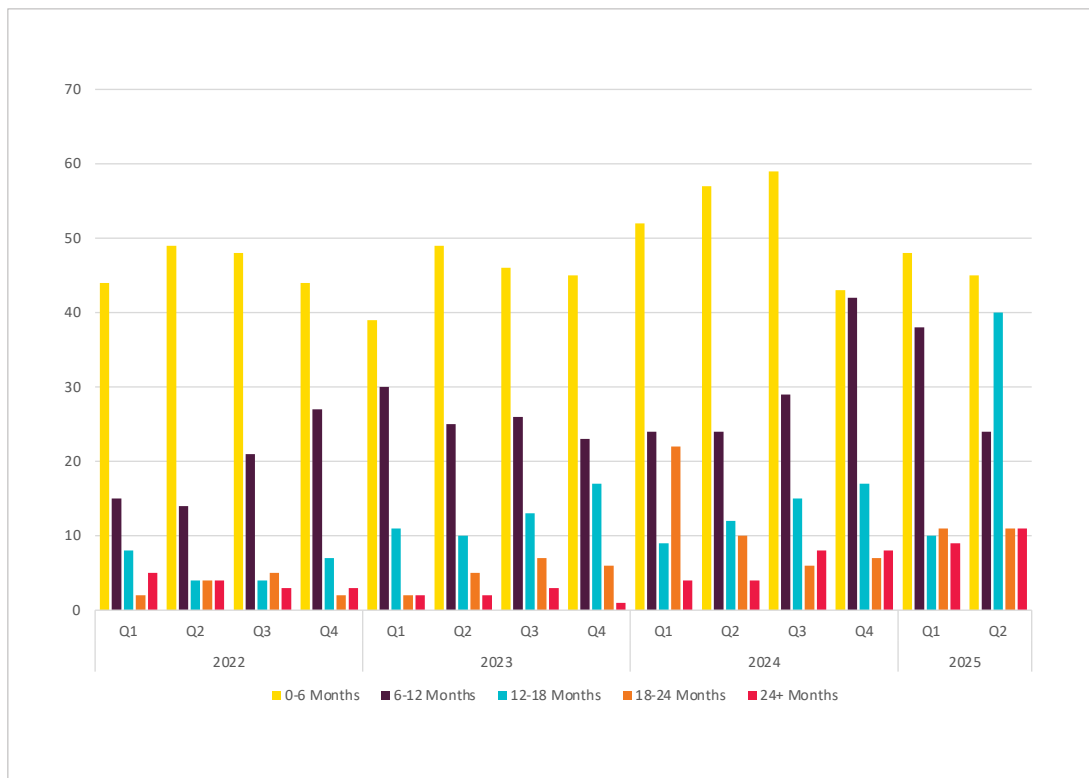
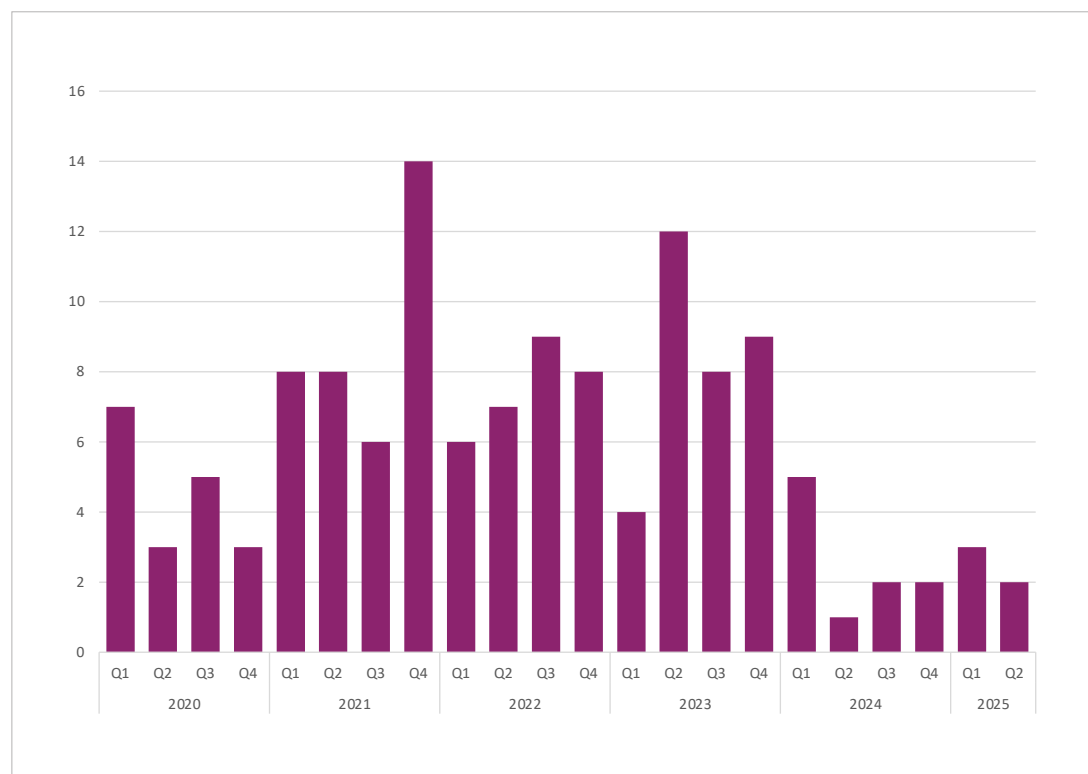


Figure 15: Duration of Stay by Families in Emergency Accommodation in the Mid-East, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

## Housing First

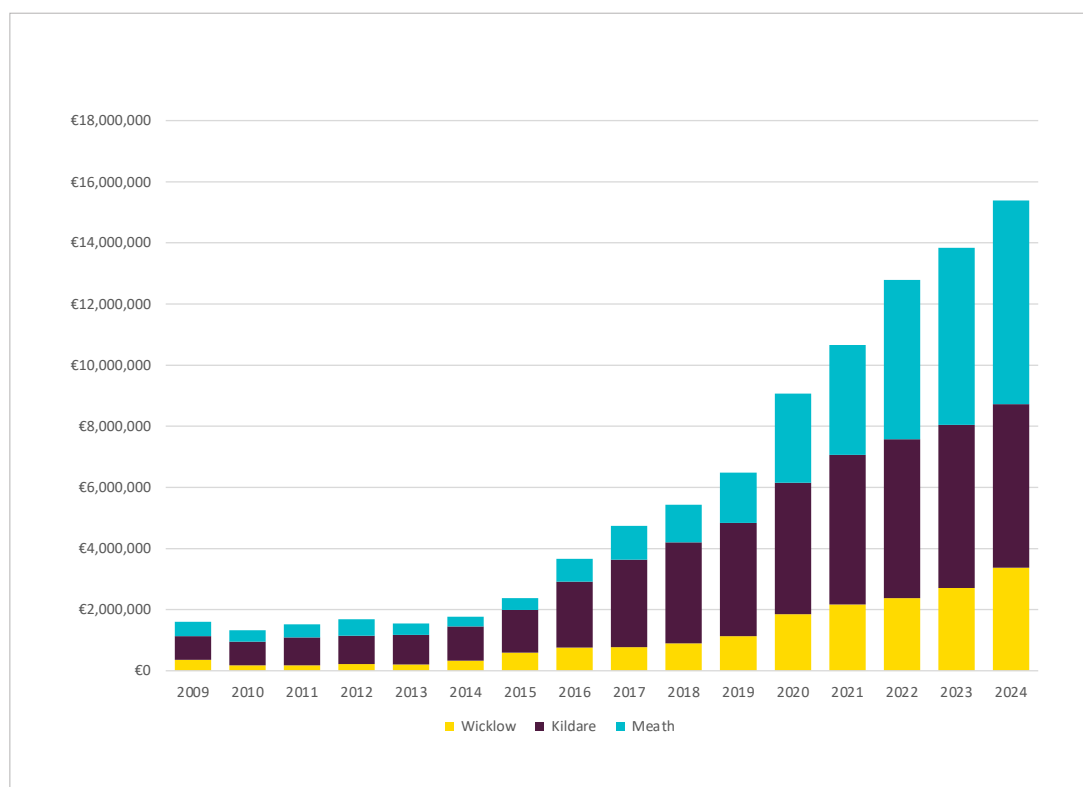
Figure 16 shows the number of Housing First tenancies created in the Mid-East since 2020. 2 tenancies were created in Q2 2025. This was an 85.7% decrease from its highest point of 14 tenancies in Q4 2021. There was an average of 3 new tenancies created per quarter in 2024, which is the same as the average per quarter so far in 2025. Since 2020 a total of 132 Housing First tenancies have been created in the Mid-East.



**Figure 16: Number of Housing First Tenancies Created in the Mid-East, Q1 2020-Q2 2025**

## Expenditure on Homeless services in the Mid-East

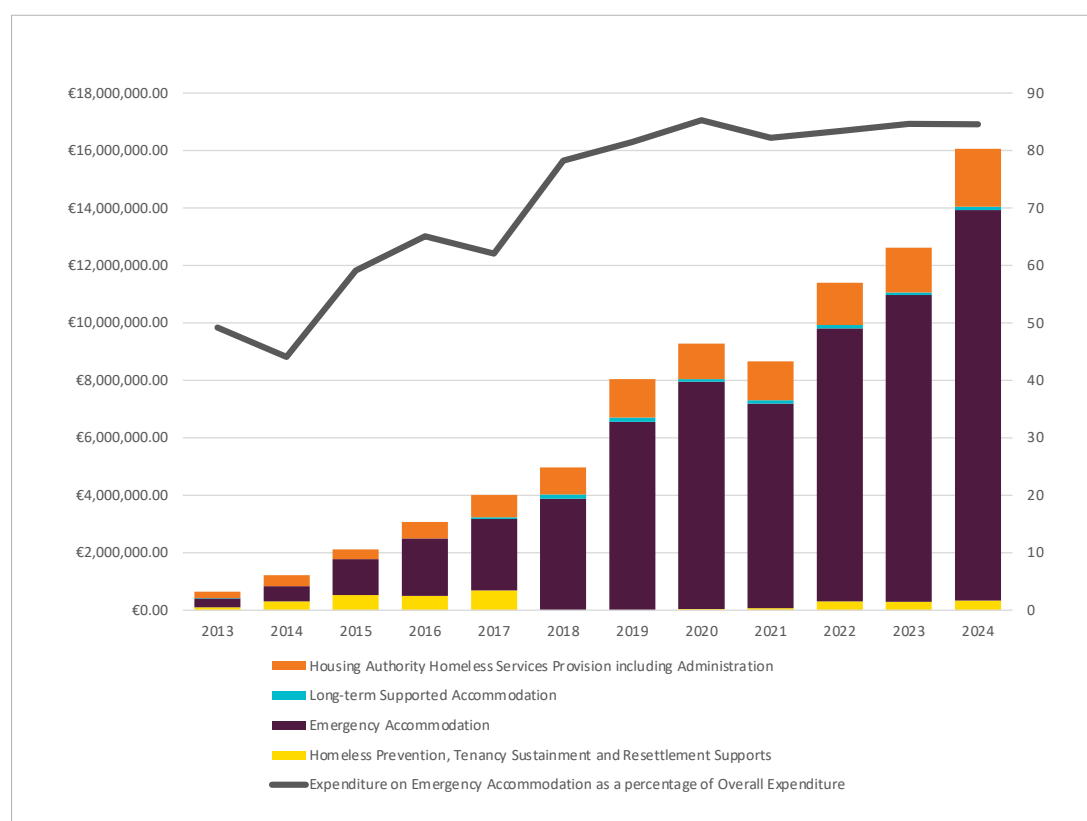
Figure 17 shows the expenditure by local authorities on services for households experiencing homelessness in the Mid-East was €15.4m<sup>10</sup> in 2024 – the largest proportion of this (43.3%) being in Meath County Council. Mid-East’s local authorities’ annual expenditure on homelessness has seen 69.5% increase since 2020 (€9.1m) and a 856% increase since 2009 (€1.6m).



**Figure 17: Expenditure on Services for Households Experiencing Homelessness by Local Authorities in the Mid-East, 2009-2024**

Figure 18 shows Section 10 expenditure on homelessness services in the Mid-East – that is for services funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Section 10 of the Housing Act, 1988. In 2024 €16.1m was spent on homeless services, the vast majority of this (84.6%) on emergency accommodation. €13.6m was spent on emergency accommodation in 2024, an increase of 71.7% since 2020 (€7.9m) and 4236.4% since 2013 (€0.3m). In comparison, expenditure on all other services combined has increase by 81.1% since 2020 (€1.4m) and 663.5% since 2013 (€0.3m).

10 See Focus on Homelessness Report on Public Expenditure on Services for Households Experiencing Homelessness (2025).



**Figure 18: Section 10 Expenditure on Homeless Services in the Mid-East, 2013-2024**

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

**Publication date** December 2025

ISBN: 978-1-9996896-4-3

**Aisling McGovern** is Research 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





# 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](mailto:info@focusireland.ie)

Registered Charity  
CHY 7220

**FOCUS**  
Ireland